



stones.
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Trey Dyer-Chairman
Tim Alba-Treasurer
Cindy Jones-Secretary
David Booe
Kim Campbell
Steve Chapman
Brian Chase

Dr. Jeff Corbet
Jerry Eckart
Linda Eilenfeldt
Roger Fisher
Don Green
Gary McKamie
Jim McKinnon

Gary McPherson
Gary Phillips
Tim Stewart
Enoch Timothy

Executive Director
Scott Sheppard



OVER THE LAST 9



Helped
117,325
through the
New Hope Center

Assisted
607
homeowners



Provided
32,161
kids with school
supplies

VISION

The vision of 6 Stones is to be a catalyst of hope that transforms lives, homes and communities.

VALUES

In all we do, we will be:
Christ-centered
Unified
Honorable
Respectful
Compassionate
Service Oriented

MISSION

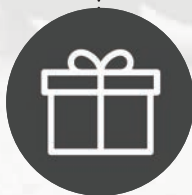
6 Stones is building a coalition of churches, businesses and others that provides solutions to meet the needs of our community.

YEARS YOU HAVE

Blessed
26,485
kids with
Christmas gifts



Volunteered over
315,170
hours



Invested
\$10,686,918
in our community



A woman with short, curly dark hair is sitting in a chair in a clothing store. She is wearing a bright red zip-up jacket and blue jeans. She is smiling broadly, looking off to the side. The background shows racks of various clothing items. The text 'CHIDI: HOPE FOR NEWCOMERS' is overlaid in large white letters on the bottom half of the image.

**CHIDI:
HOPE FOR
NEWCOMERS**

In 2010, Chidinma followed her husband and sons across the ocean from Nigeria to Texas. Beginning in October of that year, the family of seven — two boys, three girls, and two parents — spent a few months with in-laws before finding a home in Euless, Texas. They lived within a mile of 6 Stones and depended on the New Hope Center as they settled into their new lives.

Seven years later, Chidinma is an archetypal 6 Stones success story. Not because she escaped poverty (although she did). Not because she landed a job as a nurse here in Texas (although she did). Chidinma represents the pinnacle of our lofty goals here because she learned something even more valuable than job skills.

She learned about Community.

“We came, and it was nothing we were used to. Back home, I did the charity. Kind of. I gave to people. I served people. They knew who was giving them stuff. But look at this place!” Chidinma said, gesturing around at the New Hope Center during our interview. “These are all donations, right? People you don’t know.

“We came and they told us to write everything [we needed]. Everything... I cried the first day. Because I didn’t know I was going to be found in that situation.”

Her first few months in America were intimidating. Although the family knew English, they hadn’t practiced listening at the speed — or with the accents — with which people spoke it here. The job market proved more difficult to navigate than expected. She had no license to practice medicine as a nurse in America, even though it had been her profession in Nigeria.

“I thought I was going to just come in for a job and start up from where I stopped. Coming here as a nurse and finding that I can’t practice gave me a blow, honestly. But it was a good blow.”

She worked 16 hour days, splitting her time between a job as a Certified Nurse Aide and the cold glare of study guides that would help her to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She rocketed past more tenured employees at the retirement home where she worked in the meantime, inciting jealousy for her sterling success.

But she never forgot the path that took her there. Even now, Chidinma keeps prizes from her first year here. She has long since obtained her license to practice as a nurse in the States, but she still cooks in the pots and pans she got from the New Hope Center. Still wears clothes given to her by strangers. Because to her, these things aren’t signs of weakness. They’re proof of strength.

As Chidinma and her family settled in, they looked for ways to embrace and extend the generous spirit that had helped them find their way in the early years. Those same church goers who supported them became their allies in supporting others. 6 Stones became a platform for them to give back to the community that had provided for them. They are now regular volunteers at Community Powered Revitalization and Night of Hope.

“We had gotten comfortable here, and we stopped coming to shop at 6 Stones. But then, we are now the giving back ones. Not to the people that gave to us, but to the people that opened our eyes to another kind of giving,” she said. “This is community giving... Anybody in their right mind should know that there is something in it.

“That’s family. Family is all about giving and receiving. If a community like HEB is everywhere, what do you think will happen to America? There will be peace. There will be oneness. One voice. And that voice is service... people want to belong, and they find different ways of belonging. This is the best way to belong, honestly. Giving.”



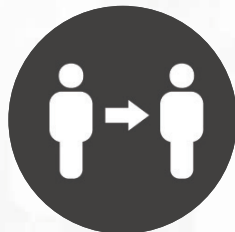
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

12
GROUPS



61
PARTNERING
CHURCHES

11
FOLLOW UP
TEAMS



1,551
FOLLOW UPS

OPERATION BACK 2 SCHOOL

3,676
elementary
0
secondary
3,676
total

2,820
elementary
0
secondary
2,820
total

1,744
elementary
1,375
secondary
3,119
total

2,512
elementary
2,604
secondary
5,116
total



1,099
elementary
0
secondary
1,099
total

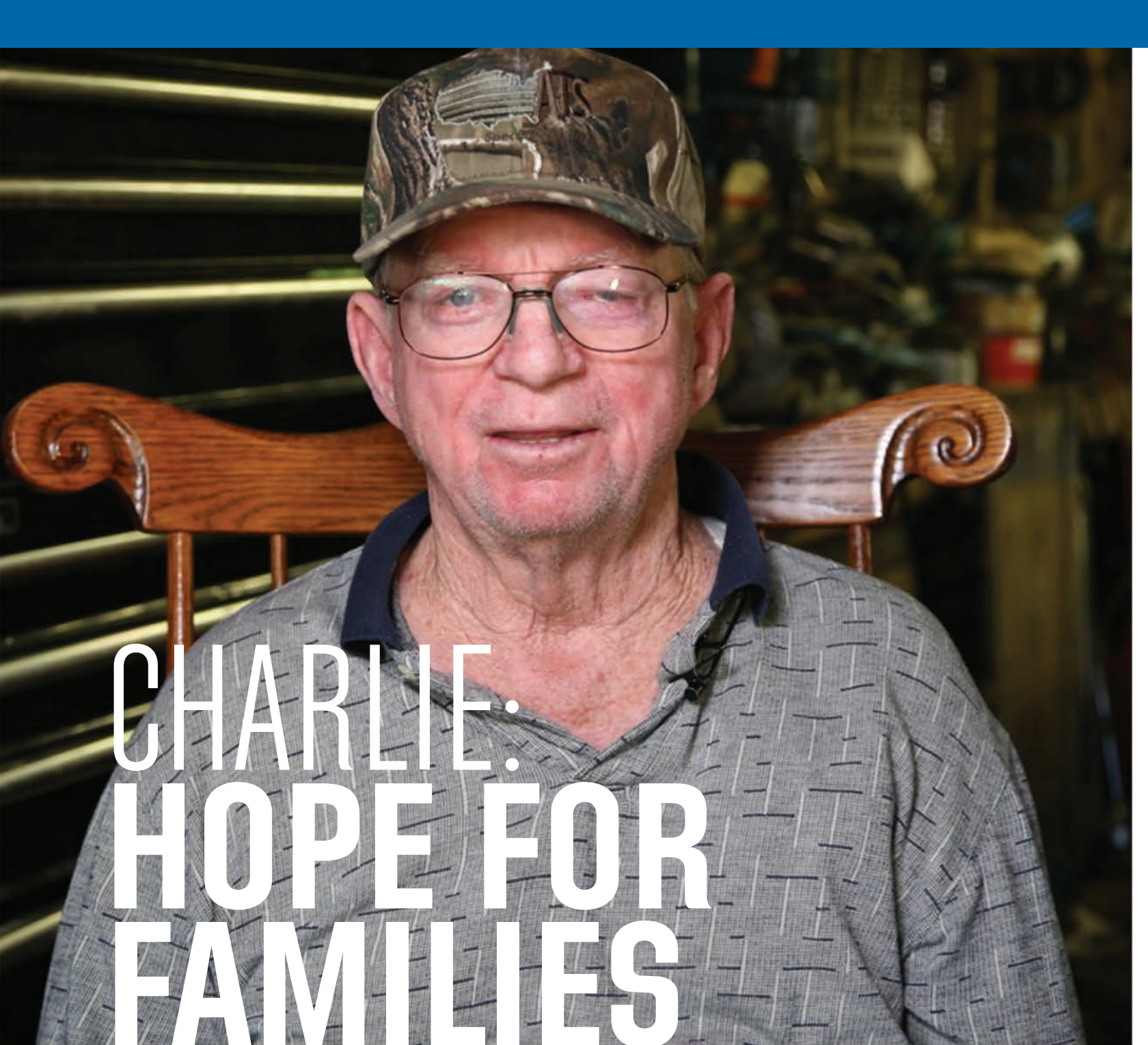
3,640
elementary
0
secondary
3,640
total

2,640
elementary
628
secondary
3,268
total

2,132
elementary
1,850
secondary
3,982
total

2,610
elementary
2,831
secondary
5,441
total





CHARLIE: HOPE FOR FAMILIES

Charlie Sisk had the American Dream. He was born poor and learned a trade that brought him wealth. As a mechanic, he toured the United States setting up, repairing, and monitoring industrial cranes. His work saved companies hundreds of thousands of dollars in accident prevention and training, and he made a tidy salary that should have set him up for life.

Then his wife was diagnosed with cancer.

They fought the disease for five years, spending almost everything they had saved on medication, only to lose their battle. It was the second time Charlie lost a wife; his first having divorced him after he lost his thumb in an accident. After thirty-four years of marriage, his soulmate's passing left him with a single direct relative:

a daughter who now lives in Jacksonville, Mississippi. But he's far from alone. Now in his seventies, Charlie has raised six children and three generations over the last fifty years.

The latest additions to the Sisk family arrived recently: a pair of boys brought to his home by Child Protective Services. He took them in without hesitation, even though they technically aren't related to him by blood. Both boys are descendants of Charlie's first wife, who brought two children into their marriage.

"I'm a blessed man. Blessed to be able to take care of the ones who couldn't take care of themselves," he said. "And CPR took care of me when I was down."

Forced into retirement by a series of back surgeries, Charlie is the quintessential homeowner served by the Community Powered Revitalization program. He can't bend his back anymore. His resources dissolved with the pills that failed to save his second wife. But despite his limitations, he and his third wife, Susan, have soldiered on.

"I was born and raised in a real poor family, and I didn't want none of my friends to come to my house," Charlie said. "I didn't want my babies to do that."

Over the years, he's had to part with plenty of memories. The hot rods that he built from scratch and the professional tools that he used to build them are all gone. The latter were sold to make ends meet. As difficult as it is for him to say it, Charlie's working years are well behind him.

"It brings a tear to your eye when you think about it," he said. "I sold some of my tools that I used on the big cranes and I cried for three days. It's just a chapter of my life that closed. I love working. I would have done all of [the work that needed to be done on my house], but when you have all these medical problems and you can't even draw a straight line, let alone cut one, it's kind of hard to do it."

Charlie constantly worried that his wife would slip on the uneven concrete at their front door. The garage—his last refuge as a working man—was so beaten down



that he couldn't open the rolling door without help from a neighbor. One final hot rod sat, unfinished, in the middle of an impressive and underutilized collection of tools. So the help he received through CPR meant more to him than a fresh coat of paint.

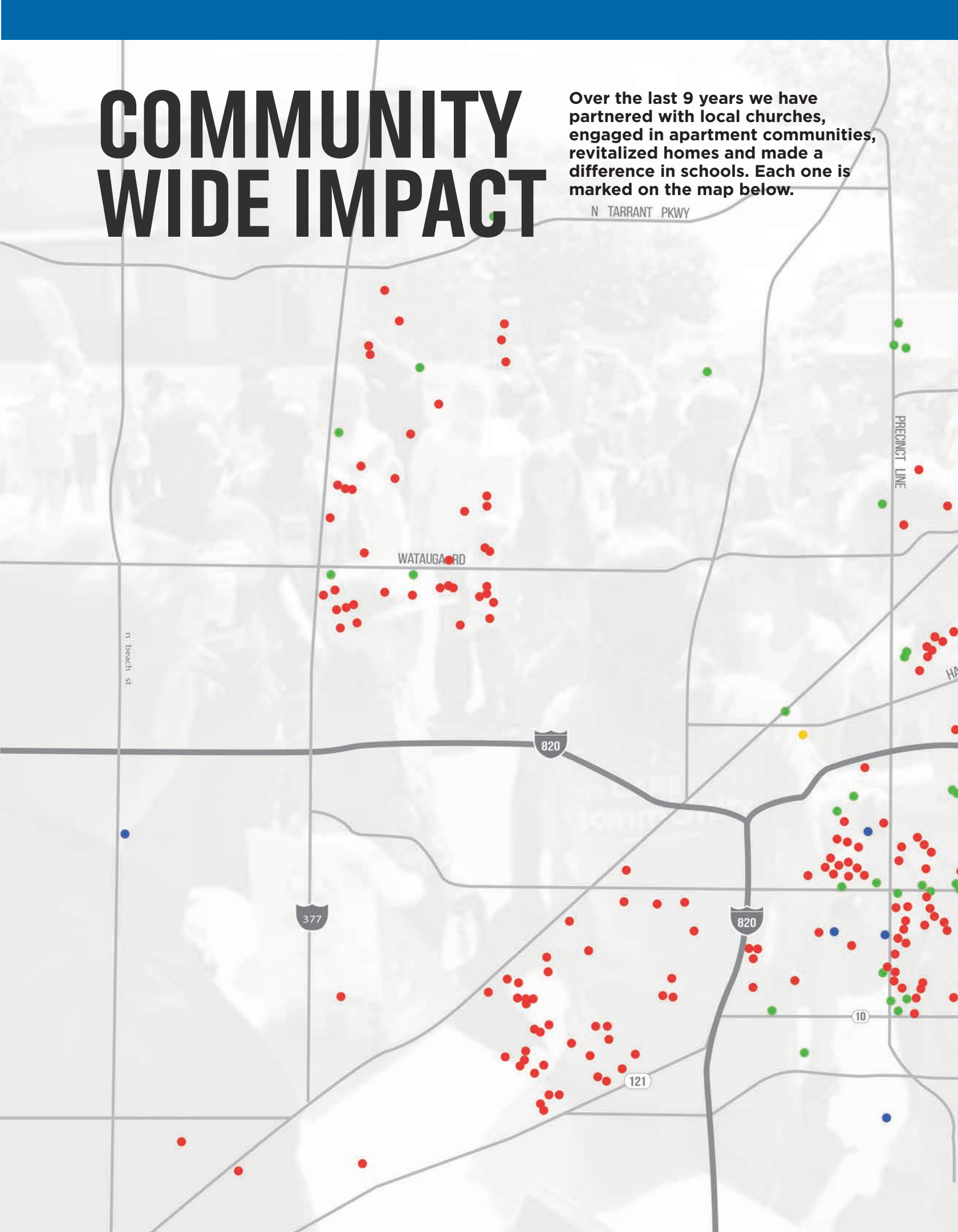
"It changes people's lives," he said of the program. "When you're living in a home and you're so depressed about the condition it's in, to have y'all give it a facelift puts a lot of pride back into a person."

Because of the incredible investment of this community—from governments down to individual volunteers—Charlie and his non-traditional family have one less reason to worry; one less fear to wrestle with. They can move forward into a challenging but full life.

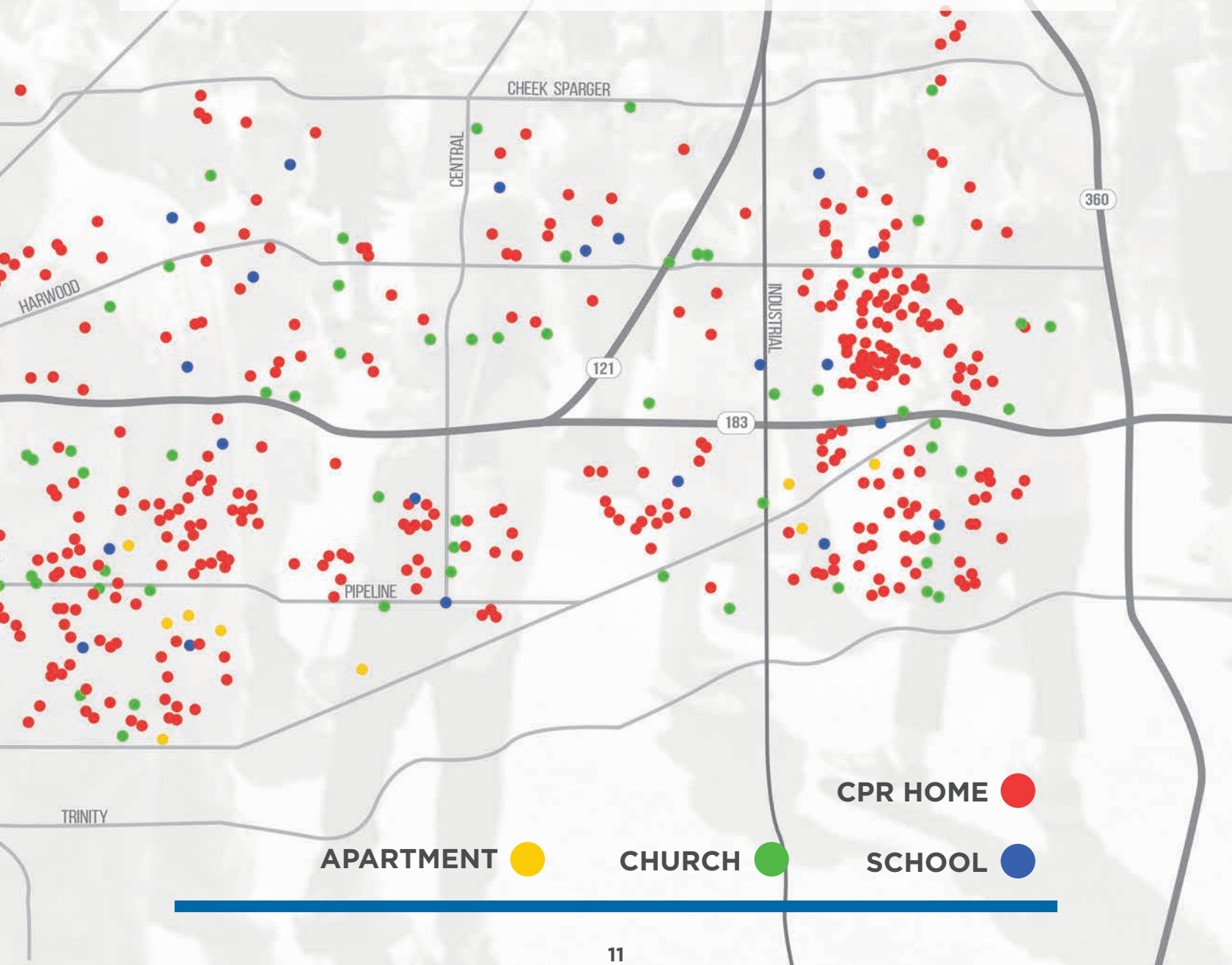
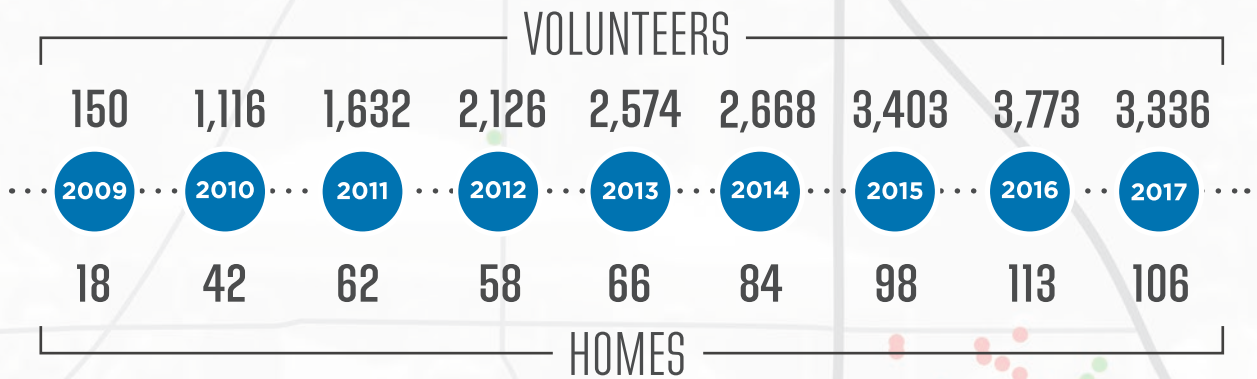
COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT

Over the last 9 years we have partnered with local churches, engaged in apartment communities, revitalized homes and made a difference in schools. Each one is marked on the map below.

N TARRANT PKWY



COMMUNITY POWERED REVITALIZATION





MIKAYLA. HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Mikayla is not your typical 8-year-old. Her bedroom may be bright pink and stuffed with plush toys. Her personality might match the decor. But she's driven by something bigger. She wants to build a world in which there is no sadness; just joy. And she's willing to do it one small act of kindness — and one business venture — at a time.

As an elementary school student, Mikayla doesn't have any formal training in economics. But she's no stranger to business; it's her favorite game. While other kids are

collecting toys and trading cards, the precocious third-grader busies herself with keyboards, calculators, and simulated customer service calls. Her Christmas lists feature requests for typewriters and ten key adding machines.

"I think her coming home and it being this constant thing of seeing me working at home — on a computer typing and on a phone talking to people — she's started to mimic that," said Craig Rydzewski, Mikayla's father. "I guess there's some pros and cons to that, but obvi-

ously the pro is that at eight years old, she's very entrepreneurial-minded. I think she's just starting to run with it. It's really cool to see that blossom in her."

Neither Craig nor Mikayla's mother, Shari, was surprised when their daughter asked permission to open a lemonade stand in front of their house. It was the next logical step in her play. But her goal was a little less predictable. While she and her father were laying out a business plan, she asked that every dollar raised at the stand go to 6 Stones. The request caught both parents off guard. They had heard of the nonprofit through Church of the Cross in Grapevine, but they knew almost nothing about it.

The more they researched online, the more they liked the idea. All of the money raised would be used locally, and with Operation Back 2 School on the horizon, Mikayla had the opportunity to support kids her own age. Plus, she'd get to pick up a few real-world skills while she did it.

"I really wanted to learn the language of selling things; to get money and donate it. Because I had never really done that before, by myself," Mikayla said.

"Some people out there don't have the things they need... my dream was to help other people. I want zero kids to be starving out there. I want to help them. That's my purpose here on Earth: I want to help other people."

Buoyed by the Rydzeskis' contagious enthusiasm, the lemonade stand took off. Friends and strangers alike chipped in to bring the idea to life, donating everything from hand-painted signs to pop-up tents. Michaeldae Reinhardt, a local State Farm agent, even offered to match every donation up to \$300. No one thought they'd raise that much. Mikayla thought she'd be lucky to break \$25.

Instead, she and her mother raised \$1,073 in a single afternoon with the help of a few longtime family friends. Mikayla funded school supplies and a backpack for 36 of her peers through Operation Back 2 School, becoming the youngest major donor in 6 Stones history in the process.



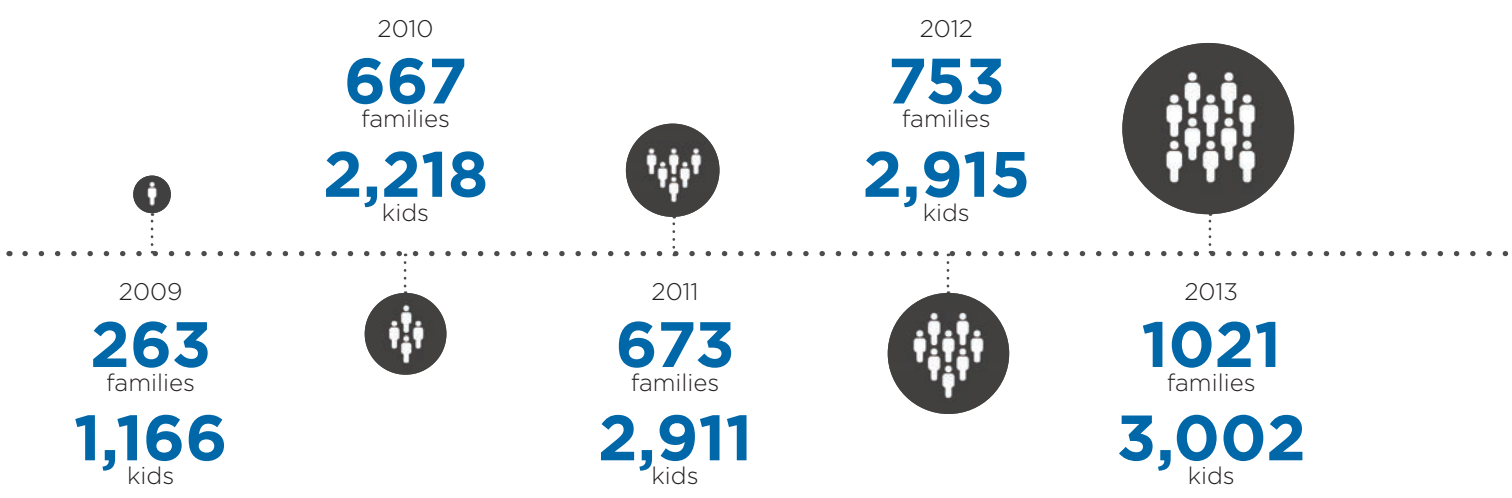
"I think 6 Stones is the best charity of all in the world. Because they love other people, they care for other people. And that's what I like to do... [they] were the best I could find on the internet," Mikayla said.

"This place is exciting to me because I'm helping other people right now... When my mom told me that I was considered a major donor — one of the youngest major donors here — I was just thanking God. I was amazed and I was thankful that I have done that."

Here's hoping that Mikayla — and others like her — are still just warming up.



NIGHT OF HOPE

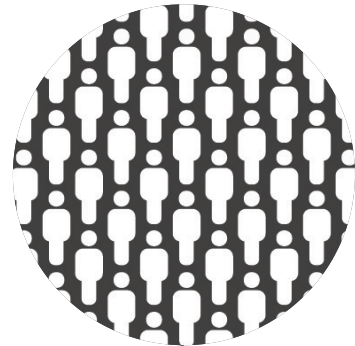




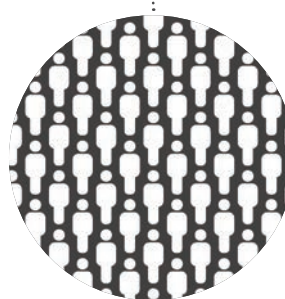
2014
1,182
 families
3,206
 kids



2016
1,542
 families
3,776
 kids



2015
1,389
 families
3,465
 kids



2017
1,642
 families
4,242
 kids



WAEEL: HOPE FOR REFUGEES

For Wael, life is divided into two parts: “Saddam Time,” and the journey that followed the dictator’s death. His childhood memories are as carefree as anyone’s: school, mischief with friends, and soccer in the streets. He had no idea that his life in Baghdad had been carefully constructed by an oppressive regime. No one in his generation could remember life before Saddam. Naturally, the arrival of American troops in his hometown shattered his worldview.

“It was chaos. Some Iraqis were fighting Americans, some threw flowers. You don’t know which side you want to take,” he remembered. “I was one of the people that didn’t like Americans... After the war, things happened and we didn’t know if they were better for Iraq or not. But step by step, we started talking to Americans. We found out they were just human. They were no different from us.”

Over the next few years, Wael would serve as an interpreter for the United States Military. He helped them train Iraqi troops, install local fire departments, and build hospitals. Eventually, he worked on the U.S. Army's Humvee Fielding Initiative, overseeing the transfer of American vehicles into Iraqi service.

Then, insurgents set fire to his house and bombed his car. Wael knew he had to move his family. They planned on relocating to Houston, where he could secure a job in the oilfields of South Texas. At the last minute, for reasons he still can't explain, he changed his mind. The family came to DFW instead. It took two years — 6 months in Turkey and 18 in Egypt — for them to undergo the necessary background checks.

The first thing he saw in the airport was a crowd of people with an unexpected sign: "Welcome to America." He later found out that three families from 121 Community Church had partnered with World Relief to help his family settle into their new lives. Finally, his search for a place to call home — with all of its uncertainty and mistrust — was nearing its end.

"The Joneses, Jolleys, and Sanders showed us all kinds of love. That's what you need. Money, as a parent, you can do that. You can work hard and you can do it. A house? You can find it. But love that makes you feel like you belong? That's different. That's a feeling that we were missing for a long time," he said.

When Wael's family ran into needs their hosts couldn't cover, their friends referred them to 6 Stones. In the last two years, the refugees have been part of both Operation Back 2 School and Night of Hope. For a family on a tight income, those resources were invaluable. The money they saved helped them to stabilize, but the events themselves did more than stretch dollars.

"We got two big bags when we went back home, full of supplies," Wael said. "But we got 1,000 bags of love. That's what I told my wife... I found the right path with big help from 6 Stones. It's not about all the supplies they gave me. It's the kindness and the meaning behind it."

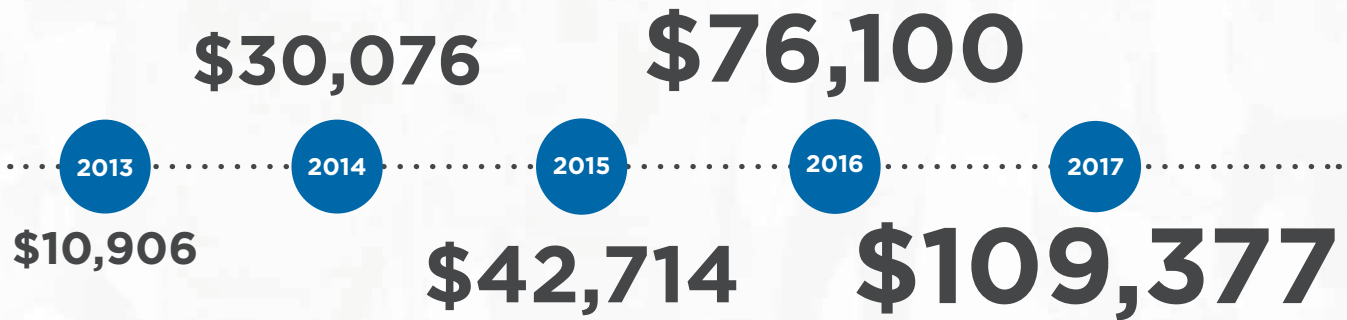


Two years after arriving in Texas, Wael is actively involved in his community. He's taken home Employee of the Month awards, volunteered to repair homes through Community-Powered Revitalization, and helped to coach junior high soccer players in Liga HEB, an intramural soccer program run by 6 Stones on behalf of HEB ISD. For the first time in a long time, he feels not only safe, but loved.

"My understanding of how 6 Stones works is that they give you an opportunity... you feel like you are not alone," he said. Then, thinking of the people who connected his family to the nonprofit, he added: "We learned that it was inside of them. Those three families are Jesus followers. Their religion is to help others, and it's genuine inside them, to help others."

"They show you what Jesus tells them. I call it The Walk. It's not just talk; they walk the Jesus Walk. They want everyone to walk this way... that pushed us, from inside us. It took us inside out. We started helping others. Nobody told you that, but you felt inside you: this is the responsibility... this love should not stop here, with me."

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY





BLACK & BLUE FOOD DRIVE

69,434
FOOD ITEMS
DONATED BY HEB
ISD STUDENTS





**KELLY:
HOPE FOR
COMMUNITIES**

Kelly doesn't look like a woman who hit the end of her rope. Not anymore. In fact, a cursory glance at the Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District employee would reveal nothing out of the ordinary. She's a bright, charismatic, and altogether capable person. You'd never guess that she spent an evening weeping on her kitchen floor, surrounded by Tupperware and elementary school lesson plans.

Years removed from a dangerous prior marriage and an equally intimidating period as a single mother of two, Kelly has dedicated her life to teaching students and their families. She currently serves in the school district's main office. It's part of her job to make sure that no one here in HEB ever feels alone and powerless when confronted by basic and academic needs. She loves every second of it.

She is also acutely aware that parents who struggle to supply their families with necessities will also struggle to be engaged in their children's education. Her personal experience with poverty has led her to a unique appreciation of the value of her work. An understanding that had another unforeseen side effect: a special love for 6 Stones.

Kelly is a monthly donor.

When Kelly started in HEB, there was no 6 Stones. In fact, she was one of the major players in some of our earliest programs. With a specialty in reading and literacy, she was ideally suited to help organize a volunteer reading program for us in the late 2000s. Now, 6 Stones is her first and favorite resource referral for families in need. And there are plenty of them.

"In HEB, we have a lot of mobility amongst our families, across our school district. We have families that move from apartment complex to apartment complex because they are following the sales specials. It's sad, but I know why they do it," she said. "I might have had to do that if my church hadn't stepped in and helped me."

Over half of our district qualifies as economically disadvantaged. Roughly one in four children here in HEB is raised in poverty. But very few of our residents find themselves in the kind of desperate need most of us

associate with the word "poor." Most are living paycheck-to-paycheck. For those families, a penny saved is more than a penny earned.

"When you think about building a budget when you don't have enough money for everything you need to support your family, it beats you up emotionally. It makes you worry at night. You lose sleep, and when you wake up you are tired," Kelly said, recalling her own experience.

"I came through all of my storms. I have a roof over my head and my basic necessities are never in question today," she added. "It's not just about surviving. When I was a single mom, I survived. I survived every day. My kids survived. But what we want to see happen is for our kids to thrive. To grow. To feel confident and to be able to go out in the community and spread positive and compassionate acts. We want them to be able to be a light that shines to other people."

She and her husband contribute to our General Fund on a monthly basis because she can't imagine this community without 6 Stones. Which is funny, really. Because we can't imagine 6 Stones without this community.

2017 AWARDS

2017 GAME CHANGERS

CPR | **Republic Services**

Operation Back 2 School | **Wingmen**

Night of Hope | **First Baptist Hurst**

New Hope Center | **A.J. Molina**

Community Garden | **Marty Geer**

Board of Directors | **Tim Stewart**

Community Ministries | **Chris Foy**

Liga HEB | **FC Dallas Foundation**

Corporate Sponsor of 2017 | **Spring Creek Companies**

Corporate Volunteer of 2017 | **Paul Baccus / Bank of America**

Civic Partner of 2017 | **Hurst, Euless and Bedford Police Departments**

Faith Based Organization of 2017 | **Pantego Bible Church**

School Based Advocate of 2017 | **Chick-fil-A Towne Crossing**

Partnering Non-profit of 2017 | **Hands of Hope**

Next Gen Award of 2017 | **THS Interact Club**

Inkind Sponsor of 2017 | **QuikTrip**

2017 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Operation Back 2 School

David Von Luckner

Miki Von Luckner

Chasin Von Luckner

Mary Lou Dillon

Rebecca Hesilow

Jim Gotcher

Jesus "Chuy" Segura

Gale Wagner

Night of Hope

Stephanie Thames

Karen Stewart

Kathie Jackson

Kathy Lehrmann

Nidia Segura

David Henrietta

Tami Emry

Drew Washington

CPR

Crimson Building Company-Eric Little

Smith Lawn and Tree-David Yonis-Russell Simpler

BB&T-Jobin Kuruvilla

Todd Allen-Home Depot

Russell Shelley (Fire Chief)-Richland Hills

Dee & Calvin Plowman

Community Ministries

John Bitar

Brian Considine

Chris Foy

Dorothy Noote

New Hope Center

Carolyn Keeling

Karen Powell

Jerry Bullari

Steve Lineweaver

James Dooley

Lyn Crepeau

Community Garden

Gary Jones

Annette Lee

Christina Preston

John Moody

Mark Vera

Gary Jones

Todd Boutte

Bob Lundin

2017 ANNUAL SPONSORS





209 N. Industrial Blvd. Suite 241
Bedford, TX 76021

6stones.org
facebook.com/6stones
twitter.com/6stones
instagram.com/6stones

LORD, IS THIS OF YOU?

WHAT IS MY PART?

**BLESS YOUR COMMUNITY, SO
THEY MAY GIVE GENEROUSLY.**