REAL HELP
FOR
REAL PEOPLE
Northwest Assistance Ministries Annual Report 2022
Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) is a nonprofit, community-based, multi-program social service agency that strives to meet basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. NAM provides assistance in areas including food, shelter, clothing, education, domestic violence, behavioral health, and more.

**Our Mission**
NAM’s mission is to strive to meet basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

**Our Vision**
NAM’s vision, grounded in its mission and true to its values, is a community in which Neighbors care for Neighbors through collaborative efforts with area congregations, community partners, donors and volunteers. Resources are pooled and leveraged to meet basic needs and to help individuals regain their self-sufficiency, thereby creating a safer and more stable community for all.

**Our Values**
NAM’s values include: maintaining a strong commitment to its mission of meeting basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors; fostering a spirit of respect and charity; striving for excellence in all areas of service; and strengthening connections with its spiritual, funding and volunteer partners.
“[NAM] has helped my family when I did not know what to do. When I was handed that voucher of food for my family, and told to drive around to the food pantry, I remember asking, “Is this real?”

All I could do was cry and say thank you a thousand times.

As a parent, not knowing where your family’s next meal will come from is a horrible feeling, and you feel like a failure.

All I can truly say is Thank You, NAM.”

— Katia*

*Name has been changed
Dave Anderson, Retired, Anadarko
Les Cave, President & CEO, Northwest Assistance Ministries
Anthony J. Chatman, Pastor, Hosanna Lutheran Church
Victor C. Chatman, Pastor of Community Relations, Harvest Time Church
James Colbert, Jr., Superintendent of Harris County Department of Education
Rev. Dr. Marty Dunbar, Senior Pastor, John Wesley UMC
Joe Fowler, Co-Founder, Stress Engineering Services, Inc.
Dr. Latonya Goffney, Superintendent, Aldine ISD
Stanley Horton, President/CEO, Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP
Carl T. Little, Vice President, Operations, Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
Dr. Jenny McGown, Superintendent, Klein ISD
Dr. Gerald F. Napoles, President, Lone Star College - North Harris
Afton Sterling, Regulatory Manager for the NE APP Division of Southwestern Energy
Michael D. Watford, Retired, Chairman, President & CEO, Ultra Petroleum Corp.

Denese Hammon, Chief Financial Officer, Northwest Assistance Ministries
Dr. Rodney Watson, Past Chair, Former Superintendent, Spring ISD

Dr. Rusty Schlattman DDS, Champions Houston Cosmetic Dentist
Steve Miller, Retired, Cinco Pipe and Supply
Mack Elbert Coker, DDS, MS, Periodontics
Dear Friends,

More than two years after COVID-19 first arrived in Houston, NAM is still seeing the impact of this global crisis on our community. In fact, our neighbors’ requests for food and rental assistance were greater this year than at the height of the pandemic.

Protective economic measures put in place during the pandemic have ended, even as we saw sharp increases in the price of everyday necessities like groceries, rent, and gasoline.

For example, in 2020 NAM provided 19,000 people with rent or mortgage assistance, clothing, transportation and other emergency needs. This year, that program served more than 30,000 neighbors. NAM’s Joanne Watford Nutrition Center gave groceries to more than 15,000 people in 2020; this year, it served more than 32,800 neighbors. In 2020, as families were quarantined together at home, our Family Violence Center hotline answered 4,900 calls. This year, they answered over 5,300.

Many of the neighbors NAM served this year have never asked for help before. But the need is all around us. Real people, who need real help.

The only way NAM is able to meet these needs is through your generosity. Your gifts sustain us financially. Your time as a volunteer multiplies any work force we could ever afford to hire. Your presence, partnerships, and creative solutions bring hope to individuals, seniors and families every day.

Thank you for partnering with NAM as we continue to carry out our mission of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Through every storm, your kindness and generosity is a legacy that will be remembered in our community for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Jim Fryfogle
Chair, Board of Trustees
MEET NAM’S LEADERS & STAFF

LES CAVE
President & CEO

ALLISON BOOKER-BROOKS
Chief Program Officer

BRIAN CARR
Chief Advancement Officer

DENESE HAMMON
Chief Financial Officer

ELAINA ALBAREZ
Director, Learning & Vocational Training Center

SAMANTHA ANCHIA
Director, Development

GRACE JACKSON
Director, Senior Services

SHERYL JOHNSON
Director, Family Violence Center

REGINALD PEPPERS
Director, IT

CANDACE RUNAAS
Director, Behavioral Health

KAREN WEAKLY
Director, Client Services

JASON WOODS
Director, NAM Resale
Real Help for Real People. That’s the theme of our annual report this year, but it’s also what NAM provides every day.

Every person who walks through our doors has a different story. Because of that, we believe there is never a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead NAM’s staff and volunteers listen, ask questions, and dig a little deeper to understand the issues each person is facing. Then we pull together a plan and resources to specifically address their situation.

Throughout these pages you’ll read stories of a handful of the neighbors we’ve served this year. Neighbors like Shawnte and her son, who were homeless for more than two years because of the pandemic. Now they’ve moved into their own apartment thanks to help from NAM. Or Beverly, a senior who has experienced more than her share of struggles over the past few years. NAM provides her with groceries each month. Or Jenny, a successful young woman trying to juggle work, family and trauma from her past. NAM’s Behavioral Health counselors are helping her define a sustainable path for her future.

Every week, hundreds of our neighbors face a crisis point in their own story, and turn to NAM for help. Because of you, NAM is here. Your support makes it all possible, and we are incredibly grateful for your generous partnership.

Sincerely,

Les Cave

Linda & Harlan Martens Endowed President & CEO
REAL HELP FOR REAL PEOPLE
After two years of battling COVID-19 and its variants in a global pandemic, life is slowly returning to normal. But it is a new normal. In one way or another, we have all been changed.

Aftershocks are still being felt in the economy, labor markets, education, and housing. This year brought skyrocketing prices to gas, groceries, rent—the basics of life. Thousands of our neighbors could not keep up. So they turned to NAM.

In the midst of yet another storm, NAM provided real help. Groceries for nearly 33,000 people through the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center. Assistance for more than 30,000 neighbors with rent, mortgage, utilities, clothing and transportation. More than 1,000 hours of free counseling. And 233,743 nutritious meals delivered to nearly 1,200 seniors through Meals on Wheels.

Real help for real people.

NAM could not have made it through the pandemic without the incredibly generous support of our community. Now as disaster declarations are lifted, masks come off, and gatherings resume, many feel like the crisis is over.

Except that it’s not.
LIVING IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

As the world continues to heal from COVID-19, NAM’s load has not lightened. In fact, requests for food and rental assistance are greater now than at the height of the pandemic. Economic measures and protective moratoriums have ended, yet:

- According to inflation data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer prices rose 9.1% from June 2021 to June 2022—the highest annual increase in 40 years.

- In its 2022 Houston Area Survey, Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that 23% of Houstonians reported being unable to pay their rent or mortgage in the past year.

- Rising grocery prices have impacted our most basic necessity—food. For example, the price of eggs rose 64.9%, chicken breasts are up 36.2%, flour nearly 40%, and milk 22.2%.

- Gas prices in Houston climbed as high as $4.68 per gallon for regular unleaded according to AAA, making it more expensive to get to work or accomplish routine errands.

Families that are already struggling cannot simply absorb these increases. A chasm opens between the resources they have and the cost to feed their family, commute to work, and maintain stable housing. Beneath it all runs a river of worry.

NAM is the bridge that helps close the gap.
There was a time when hunger seemed like a problem for distant parts of the world. Now we know it affects thousands of families in our own community.

Prior to the pandemic, the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center (JWNC) at NAM served an average of 60 to 75 households a week. This year it served between 200 and 300 per week—a total of 32,854 individuals.

“The numbers have just drastically increased,” says Allison Booker-Brooks, Chief Program Officer for NAM. “It hits you like a ton of bricks to see that.”

A high percentage of people who received food from the JWNC this year had never requested help from NAM before. They are families with children, single adults, and seniors. Many had been receiving disaster unemployment benefits, including SNAP for food assistance. But when the disaster declaration was lifted, those benefits ended.

“Everyone kept saying the pandemic was over, but it wasn’t,” says Karen Weakly, Director of Client Services for NAM. “What we didn’t take into account was the aftershock. It was the aftershock that we felt in 2021-22.”

In response to the high demand for food, NAM has continued to offer large community food distributions on a quarterly basis. Held in partnership with the Houston Food Bank, the drive-through distributions served 8,327 families this year. During the early morning hours on distribution days, a line of cars stretched all the way from NAM to FM 1960, with some families arriving as early as 5:30 a.m. to ensure their place.

“I would like to thank everyone who helped provide this food,” said a neighbor at the March 2022 food distribution. “I have grandchildren that I am helping today, and their parents don’t have cars to be here. God bless everyone helping today.”

REAL STORIES: BEVERLY

Like many of the neighbors served by NAM this year, Beverly has never asked for help before. But the last few years have been hard.

In 2019, Beverly was in a car accident. She was 73 years old, and the accident broke her back, jaw, nose, and teeth. While she was on medical leave from work, she was fired.

Then came the winter storm of 2021. As temperatures plummeted, 14 pipes broke in Beverly’s home. The damage was extensive, and more than 18 months later, she has still not been able to return home.

“One thing I would like to say, no matter what you’re going through, God knows it,” says Beverly. “And you need to trust in Him.”

As Beverly walked in that trust, a former co-worker told her about NAM.

“My groceries were very, very low,” Beverly says. “So that’s when I went to NAM.”

Beverly enrolled in the Senior Food program, which provides supplemental groceries to seniors. In a typical month she receives two large bags of non-perishable food, as well as additional fresh and frozen items. NAM also helped Beverly apply for SNAP benefits to stretch her grocery budget further. “Social security isn’t enough to cover everything,” she says. “It’s enough to cover my house payment, but it doesn’t cover anything else.”

“I didn’t want to be a burden to my children,” she adds. “I don’t know what I would have done if NAM hadn’t helped me.”
While the return to daily meal delivery is great news for seniors, it has also posed some challenges. At the start of the pandemic, NAM saw a sharp increase in the number of seniors applying for Meals on Wheels. That need has continued since many seniors experienced a decline in health from the virus itself, or from being inactive during quarantine. As of September 2022, NAM had a waiting list of 149 seniors for Meals on Wheels.

At the same time, the cost of the meals has gone up. Prior to the pandemic, meals were in the $2 range; now they are over $3 each. Frozen meals, which are still delivered to seniors receiving cancer treatment or dialysis, have doubled in price. Multiply those increases by 700 meals per day, five days a week for 52 weeks a year and the issue is clear. Yet funding for the program has not increased.

When the pandemic began, NAM’s Meals on Wheels program immediately shifted to delivering 10-day packs of shelf-stable meals to minimize exposure between seniors and the volunteers who deliver their food. A few weeks later they adapted again, to weekly deliveries of frozen meals.

That model continued for two years. Finally, on June 1, 2022, the program was given approval by the Area Agency on Aging to return to daily deliveries of hot meals. Now, every Monday through Friday, volunteers deliver a hot lunch to approximately 700 seniors throughout northwest Houston.

Daily deliveries offer many benefits, to seniors as well as their families.

“The human connection is critical,” says Grace Jackson, Director of Senior Services for NAM. “Meals nourish your body, but our volunteers nourish a person’s soul.”

Along with nutritious food, volunteers provide a daily check on the senior’s well-being so family members can immediately be notified if anything is amiss. Some seniors also receive monthly groceries from NAM to help stretch their limited incomes.

While the return to daily meal delivery is great news for seniors, it has also posed some challenges. At the start of the pandemic, NAM saw a sharp increase in the number of seniors applying for Meals on Wheels. That need has continued since many seniors experienced a decline in health from the virus itself, or from being inactive during quarantine. As of September 2022, NAM had a waiting list of 149 seniors for Meals on Wheels.

At the same time, the cost of the meals has gone up. Prior to the pandemic, meals were in the $2 range; now they are over $3 each. Frozen meals, which are still delivered to seniors receiving cancer treatment or dialysis, have doubled in price. Multiply those increases by 700 meals per day, five days a week for 52 weeks a year and the issue is clear. Yet funding for the program has not increased.

“The need just keeps mounting and mounting, but at the current funding rate we can’t keep up,” says Allison Booker-Brooks, Chief Program Officer for NAM. “It’s a struggle figuring out how to balance that, and how much we can absorb as an organization.”

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing Meals on Wheels, however, is the critical need for volunteers. Now that daily deliveries have resumed, NAM needs at least 50 volunteers a day to operate the program.

Volunteering for Meals on Wheels is easy and takes just a few hours. It’s a great way to serve with friends, family or co-workers, either on a regular basis or as schedules permit.

“Give it a chance,” says Grace. “Even if you volunteer one time, I think you’ll enjoy it.”

To learn more or volunteer, visit namonline.org/volunteer or call (281) 885-4624.
in Houston were 80% higher than normal in March 2022, and remained above average in April and May. Data released by RentHub showed that average rent prices in Houston rose 8.2% from October 2021 to October 2022. But for NAM's zip code, rent increased 21.86% during that same period.

"Rents have skyrocketed," says Karen Weakly, Director of Client Services for NAM. Some of NAM's funding requires that rental units stay within the Fair Market Rate. For a 2-bedroom apartment that rate is $1,208 per month. But the actual rent for a 2-bedroom unit is now anywhere from $1,500 to $2,000.

On top of that, some properties changed owners during the pandemic and no longer accept payments from third parties. As a result, NAM had to help multiple families relocate this year.

Despite those challenges, thousands of neighbors are safe in their homes tonight because of NAM's help.

In some cases, a job loss, illness, or other emergency creates the need for short-term assistance. Neighbors apply online, and NAM uses a lottery system to select approximately 150 households for consideration each month. By helping them get caught up on rent, these families avoid eviction and the landslide of issues that result from losing your home.

Another program provides permanent supportive housing to neighbors with disabilities or ongoing needs. NAM pays all housing costs for these neighbors—25 families and 25 individuals. This follows the "Housing First" model, recognizing that having a safe home prevents a multitude of other issues.

"There are still people in need," says Karen Weakly. "Even if NAM can only help them for one month, it's a huge relief."

### REAL STORIES: BREnda

Brenda is a single mom of six, including an 11-year-old, three teenagers, and two adult children. She has always been in sales and enjoys the work. But when her employer underwent layoffs in 2021, she suddenly lost her income.

Brenda immediately started looking for another job, but with a large family to support it took time to find the right match.

"I tried to make ends meet borrowing from family and friends," says Brenda. Despite her efforts, she lost her home. For two months, she and her children were homeless, staying with friends, relatives, or at hotels.

Finally, after 10 months, she landed a great job. Yet she was so far behind financially, she didn’t know how she would ever catch up. Brenda confided in one of her new co-workers, who told her about NAM.

After going through the application process, Brenda was beyond grateful when NAM provided three months of rent for her family. Within a week, the funds were distributed to her landlord.

"If it wasn’t for NAM I don’t know what I would have done," says Brenda. "It was a lot of stress, a lot of worrying. I just had to turn to God; a lot of prayer. I know He provides, and that’s how He provided—through NAM."

"I can’t thank them enough," she adds. "We’re finally living stress-free. Everything is paid, and I can sleep well."
Many of NAM’s clients are understandably stressed, anxious, or depressed. Last year NAM added Behavioral Health Services (BHS) to address those needs, and the program has grown exponentially this year.

With six licensed therapists, four interns, and an administrative assistant, BHS provided 1,039 hours of direct therapy this year. Services include counseling for children, adolescents, adults, and families, in English, Spanish, Vietnamese or Arabic.

Candace Runaas, director of the program, says they have seen a lot of stress related to finances, as well as grief over things that have been lost. Children and teens are struggling with fears as well. After living through the pandemic, many found it hard to believe that it was safe to go back to school. Others worried they would make family members sick, or experienced cyber bullying.

“A lot of children were grappling with safety issues,” says Candace. “They felt a responsibility they hadn’t experienced before: keeping family members alive.” One child feared for his mom who had an autoimmune disorder; another teen suffered panic attacks going to the grocery store.

Candace and her staff gathered their findings from this year in a presentation called, “Post-Pandemic Social Anxiety in Children and Adolescents,” which they shared at the 2022 Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference in Fort Worth, TX. The presentation included the team’s observations, explained how NAM was serving these youth, and shared several case studies.

Counseling provided by BHS is free to anyone who registers as a client of NAM. There are no income or insurance requirements, and sessions can be conducted in-person or online. For more information, call (281) 885-4662 or visit namonline.org.

REAL STORIES: JENNY*

“I’m so relieved to finally talk with someone about this,” Jenny said through her tears.

It was her first session with a therapist in Behavioral Health Services at NAM. As she began to open up, Jenny shared her challenges as an African-American woman struggling to adapt to a new corporate job. She expressed her frustration about having to support her chronically ill father, while simultaneously caring for her infant child.

“Everything falls on me,” she said.

Over time, Jenny and her therapist processed memories of childhood abuse. They explored how trauma from the past could be impacting her ability to set limits and manage stress. They talked about healthy and unhealthy relationships, and how to express her needs in a way that respects herself and others.

“I’m aware for the first time,” Jenny says, “that I matter too.”

*Name has been changed
Sometimes the past holds keys to moving forward. So this year NAM provided training to staff on two important topics: Trauma Informed Care, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

Trauma Informed Care recognizes that people’s responses may be related to traumatic events in their life. Sounds, smells, and situations can trigger the feeling of being threatened. By responding with empathy, NAM’s staff help navigate those emotions.

For example, if a client becomes upset when applying for assistance, it may be rooted in fear—of whether they will lose their home, be able to feed their children, or escape an abusive relationship. Validating the person, taking a break, or providing a snack or drink can help calm those feelings.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging are practices within many organizations that strive to ensure people of various backgrounds feel welcome and have the support to reach their full potential. At NAM, training on these important topics was provided for all staff and Board members this year.

A team within NAM helps coordinate ongoing opportunities to live out these values, including monthly celebrations of cultural holidays, quarterly speakers during lunch, and recognition of how NAM’s diversity makes the organization better.

Shawnte worked at one of Houston’s large event venues. But when the pandemic hit, it was forced to close. Paychecks were late and her landlord was unforgiving. All four tenants were evicted, including Shawnte and her son, who was 11 at the time.

For more than two years Shawnte and her son were homeless, staying at hotels, with people they knew, or living outside. Finally in the summer of 2022, Shawnte heard about NAM. She went through the assessment process—and was given the life-changing news that NAM could help.

Shawnte’s case manager, Nikki, helped negotiate housing options, made sure Shawnte and her son had food, told her about vocational classes, and provided vouchers for NAM Resale.

“Ms. Nikki came through, and she made sure I didn’t break and I didn’t give up,” says Shawnte. “Because I wanted to, but she didn’t let me. I appreciate her from the bottom of my heart.”

In October 2022, with help from NAM, Shawnte and her son moved into their own apartment. Finally, this mom and her now 13-year-old son have a safe place to call home.

“It relieves a lot,” says Shawnte. “No more stress or worry, no more looking back. It gives me more time with my son, or to work, without worrying about someone trying to take from us.”

Today Shawnte is a supervisor at work, having been promoted three times. Her son is in advanced classes and doing well. “He’s kind of a science nerd like me,” says Shawnte. Together, they try to make the best of everything. And they are grateful for the compassion and real help NAM provided.

“They were there for me mentally and emotionally,” Shawnte says. “Even outside the work that we were doing, they were just making sure I was okay. NAM looked at me as a little sister that needed help. It’s much appreciated, and I feel closer to them than I do to anybody else.”
The stress of the last two years has taken a toll on everyone. With mounting pressure, relationships can become strained—and in some cases, explode in violence.

For those trapped in the hostility, the Family Violence Center (FVC) at NAM stands ready to help. This year the FVC answered 5,310 calls to its hotline—even more than during the height of the pandemic.

“In the 22 years that I’ve done this work, I’ve come to recognize this can literally happen to anyone,” says Sheryl Johnson, director of the FVC. “It can be the woman across the street. The guy you see in the grocery store. The teenager that is National Honor Society president. It can be anybody we know, and far too often the people around them simply don’t see it.”

NAM’s Family Violence Center provides crisis intervention, safety planning, a 24-hour hotline, adult and children’s counseling in English and Spanish, case management, shelter referrals, and legal advocacy for those in abusive relationships as well as victims of sexual assault.

As the primary provider of domestic violence services in northwest Houston, the FVC also works to prevent violence by educating teens about healthy and unhealthy dating relationships. This year, the FVC reached nearly 3,300 teens in Klein, Aldine, Cy-Fair, Tomball and Spring ISD’s—then took their message to the world.

With the launch of a new channel on TikTok, NAM became one of the first domestic violence programs in Texas to share its message on the popular social media platform.

“Every single day, someone on our team works with a client who literally feels like she’s at the end,” Sheryl says. “She doesn’t know where else to go, she doesn’t know what else to do. We’ve had clients that were contemplating suicide; we’ve had clients who were so defeated they couldn’t get out of their chair to leave. Every time something like that happens, we have the ability to lift them up and help them take the next step.”

“It's our goal to talk to young people in their own language about what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like, TikTok is the perfect forum,” says Sheryl. “We know our prevention education works, so by putting it in a platform where teens are already spending so much time, hopefully we can reach them in a new way.”

“After being in this field for so many years, it’s incredible to watch when we do succeed,” Sheryl says. “When someone says, ‘I’m going to get help,’ and we can actually see them get better, that’s the best feeling.”

Real Stories: Michael*

It was almost closing time on a hot September day when Allison Booker-Brooks, Chief Program Officer for NAM, heard the page. Assistance was needed in NAM’s lobby.

As she arrived downstairs, a man was yelling aggressively. He had been walking all day to get to NAM, and was soaked in sweat. Allison, along with Karen Weakly, director of Client Services for NAM, tried to calm him and learned that he needed food and clothing. But he was clearly in need of medical attention, too.

They called the paramedics, who handled Michael with phenomenal care. Dehydration was contributing to psychosis, and they needed to take him to the hospital. As the paramedics strapped him onto the gurney, Karen leaned in and said, “Look at my eyes, because the eyes don’t lie. When you get out of the hospital you call me, because I'm going to get you some clothes.”

“The smile that came on his face was like a little kid,” Allison recalls. “He was so happy that he was going to get clothes.”

When staff arrived the next day, Michael was already there. He was in a much better state of mind and had come to get the clothing—which Karen gladly provided.

“At the end of the day,” says Allison, “when you realize you've done the very best you could, with empathy, it makes it all worthwhile.”

*Name has been changed
The day she came to the Family Violence Center, Isabel just wanted information. After speaking with the case manager, Isabel revealed that she wanted to leave her husband. But since she is undocumented, he had convinced her that she had no options.

As the conversation continued, it became clear that Isabel truly was a survivor of domestic violence. Her husband had physically harmed her for not following his directions, she had been called many derogatory names in front of her children, and he routinely threatened to take the children if she ever decided to leave. Yet somehow, Isabel never believed she was being victimized.

Together, Isabel and her case manager created a plan which took months to execute. The plan included retrieving important documents from her home, speaking with her children’s schools, and preparing her children. When Isabel and her children finally left, many of the things they needed were already secured away from the home.

Isabel applied for independent safe housing, which she received, and found a better paying job. She and her case manager continued to work on safety planning, divorce, child custody, self-empowerment, and planning for the future. NAM was also able to provide necessities such as furniture and housewares from NAM Resale, food from the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center, and toiletries. She also received a free Ring security system to help monitor her new home.

Today, if you saw Isabel, you would see a slightly different woman. She stands a bit taller and has a definite air of confidence about her. She feels happy, and most importantly, she feels safe.

*Name has been changed

NEW OWNERSHIP FOR THE PEDIATRIC HEALTH CENTER

On January 4, 2022, NAM’s Pediatric Health Center transitioned to new ownership under Spring Branch Community Health Center.

The clinic continues to serve NAM’s clients and operate out of NAM’s main building. A number of staff members remained as well, creating a smooth transition for patients and their families.

NAM Clinic, as it is now called, specializes in newborn care, pediatric and adolescent medicine, school and sports physicals, and vaccines. For more information, visit sbchc.net/our-locations.
Neighbors who work a succession of entry-level jobs find it nearly impossible to get ahead. But with skills for higher-paying positions, a myriad of opportunities open up.

NAM’s Learning and Vocational Training Center (LVTC) provides adult education for careers that lead to financial stability. Current course offerings include Community Health Worker, Sterile Processing Technician, Phlebotomy, Certified Nursing Assistant, Forklift Operator / OSHA 10—and an exciting new opportunity to become a licensed electrician.

Thanks to a referral from Mattress Mack’s team at WorkTexas, NAM will join other Houston-area non-profits to offer Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship Training beginning in 2023. Using a combination of classroom instruction, online learning, and skill development through virtual reality, the class will run five days a week for seven weeks.

At the end of the course, companies are ready to hire students into entry-level positions so they can begin their apprenticeship to become a licensed electrician.

The training is provided through TRIO Education, created by TRIO Electric in Houston to address the shortage of skilled labor. Initially the cost per student exceeded NAM’s financial capacity. But thanks to a grant from JP Morgan Chase, the door to this opportunity swung open.

“This occupation is in a high-skill, high-growth job field,” says Elaina Albarez, director of the Learning and Vocational Training Center at NAM. “Once they complete their Journeyman certification, people can make a very livable wage.”
Three days. That’s all it took for Shavonte to gain the skills for a new career.

Shavonte had worked as a dietary cook for a nursing home, but was unemployed and relying on family when she came to NAM. After talking with staff in the Learning and Vocational Training Center, she enrolled in Phlebotomy training—which is a three-day course.

Shavonte learned how to care for a patient, draw blood, the types of needles and more. There was classroom instruction, tests, and hands-on lessons using a plastic arm. On the last day, students drew each others' blood—then brought in friends or family to draw their blood as well.

“The class was great,” says Shavonte. “We had a great teacher, and I learned a lot from him.”

Shavonte passed her certification test and was quickly hired by a plasma center. Today, just seven months later, she has already been promoted to a Trainer.

Shavonte enjoys the donors who come to the plasma center, as well as her co-workers. She also realizes the impact on her three children, ages 8, 10 and 13.

“Now that I’m able to work and have a stable job, that inspires them to keep going to school,” she says. “If I didn’t receive this training, I probably would be working at Jack in the Box somewhere. So it helped me a lot.”
For nearly two years, seniors from NAM’s Young at Heart Senior Center saw each other only on video screens. To keep them safe, all senior centers were closed during the pandemic.

Young at Heart offered virtual programming and NAM’s seniors adapted. They logged onto Zoom calls for coffee and chat sessions, virtual Bingo, and presentations about everything from gardening to health care. But it wasn’t the same.

By January 2022 the positivity rate for COVID-19 in Harris County was 38%—and needed to drop below 5% before senior centers could re-open. Finally that level was achieved, and on April 1, 2022, Young at Heart was thrilled to welcome seniors in person.

Now, NAM’s building is once again filled with sounds of laughter and joy. Seniors are noticeably more frail in many cases, due to months of isolation and a lack of exercise. But the sense of connection and purpose is like a river for their souls.

REAL STORIES: PATRICIA

Patricia has been active her entire life. A native Houstonian, she went to high school during the time of segregation, then graduated college and moved to Washington, D.C. There she soaked up everything, listening to Congressional hearings, visiting public sites, and eventually writing for a non-profit.

She traveled the world and has been everywhere she wanted to go. Along the way she raised two children, who have now given her four grandchildren, with a great-grandchild on the way.

Patricia first learned of NAM eight years ago when she was looking for an opportunity to volunteer. Later she joined NAM’s Young at Heart Senior Center and enjoyed crafting with new friends.

About three years ago, however, Patricia had a stroke. Then came the pandemic and the isolation that followed. NAM continued to be part of her life, delivering Meals on Wheels to her home every week. And while she was grateful for the meals and the wonderful couple who delivered them, she missed her friends.

“I really struggled for a couple years, just waiting for things to open up,” she says. “Everyone had to change their lifestyle. So as soon as the senior organizations started opening up, I came back to NAM.”

Today, Patricia is at the Young at Heart Senior Center three days a week, taking part in exercise classes, chatting with friends, and enjoying lunch at the 60+ Café.

“I was a big exerciser before I had the stroke,” she says. “When I got to NAM, their exercise program is excellent. I have really made progress.”

“The people that go here are just wonderful,” she adds. “We’re all in the same boat, and we just need to get out of our little space and enjoy people. For a dollar a day I get transportation, exercise and food. You can’t beat that.”
After serving our country, veterans sometimes struggle to adjust to life back home. Combat can lead to injuries or mental health issues that affect their ability to earn a living, maintain a home, or care for their family. For more than a year now, NAM has provided services especially designed for our local veterans.

Established in June, 2021, Veteran Services at NAM provides assistance in areas such as food, housing, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, counseling, limited car repairs and more. Services are available for veterans as well as their surviving spouse and dependents.

“Our veterans are very grateful for the assistance NAM provides,” says Taiana Dobbs, an Air Force veteran who serves as coordinator of Veteran Services at NAM. “Some of them come to us in crisis, and we help them get through that. They are really grateful that NAM is here.”

“The livelihood is coming back,” says Allison Booker-Brooks, Chief Program Officer for NAM. “They’re excited to be here, and NAM is happy to have them. It really does change the energy in this building.”

Young at Heart offers a variety of programming, including exercise and dance classes, French lessons, Bingo, Wii bowling, sewing, crafting and more. A renewed focus on movement is helping seniors regain their strength and mobility, while seminars offer tips on fall prevention, nutrition, and other helpful topics.

All safety protocols, including sanitizing and social distancing, are followed at Young at Heart to keep seniors healthy and safe. The 60+ Café is open again as well, offering free meals to seniors on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week.

“The senior center is truly needed, not only for seniors but also their family members,” says Grace Jackson, director of Senior Services for NAM. “This is a safe place for seniors to come and enjoy activities. Mental stimulation is so important, as well as proper nutrition and being engaged in physical activities. All three are paramount to quality care.”

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

After serving our country, veterans sometimes struggle to adjust to life back home. Combat can lead to injuries or mental health issues that affect their ability to earn a living, maintain a home, or care for their family. For more than a year now, NAM has provided services especially designed for our local veterans.

Established in June, 2021, Veteran Services at NAM provides assistance in areas such as food, housing, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, counseling, limited car repairs and more. Services are available for veterans as well as their surviving spouse and dependents.

“Our veterans are very grateful for the assistance NAM provides,” says Taiana Dobbs, an Air Force veteran who serves as coordinator of Veteran Services at NAM. “Some of them come to us in crisis, and we help them get through that. They are really grateful that NAM is here.”
For nearly 40 years, NAM has been providing real help to real people. Through oil busts and hurricanes, global pandemics and winter freezes, economic downturns and individual storms of life, NAM is here...because of you.

Your generous support allows NAM to fulfill its mission: meeting basic human needs through neighbors helping neighbors. Whether it’s a family in need of safe housing, a mom desperate to feed her kids, a relationship erupting in violence, or a senior battling loneliness, NAM is ready to serve.

“Every day is different,” says Allison Booker-Brooks, Chief Program Officer for NAM. “There’s no day that’s the same here. We have clients that come in, real people with real needs, and they really need the support.”

Like a crowd of supporters, thousands of people who are part of NAM—staff, volunteers, donors, congregations, businesses and more—walk alongside each person in their hour of need. And through that very personalized care, lives are changed.
“That’s what keeps me going, is knowing we’re providing true benefit to the community,” says Grace Jackson, director of Senior Services for NAM. “That we’re not just saying it, we’re doing it. The need is still great, and we’re still trying to meet those needs.”

As needs are met, neighbors find the courage to write a new chapter in their story.

“I have this fountain of eternal hope that our clients have the strength, the skills, and whatever they need to make positive change,” says Candace Runaas, director of Behavioral Health for NAM. “I think that’s what inspires me most, is I know they can do it. I know they can get to where they want to be.”

The Joanne Watford Nutrition Center provided food for 32,854 individuals; many of these clients were new. In partnership with the Houston Food Bank, NAM hosted a series of drive-thru food distributions serving 8,327 families.
### CENTRALIZED INTAKE
Centralized Intake offers a single starting point for all of NAM’s services. Clients meet with a case manager to fill out an application, then receive information and referrals to any of NAM’s programs that are relevant to their situation. Assistance may be available for food, clothing, rental or mortgage assistance, gas cards, bus tickets, and prescriptions. Centralized Intake also offers seasonal help with school supplies, summer food, and holiday food and toys.

**281.885.4524**

### HOUSING SERVICES
Housing Services at NAM is a comprehensive program to put individuals or families who are homeless on a path toward self-sufficiency. Services include housing subsidies, help finding affordable housing, case management, and referrals to address other needs the family may be facing.

**281-885-4595**

### JOANNE WATFORD NUTRITION CENTER
The Joanne Watford Nutrition Center (JWNC) is a choice food pantry that normally functions like a grocery store, with guests choosing their own food from designated categories. During COVID-19, the JWNC is operating as a drive-through pantry. Clients are given bags of food including fresh produce, meat, dairy and frozen items.

**281-885-4524**

### VETERAN SERVICES
Established in June, 2021, Veteran Services at NAM provides assistance in areas such as food, housing, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, counseling, limited car repairs and more. Services are available for veterans as well as their surviving spouse and dependents.

**281-885-4595**

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
Behavioral Health Services is a new program at NAM as of 2021. Counseling is available in areas including depression/anxiety, parenting/family counseling, marriage counseling, substance abuse, and grief counseling. Referrals come from NAM’s programs as well as direct requests from the community. Thanks to significant funding from Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation and NAM’s partnership with Our Lady of the Lake University, counseling is provided at no cost.

**281.885.4662**
The Young at Heart Senior Center is designed to help anyone 50 and older meet new friends, stay active, and have a fun outlet for mental and physical activity. Young at Heart offers an exciting array of activities for seniors including cultural trips to the theater or museums; educational classes; fitness classes and yoga; tap dancing and line dancing. Seniors who are at least 60 years of age and live in Harris County can also receive a hot nutritious meal three days a week, free of charge.

281.885.4600

Meals on Wheels delivers well-balanced meals—free of charge—to the homes of seniors and other neighbors who are homebound because of disability or illness. Each weekday, more than 700 individuals throughout 24 zip codes receive meals. Some seniors also receive meals on Saturdays, monthly grocery deliveries, and/or pet food. The program is possible only because of hundreds of volunteers who deliver the meals and provide a wellness/safety check.

Intake Line: 281.885.4622

The Family Violence Center at NAM provides crisis intervention, safety planning, a 24-hour hotline, adult and children’s counseling, emergency shelter, and legal advocacy for those in abusive relationships as well as victims of sexual assault. Free educational programs about preventing dating violence are available to middle and high schools. Through NAM’s comprehensive array of services, FVC clients can also receive food, clothing, transportation and more, to help them out of dangerous situations and put them on a path toward a new beginning.

24-Hour Hotline: 281.885.4673 / 888.750.HOPE

The Learning & Vocational Training Center helps adults gain the necessary skills to chart a career path that will lead to financial stability. Through a collaboration with Harris County Department of Education, adults can prepare for their GED or take an English as a Second Language class. A variety of vocational scholarships are available for qualifying adults to train in careers such as phlebotomy, community health worker, forklift, and more. Students also receive job search assistance and financial coaching to meet their goals.

281-885-4523

NAM Resale offers gently-used clothing, household items and more at very affordable prices. Income generated helps support NAM’s programs and services. Of equal importance, Resale serves NAM’s clients when they have a need for clothing or household items by allowing them to choose exactly what they need in the styles they prefer—free of charge.

281.880.9000  Furniture Pick-Up: 281-885-4545
Retail is usually all about style and trends. But NAM Resale is built on a different philosophy: the recognition that clothing is a real need.

When NAM’s clients need clothing, furniture, kitchen necessities or other essential items, a voucher system allows them to shop at NAM Resale, free of charge. These items make a huge difference for neighbors who were homeless but are moving into a new apartment; for survivors of domestic violence establishing their own home; for graduates of the Learning and Vocational Training Center who need to dress for a job interview; and for children who outgrow their clothes faster than mom or dad can afford.

“We’re actually seeing more direct service needs this year than we did at this time last year,” says Jason Woods, director of NAM Resale. “There was a certain amount of protection during the pandemic, but those safety measures have been removed.”

Partner organizations benefit from NAM Resale as well. For example, Moving Waters provides mobile shower facilities for people who are homeless. Once a week they offer those services at NAM—along with the opportunity to receive shoes and clothing from NAM Resale. A similar partnership exists with Hope Center Houston.

“It’s an added community impact,” says Jason.

Of course, NAM Resale is also open to customers who want to stretch their budget or just enjoy the hunt for a great deal. Funds generated through the sale of items are reinvested into NAM’s programs, making it a win-win situation.

Your donations of clothing, furniture and household items help keep this cycle moving. So the next time you clean out your closet or update your home, think of NAM. Those items you no longer need may be the perfect gift to bless someone else.

RESALE RENOVATION

NAM Resale’s Corner Store got a makeover this year, with new carpet, fresh paint and an updated layout. Located in the lobby of NAM’s main building, this store features designer clothing, accessories, and home décor. With its beautiful new look and fabulous deals every day, it’s a shopping experience that couldn’t be any sweeter.

NAM Resale Store
(located in NAM’s main lobby)
Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donation and Clearance Center
Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
NAM’s Congregations

Congregations have always been at the heart of NAM, putting faith into action as they provide real help for real people in our community.

Back in 1983, ten congregations came together to form Northwest Assistance Ministries and love their neighbors in a tangible way. Today that network has grown to include dozens of congregations, representing a diversity of denominations and beliefs, who support NAM through financial contributions, volunteer service, in-kind donations and more.

This year, congregations were once again an enormous help in making the holidays brighter for families in need. With NAM’s 2021 goal of collecting 15,000 brand new toys, congregations led the way by collecting one third of that—5,000 new toys—to give to children at Christmas.

“It is a massive operation to collect that many toys,” says Samantha Anchia, Director of Development for NAM. “Our congregations were a huge part of meeting that goal, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.”

Individually, congregations worked with NAM on many other projects as well. For example, Hosanna Lutheran Church partnered with NAM to distribute food to 500 families in May. John Wesley United Methodist Church sought expertise from NAM’s Family Violence Center, to help a long-standing ministry partner launch a domestic violence program in Kenya. And the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Klein Stake hosted the annual Interfaith Quilting Bee, bringing members of numerous congregations together to create quilts for NAM’s clients.

Every day, these faith-filled communities partner with NAM to serve neighbors with compassion, grace, and generosity. So to all of our congregations, we say thank you. You are what makes NAM so special and so unique—and we are forever grateful.
SUPPORTING

- Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Advent Presbyterian Church
- Aldine United Pentecostal
- Alive Church of God
- Ananias Ministries
- Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
- Bammel Baptist Church
- Bammel Church of Christ
- Baptist Bible Church
- Baptist Mission Center
- Believers Fellowship Baptist Church
- Bethel Baptist Church Of Pinehurst
- Bethel Evangelic Lutheran Church
- Bethesda Christian Center
- Bishop Center Storehouse / The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Bread of Life of Tomball
- Bridgestone Baptist Church
- Candlestick Baptist Church
- Central North District of Nu Faith Community
- Champion Forest Baptist Church
- Champion Life Centre
- Champions Covenant Church, Inc.
- Christ of Hope Catholic Church
- Christ The Good Shepherd Catholic Community
- Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church
- Christ United Church
- Christian Compassion Ministries
- Christian Fellowship - Northwest
- Christian Science Church
- Church at Creek's End
- Church Cassette Inc.
- Church of Champions Lifeline Youth Group
- Church Of Christ In Champions
- Church of Christ in Hidden Valley
- Church of Christ on 249
- Church of God
- Church of the Open Bible
- Church Of The Saviour
- Circle of Light Fellowship
- CitiChurch Houston
- Coastal Plains Area Christian Church
- Community of Christ Lutheran ELCA
- Congregation Jewish Community North
- Conroe Bible Fellowship Church
- Cornerstone Baptist Church
- Cornerstone Victory Christian Center
- Crossover Bible Fellowship Church
- Crown of Life Lutheran Church
- Cy-Fair Assembly of God
- Cy-Fair Baptist Church
- Cy-Fair Christian Church
- Cy-Fair Community Church
- Cypress Bible Church
- Cypress Creek Christian Church
- Cypress Pointe Baptist Church
- Cypress Tabernacle
- Cypress Texas Stake, CJCLDS
- Cypress United Methodist Church
- Cypresswood Free Methodist Church
- Disciples in Mission Group
- Disciples Tabernacle Church
- Epiphany Lutheran Church and School
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Fairbanks United Methodist Women
- Fairfield Baptist Church
- Fairfield Presbyterian Church
- Faith Baptist Church
- Faith Bible Church
- Faith Chapel Assembly of God
- Faith Temple Baptist Church
- Faithbridge Church
- Fallbrook Baptist Church
- Family Fellowship Church
- Family Life Christian Church
- Fellowship of Champions Church - Spring
- First Assembly of God Church - Spring
- First Baptist Church Rosehill
- First Baptist Church Spring Forest
- First Christian Church
- First Church of Christ, Scientist
- Forest Cove Baptist Church
- Foundry United Methodist Church
- Fountain Faith Baptist Church
- Freedom Worship Center
- Freewill Baptist Church
- Friends in Faith Sunday School
- Fruto De La Vid Houston
- Gateway Baptist Church
- Gateway Christian Fellowship
- Glorious Way Church
- God's Word of Deliverance Apostolic Faith Church
- Grace Bible Church
- Grace Community Church
- Grace Crossing - Church of Christ
- Grace Romanian Pentecostal Church
- Graceview Baptist Church
- Greater Grace Church
- Greater Life Church
- Greenspoint Baptist Church
- Greenwood Baptist Church
- Harvest Christian Academy
- Hidden Valley Church of Christ
- His Place Family Church
- Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
- Hope Community Church
- Hope Community Evangelical Covenant Church
- Hope Presbyterian Church
- Hosanna Lutheran Church
- Houston Bishop's Storehouse
- Houston Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Houston Northwest Church
- Immanuel Church of Spring
- Intercontinental Airport Interfaith Chapel
- JENA Church
- Jersey Village Baptist Church
- Jesuits of St. Ignatius Parish
- Jesus the Cornerstone Church Inc
- Jireh World Outreach Evangelistic Church
- John Wesley United Methodist Church
- JWUMC - Twenty N Thirty Sunday School Class
- Katy Christian Ministries
- Kinsmen Lutheran Church
- Klein United Methodist Church
- Kleinwood Ward - LDS Church
- Ladies Society Of St. Anthony
- Lakeland Baptist Church
- Lakewood Church
- Lakewood Forest Garden Club
- Lakewood United Methodist Church
- Lifepath Church
- Lighthouse Chapel at The Conservatory
- Lighthouse Worship Center
- Lincoln Wood Baptist Church
- Little York Church of God in Christ
- Living Word Christian Fellowship
- Louetta Road Baptist
- Macedonia United Methodist Church - Truth Seekers Class
- Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
- Messiah Lutheran Church of Cypress
- Metropolitan Baptist Church
CONGREGATIONS

- Millbend Coffee House / Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church
- Mills Road Baptist Church
- Mount Ararat Baptist Church
- Mt Corinth UMC Women
- Nat'l Council of Churches of Christ
- New Birth Tabernacle
- New Covenant Baptist Church
- New Dimensions Worship Center
- New Harvest Inter. Fellowship
- New Jerusalem Community Baptist
- New Life Christian Reformed Church
- New Light Church
- New Mount Calvary Baptist Church
- North Houston Sathya Sai Center
- North Main Coalition of Churches
- North Oaks Baptist Church
- Northeast Houston Community Church
- Northside Assembly of God Church
- Northside Christian Church
- Northwest Bible Church
- Northwest Chinese Baptist Church
- Northwest Community Church
- Northwest Faith Community UMC
- Northwest Houston Seventh-Day Adventist Christian Church
- Northwood Church
- Northwoods Baptist Church
- Northwoods Mission Committee
- Northwoods Presbyterian Church
- Open Arms UCC
- Pentecostal Holiness Church
- Philippine American Baptist Church
- Pleasant Run Baptist Church
- Plymouth United Church, UCC
- Prairie Garden Baptist Church
- Prince of Peace Catholic Community
- Recreation Acres Full Gospel Church
- Redeemed Christian Church of God
- Redeemed Ministries
- Refuge Temple Ministries
- Resurrection Lutheran Church
- River of Life Church
- Rose Hill United Church
- Ruth Sunday School Class
- Sacrifice of Praise Tabernacle
- Salem Lutheran Church
- Sawdust Road Baptist Church
- Second Baptist Church
- Second Baptist Church (Cypress Campus)
- Senior Dynamos Bible Class/CFBC
- Senior Friends of St. Ignatius
COLLABORATIONS

- Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
- Aldine ISD
- All Things Therapy
- Ave 360
- Baker Ripley
- Beacon Law
- Between Jobs Ministry
- Carenet Pregnancy Center
- Christus Health Foundation
- Coalition for The Homeless
- Community Health Choice
- Continuum of Care
- David Ansell, D.O.
- Department of Family and Protective Services
- DMomentum Individual, Couples and Family Therapy
- Dotson Healthcare Institute
- Equity Counseling Services
- Families to Freedom
- Harris Center
- Harris County Department of Education
- Harris County District Attorney
- Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Harris County Housing Authority
- Harris County Sheriff’s Office
- Harris County Social Services
- HF Safety LLC
- Hope Center
- Houston Food Bank
- Houston Food Bank Furniture
- Houston Housing Authority
- Houston Lawyers Association
- Houston Methodist Healthcare System
- Interagency Victim Council
- Karya Properties
- Klein ISD
- L.I.F.E. Houston
- Legal Aid Society
- Lone Star Legal Aid
- Oquirrh Mountain Phlebotomy School LLC
- Our Lady of the Lake University-Houston Campus
- Reach Out & Read – Texas
- Redeemed Ministries
- Sal Safety Solutions
- SPCA Houston
- Spring Branch Community Health Center
- Spring ISD
- Texas Advocacy Project
- Texas AHEC East
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
- Texas Council on Family Violence
- Texas Domestic Violence Shelters
- Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners
- Texas Utilites Help
- Texas Workforce
- The Trinity Institute
- The Women’s Resource of Greater Houston
- United Way of Greater Houston
- Veritex Community Bank
- Vibrant Comprehensive Services
- Wheeler Baptist Church
- WIC and Snap Programs
- WorkFaith
- WorkTexas
SERVICE AFFILIATES

- AARP- Senior Employment
- Abiding Word Lutheran School
- Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omicron Tau Omega Chapter
- Boy Scout Phoenix District and Troops 217, 300, 321, 920, 1655, 1995, 3461, 1323, 1332, 1550
- Champions Sunrise Rotary Club
- Community Connections
- Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum
- Da Gang Golfer’s Club
- Dekaney High School-Athletic Trainers
- E.B.O.N.Y.
- Faithbridge “The Road” Missionaries
- First Choice Homes
- Houston Northwest Filipino American Community
- Interactive College of Technology
- Junior Guild
- Junior League of the Woodlands
- Klein Collins Cultural Heritage Appreciation Club
- Klein Forest High School Life Readiness Program
- Klein High School
- Klein High School FCCLA
- Klein High School Life Readiness Program
- Klein ISD
- Klein Oak High School Life Readiness Program
- Klein UMC Youth Volunteers
- Leadership High School Lone Star College
- Legacy League
- LifePath Youth Group
- Lone Star College Cy-Fair
- Lone Star College-Tomball
- Lone Star College-North Harris
- Lone Star College-North Harris Student Ambassadors
- Lone Star Leadership College
- National Charity League - Champions Chapter
- National Charity League - Cypress Belles Chapter
- National Charity League - Cypress Creek Chapter
- National Charity League - Cypress Gems Chapter
- National Charity League - Wildflowers Chapter
- National Charity League - Yellow Rose Chapter
- Northland Christian School
- Northwoods Presbyterian Youth Group
- Philippine Nurses Association of North Houston
- Precinct 4 Senior Adult Program
- Primrose School of Champions
- Reach Unlimited
- Sam Houston State University – School of Nursing
- Spring High School
- Spring High School National Honor Society
- Spring ISD
- Spring Texans Youth Football
- St. Pius X High School
- St. Martha Catholic Church of Kingwood S.H.I.N.E. Catholic Mission
- TEAM Abilities
- Texas National Guard
- Texas Women’s University
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Willowbrook Rotary Club
National Charity League, or NCL, is a philanthropic organization of mothers and daughters who have supported NAM for many years. Currently six chapters serve at NAM on a regular basis, including Champions, Cypress Belles, Cypress Creek, Cypress Gems, Wildflowers, and Yellow Rose.

NCL is the highest participating source of volunteers for NAM, with members responding to needs throughout the year. Every month, mothers and their 7th to 12th grade daughters deliver Meals on Wheels, volunteer in the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center, help with food distribution days or special projects, and serve in NAM Resale.

“They’re so much fun to work with,” says Erica Bryant, Program and Community Resource Coordinator for NAM.

Together, these mother-daughter teams work hard and make memories while making a difference for neighbors in need. On a recent food distribution day, it was pouring rain. But that didn’t stop the NCL volunteers from loading car after car with food—and brightening the day for everyone involved.

“To see them high-five each other while loading meals in the pouring rain, that makes me feel good,” says Erica. “I see teamwork…I see unity…I see family.”

Volunteers are absolutely essential to the mission of NAM. They serve in every imaginable role, providing real help with energy, enthusiasm, and joy.

From students to senior citizens, volunteers bring skills and experience as unique as each person. Some volunteer individually, consistently filling roles such as data entry, delivering Meals on Wheels, or answering the hotline at the Family Violence Center. Others serve in groups, tackling big projects together.
This year, 3,500 volunteers contributed 44,155 hours of service to NAM.

This year, for example, volunteers from ExxonMobil helped organize hundreds of holiday meals and toys for NAM’s Season of Blessings. Another group, from Tellepsen, originally volunteered to power wash NAM’s sidewalks. But when they saw landscaping that had been damaged by the freeze, they made a few phone calls. Before long, flowers and fresh mulch arrived—and the team transformed NAM’s front entrance.

In April, nearly 100 volunteers from Texas A&M University’s Freshman Leaders in Christ spent an entire Saturday at NAM. They painted the NAM Resale store and sorted donations, cleaned computer labs and the Young at Heart Senior Center, stocked the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center and more.

“They did so much good that day and had so much fun doing it,” says Erica Bryant, Program and Community Resource Coordinator for NAM. “It really warmed my heart.”

Whatever your interests or availability, there’s a place for you at NAM. You have a unique contribution to make because there is no one else quite like you! To learn more, simply visit namonline.org/volunteer or call (281) 885-4604.
For the second year in a row, the community stepped up in a big way to help NAM spread joy during the 2021 holidays.

NAM has always provided toys and holiday meals to neighbors in need. But in the midst of the pandemic, the number of families who requested holiday assistance from NAM in 2020 nearly tripled.

As the crisis continued into 2021, NAM prepared itself for another big year. Within a few hours of opening registration, nearly 1,500 families had applied to receive holiday food and toys. That meant another year of huge goals for NAM: 15,000 brand new toys for 5,000 children, and holiday meals for 1,500 families at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas.

**Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community, NAM met those goals.**

NAM’s supporting congregations led the way, collecting 5,000 new toys. PV Fluid Products donated 2,800 turkeys, a gift they have provided NAM for the past several years. Local businesses, school districts and individuals donated toys, food, and time. And hundreds of volunteers—from 6 years old to 85 years young—gave more than 2,000 hours to sort, pack, and distribute these blessings to families in need.

On distribution days the line of registered families stretched down Kuykendahl Road and around the corner onto FM 1960. Many waited in their cars for hours. But for these families it was worth the wait.

“Bless everyone who was involved in this, and thank you so much for the gifts,” said a mom of four children. “This time last year I was homeless, so it’s been a really long journey. I truly appreciate what you do here.”

For those who are involved in the project, Season of Blessings is a reminder of the true joy that comes from giving.

“The feeling you get when you see all the cars is overwhelming, and you’re just telling yourself, ‘We’re going to get through all of these,’” says Samantha Anchia, Director of Development for NAM. “I get a huge sigh of relief once that last car is served. You hear so many stories of hardship, and the families are so grateful for what they receive.”
Let the good times roll! For the first time, NAM held a “Bowling for Neighbors” Bowl-a-thon on August 5 and 6 at iT’Z Family Food & Fun, Willowbrook.

Two presenting sponsors, H-E-B and Loyalty Plumbing, ensured that guests of all ages had a great time while also helping to raise more than $12,000 for NAM’s Survival Over Summer campaign. The two-day event included teams of H-E-B employees, Loyalty Plumbing families, and neighbors from throughout the community.

“Having all ages was really fun, with the kids especially,” says Samantha Anchia, Director of Development for NAM. “A lot of events are more formal, but this was so casual and there was lots of laughter!”
The NAM Endowment Fund (NEF) was created in 2000 to enhance the financial stability of NAM and ensure that NAM will always be here to help our neighbors in need.

**This year the NEF made a record gift of $193,000 to NAM.** Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the NAM Endowment Fund has grown to more than $3.1 million, with a goal of reaching $10 million over the next 10 to 15 years.

Planned gifts to the NAM Endowment Fund may be made through stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement assets, real estate and more. Planned gifts do not affect current cash flow, and may even provide tax benefits. Best of all, they can be a significant way to provide real help to real people.

### Family Funds

Within the NAM Endowment Fund (NEF), NAM offers the option to create a Family Named Fund. Families may make a one-time or annual contribution to the NEF, and specify how the earnings will be used.

For example, a family could make an initial gift of $25,000 and add $10,000 every year, with the instruction that 5% of annual earnings be designated for the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center.

More than a dozen families have already created a fund within the NEF, allowing them to support the specific parts of NAM’s mission they are most passionate about.

### Legacy Society

NAM established The Legacy Society to honor donors who have included NAM in their will, trust or other planned gift. The Legacy Society ensures that planned giving donors are thanked today, and their legacy is honored tomorrow.

Created in 2017, the Legacy Society at NAM has already grown to nearly 100 members. A luncheon was held on May 4 to honor these generous donors for their support of NAM’s mission.

Joining the Legacy Society can be a visible means of demonstrating your support for NAM and the NAM Endowment Fund while encouraging friends, peers and colleagues to make a commitment to NAM’s future as well.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Brian Carr, Chief Advancement Officer, at (281) 885-4605 or bcarr@namonline.org.
The 2022 Jeans & Jewels Gala was a true Texas-size party with live music, great food, good friends and plenty of fun.

Held at Shirley Acres on October 28, this year’s gala welcomed 250 guests and centered around, “A Salute to Texas Dance Halls." Kirksey Gregg Productions and Elevated AV Productions brought the theme to life with beautiful décor and lighting. Jeff and Rhiannon Dueling Pianos did a lively show in the Garden Room, while Houston's own Genevieve Allen performed popular country music in the Pavilion.

Since its inception in 1999, Jeans & Jewels has raised more than $11 million for NAM.

Guests also enjoyed a casino, silent auction, and delicious buffet. Since the Houston Astros were playing in the World Series, several screens allowed fans to keep an eye on the game as well. A VIP reception, sponsored by Loyalty Plumbing and the NAM Endowment Board, gave top sponsors a chance to interact and enjoy a private gathering.

Together, the gala and Lonestar concert raised more than $460,000 for NAM. Thank you to everyone involved for your generous support!

Award-winning and Grammy-nominated country music band Lonestar launched the Jeans & Jewels festivities this year with a special concert on October 8. Approximately 150 guests enjoyed dinner, a meet and greet with the band, and a full concert at Dosey Doe in The Woodlands.

“Our guests enjoyed a private concert from this Grammy-nominated band,” says Samantha Anchia, Director of Development for NAM. “It felt very intimate, and was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone there.”

Special thanks to our sponsors and guests for their support of this wonderful evening!
COMMUNITY

1 MILLION +
- City of Houston, Texas

$250,000 - $999,999
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- Governor Fiscal Inv.
- Houston Food Bank
- Houston Methodist
- HUD Treasury
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Veterans Commission
- The Hamill Foundation
- Tomball Hospital Authority/ Tomball Regional Health Foundation
- United Way of Greater Houston

$100,000 - $249,999
- Episcopal Health Foundation
- Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Treasurer of Harris County, Texas
- Wal-Mart #1103
- Watford Family Foundation

$50,000 - $99,999
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
- EFSP National Board
- Kroger #275
- PV Fluid Products, Inc.
- W.T. and Louise J. Moran Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
- Bank of America Foundation
- Curtis and Doris K Hankamer Foundation
- Greater Houston Community Foundation
- Harrell Family Foundation
- Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Hildebrand Foundation
- Kroger #364
- Mustang CAT Charitable Fund
- National Charity League - Cypress Creek Chapter
- NextFifty Initiative
- SWN
- Texas Attorney General
- The Brown Foundation, Inc.
- The George and Mary J Hamman Foundation
- The Waggoners Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
- Alvin A. and Roberta T Klein Charitable Trust Fund
- American Junior Golf Foundation
- Americas Foundation
- Astros Foundation
- Del Barto-Tramonte Foundation
- Isla Carroll Turner Friendship Trust
- Kroger #395
- Lulu Bryan Rambaud Charitable Trust
- Memorial Hermann Health System
- Pason Systems USA Corp.
- Powell Foundation
- Reliant Energy Charitable Foundation
- Shirley Acres
- The J.P. Morgan Chase / John T. Shea Foundation
- The William Stamps Farish Fund
• 4 Brothers NY Bagels
• AARP Spring Chapter
• Abbvie Inc. Employee Giving Campaign
• ABC Home and Commercial Services
• Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
• Aldi Grocery
• Allstate Giving Campaign
• Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Omicron Tau Omega Chapter
• Amazon Logistics
• America’s Best Local Charities
• Andrews Foundation
• Bentley and Associates
• Betsy and Kerry Stuckey State Farm Insurance
• BNSF Railway Foundation
• Brezik Charitable Fund
• BSA Troop #1323
• BSA Troop #1995
• Cooper Elementary
• Cost Plus / World Market
• Cub Scout Pack #440
• Hand Foundation
• ExxonMobil Foundation
• Gexa Energy
• Harris County Sherriff’s Office
• HCA Northwest Hospital
• HEB, LP
• Hewlett Packard Inc.
• Hmh Lifestyles
• Honey Baked Hams
• Houston Bishop’s Storehouse
• Import 39 LLC
• Junior Guild
• K3 Creative Center

• Klein Funeral Homes and Memorial Parks
• Loyalty Plumbing LLC.
• M&D Supply / ACE Hardware
• Marek Family Foundation
• MAXIMUS Foundation
• McKnabb Elementary
• Medallion Foundation Inc.
• NHC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
• Primrose School of Champions
• Risdal Family Foundation
• Russell H Schlattman, II, D.D.S.,Inc.
• Sam and Ada Petro Foundation
• Shell Oil and Motiva (HERO) Program
• Shell Oil Company Foundation
• Simple Generosity, formerly The GoodCoin Foundation
• Spring ISD
• Tellepsen Foundation
• Texsun Swimming Pools & Spas, Inc.
• TreeHouse Foods
• TXU Energy
• Union Pacific Foundation
• United States Post Office
• Veritex Community Bank
• Woodforest Charitable Foundation
INDIVIDUAL

Anonymous
Alana and Charles Meyer
Alyssa Brown
Amanda and Stephen Zak
Amber Nichols
Amy McCathran
Angela Svetlik
Anna and Frank Embick
Annette and Ronald Young
Bahman and Susan Jahanian
Betty and David Dodd
Beverly Johnson
Bilinda and Brian Matusek
Bill Mehrens
Bob Avant
Bonnie and Niel Martinson
Brian Carr
Brian Marino
Candace Runaas
Carol and David Bivins
Carol Cooper
Carole and Nathanael Broker
Carole and Richard Fox
Carolyn and Byron Davis
Carolyn Benoit
Carolyn Spillane
Cary Iverson
Cecilia and Kenneth Castlebury
Charles Brittan
Charles Hancock
Charles Kruse
Chinelo Onuekwusi
Chris & Janice Cullins
Christina and Donald Butts
Christopher & Terry Noellert
Christopher Efird
Constance and Carl Pietrzak
Cynthia and Richard Foley
Daniel Anders
Darla and Stewart Fox
Darlene De Aragao
Darlis and Tom Fuller
Darren Stevenson
David Epstein
David Kroon
David Mallott
Davis and Shannan Rumsey
Dawn Greiner
Debbie and Stanley Horton
Debbie Haddix
Deborah and Michael Ashcraft
Denese Hammon
Denise and Buddy Bolt
Denise Fraelic
Diana and Darrell Williams
Diana and Joseph Stal
Diane and Jack Coursey
Diane and Larry Lipton
Diane and Raymond Kaskel
Diane Braun
Don Lucas
Donald Haas
Donna Banzhaf and James Dall
Donna Conly
Donna M Lee
Doris Fricke
Douglas Manchee
Earin Persson
Elizabeth and Gregory Hanlon
Elizabeth and Kristopher Bowen
Elizabeth and Ray Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Price
Elizabeth Smith
Elle Mathia
Ellen Alfar
Elvia Rodriguez
Frances and Bill Liddell
Frances and Edward Marx
Frances Meyer
Francis Burghart
Frank Chaffin
Gail and Anthony Sowders
Gerald Chaszar
Grady Blakley
Grant Dewbre
Gregory Michael
Helen and Gary Dowling
Helen and Roberts Klassen
Homer Hershey
Ira and Louise Weizel
Irene & Arnold Skor
J Steven Phillips
Jack Gatewood
Jack Luder
Jack McCrary
Jack Miller
Jackie and Matthew Holman
Jackie Riley
Jamal Hazan
Jana and Ismael Gonzales
Jane and Richard Easterwood
Janet and Francis Mury
Janice Oettmeier
Jannell Batchelor
Jean Minsch
Jeanette and Paul Faulkner
Jeanie and John Stark
JeanneMarie and Ronald Lesseraux
Jeanie and Nolan Lehmann
Jennifer Merkel
Jerry Edmonds
John Benvegnu
John Field
John Keiser
Jon Lind
Juanita and Lynn Davis
Julia Nolen
Julie Blum
• Julie Hill
• June and Gerald Gibson
• Karen and David McRoberts
• Karen and Jonathon Milburn
• Karen Perkovich
• Karl Strobl
• Katherine and John Lacock
• Kelly and James Flavin
• Kim Pettis
• Kimberly Hofstede
• Kristine Sullivan
• Kristy and Brad Defenbaugh
• LaDonna and Tye Johnson
• Lauren Temple
• Leonard Tubbs
• Les Cave
• Linda and Glen Adams
• Linda and Joe Fowler
• Linda and Michael O'Dowd
• Linda and Tom Sparks
• Linda Kay Peterson
• Lisa Bebee
• Lloyd Otteman
• Lorraine Cayne
• Louise and Stephen Slater
• Lynn Campbell
• Lynn Giles
• Lynn Ramsey
• Lynne and Dave Anderson
• Marcia Anderson
• Margaret A. Davis
• Margaret and Graham Bacon
• Margie and Richard Crump
• Marilyn Turner
• Mark Vasquez
• Marla Cornell
• Marsi and Dennis Stavinoha
• Martha and David Steele
• Mary and Bill Carpenter
• Meg and Alan O'Donnell

• Melissa Nelson
• Michael Adams
• Michael and Julie Hancock
• Michael Denney
• Michael Ebers
• Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fleming
• Nancy Beyer
• Nancy and Edward DiPaolo
• Nancy and William Strange
• Nancy and Richard Meneffee
• Natali Hurtado
• Nathan and Mary Waldman
• Norma Holleman
• Olivia and Vincent Wall
• Pam Hughes
• Pam Roper
• Patricia and Gene Broccard
• Patricia and Kenneth Pober
• Patricia Edwards
• Patricia Gallagher
• Patsy Johnson
• Patty and Pete Cooley
• Pauline Adams
• Peggy Hamric
• Peter Ponzini
• Phil Graff
• Rachel Hutchinson and John Cavender
• Raul Sepulveda
• Reneé and Danny Rea
• Rhonda and Frederick Newhouse
• Richard Delaney
• Richard Hall
• Richelle and James Birdsall
• Rita Irani
• Robert Daniels
• Robert Hall
• Robert J. and Carolyn Allison
• Robert Milner

• Rose Marie Garrett
• Russell H Schlattman, II, D.D.S., Inc.
• Sally and Bobby McGowan
• Sandra and David Smith
• Sandra Ellison
• Sandu Brothers and LMK
• Sandy and Kurt Huneke
• Sara and David Hamilton
• Sara and Harry Yates
• Scott and Stacey Maurice
• Scott Chenoweth
• Simon and Shelly Cornelius
• Stephanie and Glen Meredith
• Stephanie Martens
• Steven Miller
• Stewart MacColl
• Sue and Jimmy Adams
• Sue and Stavros Kikis
• Susan and Don Pine
• Susan and John Gaubatz
• Susan Holley
• Susan Ortenstone
• Suzanne Spotts
• Terrance O'Connor
• Thelma and David Marsh
• Therese and Kerry Rock
• Tom Lattin
• Tony Lindsay
• Vickie and Tom Anselmi
• Virginia and James Robertson
• Walter and Jo Ann Allen
• Walter and Kathy Drover
• Wendy and Jim Fryfogle
• William Calvert
• William Couch
• William Garrison
• William Sessions
• Yanira and Charles Brogna
During Fiscal Year 2021-2022 NAM served 122,492 people
(based on monthly totals for individuals served)

**Racial Make Up**
- African American: 43%
- Hispanic/Latino: 39%
- Caucasian: 14%
- Asian: 2%
- Other: 2%

**Employment Status**
- Unemployed: 49%
- Employed: 23%
- Retired: 18%
- Children Under 18 Years Old: 10%

**Age**
- Adults (19-59): 64%
- Seniors (60 Plus): 26%
- 0-18 Years old: 10%

**Poverty Level**
- Below: 67%
- Above: 33%

NAM clients often receive more than one service and participate in more than one of its program areas.
STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

NAM Statement of Activities for the Twelve Months Ended 9/30/22 (unaudited)

Total Support and Revenues: $11,974,879

- Individuals: 11.58%
- Congregations: 1.14%
- Corporations: 4.68%
- Community & Civic Groups: 0.11%
- Foundations: 26.28%
- Fee Income: 0.79%
- Volunteer Hours: 4.42%
- In-Kind Contributions: 14.92%
- Government Grants: 30.45%
- Sales: 1.70%
- Rental Income: 1.63%
- Miscellaneous Income: 0.67%
- NAM Endowment Distribution: 1.62%

Total Expenses: $12,787,324

- Program Services: 86.29%
- Management and General: 7.66%
- Fundraising and Development: 6.05%
THANK YOU!

Northwest Assistance Ministries
15555 Kuykendahl Road
Houston, TX 77090

www.namonline.org
(281) 885-4555
naminfo@namonline.org