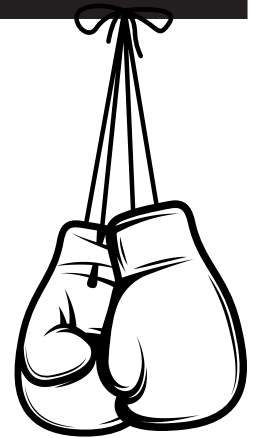




stones<sup>®</sup>  
a Catalyst of Hope<sup>™</sup>

2019  
**AWARDS REPORT**



**FIGHTING POVERTY:  
PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL**





## VISION

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

## MISSION

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

## VALUES

In all we do, we will be Christ-centered, unified, honorable, respectful, compassionate, and service oriented.



# LETTER FROM JENNIFER

Dear Catalyst of Hope,

I've spent the last year in awe. When I joined 6 Stones as the new Executive Director around this time in 2019, I knew I was inheriting a God-sized gift. And, as often happens with God, I have been continually and joyfully surprised by the depth and breadth of His goodness and provision. I knew this organization was important and impactful. I knew your generosity was a powerful resource. But I could never have imagined the incredible favor that God has shown us.

The combined testimony of Scripture and world history is clear: when God does something this big, His people are meant to respond.

I believe that God started something here in 2009 that He plans to continue for decades to come. Back then, God roused His people to meet a growing challenge right here in North Texas: more and more families were facing poverty. God rang the bell; you answered it.

Our community has to stare down a lot of physical and spiritual foes. We have neighbors who are cold and hungry. Students who lack the tools they need to become successful adults. Families who don't feel secure in their own homes. Parents who battle shame and children who face depression. There's a lot of brokenness in the world. But there's even more fighting spirit, if we learn to unleash it.

When you support 6 Stones as a volunteer, donor, or spokesperson, you're picking up the gauntlet thrown to all of us by a world burdened

with sin. You're trusting our God and King when He says that He has overcome the world; that He will someday make all things new. And until that day, He invites us to fight poverty and injustice; to join Him in a ministry of reconciliation.



You're part of a decade-long legacy of God's faithfulness in that fight. Because of your support, thousands of people have seen their homes repaired, their children supported, and their hope restored. This coalition of ours has grown and shifted to meet each new challenge as it rose. You answered the bell over and over again.

And as we move into our next decade, I am confident that we'll see more stories of transformation like the ones contained in these pages. No matter what comes next, this community will remain the Undisputed World Champions of love and kindness. Together, we will continue to fight—and win—the battle against poverty, both physically and spiritually. Keep your gloves up and your hearts open to those in need.

With love (and no small amount of fighting spirit),

*Jennifer Leney*

Jennifer Leney  
Executive Director





# CHRISTINE

# FIGHTING FOR EDUCATION



Christine and her husband got married sixteen years ago. Their first child came just a year later, and they thought the family would stop growing with the arrival of their second in 2006. Their life together didn't go the way they expected.

"When we first got married, we were actually both very comfortable, financially," Christine said. "We discussed children and how many children we were going to have; he wanted two, I wanted four. After two, we were actually done. We had bought a great little home, just right for four people. And then we had the biggest surprise of our life... identical twins. It's been a huge transition, but they were meant to be here. They're amazing."

To make room for the twins, Christine left her job in Veterinary Medicine. The family took a calculated risk; caring for the children required a more flexible schedule than her long shifts allowed. Her Associates Degree lost value when she made the change—she wasn't able to keep up with the continuing education requirements of her degree, and few employers would consider her resume without that element—but the kids needed her at home. She took on two part-time jobs as a nanny. The purse strings tightened, but so did the family ties.

"Children who live in families who are under this constant financial struggle, they live a different way. We live in the awareness that there's not enough





money to make all the ends meet, so they have to learn to live without,” she said, adding: “It brings me a lot of joy to work with children. My kids? I cannot ever express how much I love them. They are absolutely amazing. For me, to get those moments to connect with them, it’s so huge. It really is what gets me through my day.”

The family’s tighter budget took a toll over time. They cut out all non-essentials and tracked every penny, but the mounting pressure eventually drove Christine and her husband apart. She asked that the details of her divorce remain private, but there was an undeniable monetary component. It set the entire family back.

“I worked really hard; worked lots of extra hours for several months to get caught up. It was a really good feeling, to finally feel like I could breathe. Like I wasn’t drowning. And then I discovered a lot of things which led to my divorce,” she said. “I went from feeling confident, and so happy, and honestly, proud of myself for working an insane amount of hours in an effort to get us in a better place. I got to live in that place for a couple of weeks before my world came crashing down.”

She started running the numbers in her head. They’d be going without something again this year; it was just a question of which things they let go. Then her boys came home with a letter from 6 Stones and HEB ISD. They qualified for free school supplies through Operation Back 2 School.



“It brought a sense of peace. My kids were so happy, afterward, to have backpacks and the school supplies that they knew they needed. To see them happy is huge for me. When you’re constantly living in a financial strain, there aren’t as many happy times,” said Christine. “Just to see everything there, through all the community, it was a really unique experience.”

**Christine’s kids were among 4,405 at-risk students to receive school supplies and backpacks through Operation Back 2 School this year.** In the midst of their most trying and intimidating season, this community stepped up to keep them steady.

## 2019 OPERATION BACK 2 SCHOOL STATS

 **60 SPONSORS**

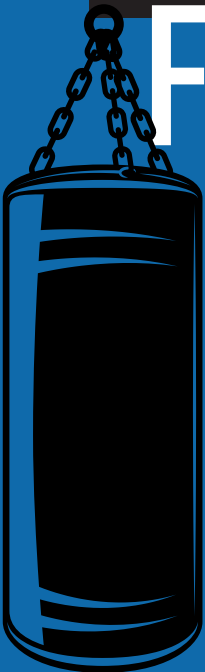
 **750 VOLUNTEERS**

 **49 SOCIAL SERVICES**

 **4,405 STUDENTS SERVED**



# THE PESINA FAMILY FIGHTING FOR A HOME



Rosa came to Grapevine from Lubbock with her husband in the early sixties, chasing seasonal work. When he wasn't welding at Hensley, the family's patriarch went North to work in the fields of Illinois. After five years of hard labor, they had enough to start their first mortgage payment at \$75 a month. That's when they moved from their rental home to the property Rosa owns now. At the time, the Pesinas were some of the first Latin-Americans in the city. Grapevine is roughly 25% Hispanic today.

As the family grew, Rosa gained a reputation for loving her family and friends well; for keeping a home with open doors and plenty of spare room on the couch. Her granddaughter, Leanne, serves as a part-time caretaker and translator for her now.

"It's been the family home for the last four decades," Leanne said of Rosa's now-aging house. "It's an emotional attachment. It is one of the things that her husband left her, that she is very proud of."



“To be a part of a community that cares as much as they have over the years—whether it be people from church or neighbors—she’s a staple... everybody knows where Sister Pesina lives. Where *Hermana Pesina* lives.

“Grandma and Grandpa always made sure that we had a roof over our heads... That’s one of the things that makes this house so important. It’s always been a refuge for every single one of us.”

*Hermana Pesina* did her part in raising generation after generation of strong children, but eventually—as is usually the case—the time came for their roles to switch. Her husband passed away, leaving the home and its residents in a tough spot.

“After my grandfather passed, she got a little lonely,” Leeanne recalled. “It was just her and me in the house for three or four years before my mom moved in to help me care for her... with my mom came my younger brothers, and with those boys came a little bit of life into the house. You saw a little bit of energy come through. You saw a little bit of a happier grandma again.”

In 2019, the Pesina house was one of the smallest, most outdated homes in their neighborhood. But it’s undeniably vibrant. There’s a whole lot of love packed into all 750 square feet of it. Plenty of people have offered to buy the home over the years, but Rosa won’t entertain the thought.

“Desde que mi esposo se murió, yo estoy agusto aquí me quedé. Esta casita el me la compró, y aquí voy a estar hasta que Dios me llevé,” she said. *Since my husband died, I’ve been glad to stay here. He bought me this little house, and I’m going to stay here until God takes me.*

“They both worked very, very hard to have something that was theirs, to be proud of,” Leeanne said. “These are the walls that hold all of the memories that we had with them. And that I hope we continue to have with her, you know, in the near future... she got worried there for a while, and it was hard on her. And watching it be hard on her was hard on me. I didn’t have the resources to do anything for her. I was taking care of her full-time and I wasn’t

working. It took a toll on both of us.”

Fortunately, a relative spotted the Community Powered Revitalization program online and sent Leeanne the link. **In 2019, the Pesinas were one of 58 families to have their house restored, free of charge, by volunteers.** For the first time in decades, the home was free of worry. Now, there’s nothing under that roof but hope and memories.

“The house has been the same for twenty-some-odd years at this point. To see it turn around, the change, that’s what she’s most excited about... and feeling proud of her home again,” Leeanne said. “To be able to do that for her, and let her have that little bit of peace—and peace of mind—less stress. Just for her to be able to enjoy her life and her kids and her grandkids... and to know that there are people out there that are willing to help me help her is an even bigger deal to me.

“Christ’s love is still out there, and that’s a big deal; it just reinforces everything that she taught me growing up.”

## 2019 COMMUNITY POWERED REVIVALIZATION STATS

 4 CITIES

 68 HOMES

 1,778 VOLUNTEERS

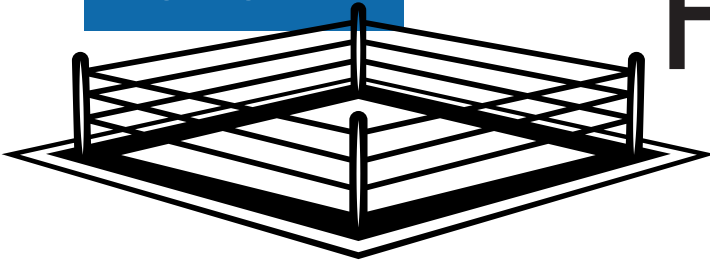
 9,672 VOLUNTEER HOURS

 \$128,150 IN-KIND DONATIONS

740 UNIQUE ADDRESSES SINCE  
THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM



DOROTHY



# FIGHTING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Dorothy and her husband moved from Baltimore to Texas in 2004. She got a job at Citibank, where she served as the corporate banker. They were on track for a comfortable life. Then her marriage dissolved and everything fell apart.

“When we separated, I left [Citibank]. I didn’t work for a while. I lost two storage units, lost a car, lost my apartment. Literally hit rock bottom and had to start over,” Dorothy said. “I just didn’t want to be who I was before; didn’t know how to be that person without the other half of me. I got married at 17 years old, [when] I was still a Senior in High School, and I thought I had everything



figured out; that’s what I wanted. So when I did all of that the right way and it still didn’t work, I kind of gave up completely.”

She and the kids lived in a hotel for two years, their room sandwiched between a prostitute and a drug dealer. Dorothy worked two jobs—which she scheduled around the kids’ school hours—just to scrape together the income she would need to secure her own apartment. When a complex finally approved her application, she left immediately. She had to forfeit two weeks’ rent for the hotel room just to escape.



Dorothy scaled back to a single job in fast food in order to make time for the kids, and the family survives on a tight margin today. Some months are good. Others are so desperate that the kids won't eat unless they can come to the New Hope Center. But Dorothy makes a point to only visit the food pantry when she can't find another way. Over time, the parking lot at 6 Stones became her safe space. When a leak in her car's water pump led to a crack in the radiator, she started breaking down here — on purpose — every day. A fifteen minute trip to school became a two-hour ordeal as she waited for her engine to cool between trips.

At that point, Dorothy had gone a year without taking any vacation time. She never calls in sick because she can't afford to lose the money. She certainly couldn't afford a repair bill that came out to \$900 in parts alone.

"I would sit out in that car and I would cry, every day," she said. "I'd want to give up so bad. But I'd know my babies need me, and I can't leave them to do this on their own. They can't. So you guys made me not give up... when I was at my darkest point, God brought someone to me and reminded me that there are people out there that care."

During those visits, Dorothy signed up for Night of Hope. 6 Stones staff helped her find a new tire to replace one that went flat. She never asked for more than safety and prayers, but she always followed through when given the chance to do more for her family. So her new friends made one more call: to the company that maintains a small fleet of 6 Stones vehicles.

That auto shop not only got every replacement part donated, but also waived their labor fees. When they called Dorothy to pick up her resurrected vehicle last December, she found the back seat brimming with snacks and food alongside donated Christmas decorations from a local church. Between Night of Hope and those gifts, the family had the best Christmas in recent memory.

"That was their Christmas. That was everything to them. It was something that I couldn't do, so at some point you made me look like a superhero," Dorothy said. "I never ever expected it. I didn't come here for that; didn't ask. Y'all saw a true need and stepped up above and beyond what I could even imagine."

Dorothy still has hard days. She works long hours and her body still aches from time to time. But she isn't focusing on that anymore. Instead, she's pouring all of her energy into the people she loves: the kids, her "regular customers," and a new set of connections at 6 Stones.

**She has a team of volunteers who gave her—and 4,342 families like hers—the most precious gift of all: hope.**



## 2019 COMPASSION MINISTRIES AND NEW HOPE STATS

 **4,342 FAMILIES SERVED**

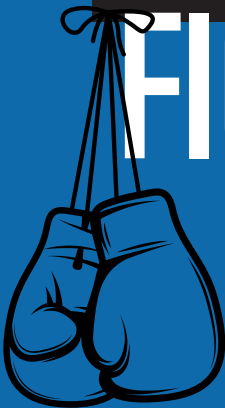
 **16,690 INDIVIDUALS SERVED**

 **1,388 NEW FAMILIES**

 **1,050,272 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED**



# THE SAMANO FAMILY FIGHTING FOR HOPE



When Crystal met Michael, she had just finished a months-long rehabilitation at Nexus, a Dallas-based nonprofit that helps women recover from drug and alcohol addictions. Crystal had both. Michael was stepping out of his own addiction to methamphetamines. They both attended a Celebrate Recovery class hosted by their church. Each of them fit in at the Biblical 12-step program, having grown up in religious backgrounds before wandering away from their faith. But that didn't make their circumstances any less complicated.

"We were advised not to [get married] by almost everybody, except two people; one being the pastor—he wasn't the executive pastor, but he was a pastor—and then a friend of ours," Michael said.

"It's odd to think about because everything that didn't look right and proper, God was like: 'that's exactly what I want. I'm going to show something through that.' So it's definitely not your fairytale beginning; it's a mess as far as external appearances... but that was exactly what God wanted, to mold something; to be able to display



something, too, through the marriage: restoration, grace, forgiveness, and bringing us to a place in life where we otherwise would not have been.”

Nowadays, the Samanos live in an understated home near the border of Hurst and Bedford. They’ve been slowly increasing their involvement at Cross City Church, the same congregation that launched 6 Stones over ten years ago. In 2018, they heard about Night of Hope during an otherwise normal Sunday service. Crystal saw an opportunity to teach the kids about giving back.

**The entire family agreed to forego their usual decorations and gifts in order to sponsor another family through Night of Hope.** Instead of making their own lists, all five of them volunteered to help “shop” for gifts at 6 Stones, packaging gender- and age-specific toys for at-risk kids using numbered trash bags. They had so much fun that they did it again in 2019.

“The emphasis on the day isn’t what we got. It’s what we gave,” Crystal said of their new approach to Christmas. “We might not have gotten to do the big Christmas tree and all the presents and all the decorations, but the fact that we get to go [to Night of Hope]—it’s Christmas there! They create a Christmas right there, and so they get to have Christmas with all these different kids. That’s neat! That’s really neat! They’re sharing Christmas with the world.”

The kids talked about their Night of Hope experience for months afterward, and the family decided to make their sacrificial sponsorship a tradition. But they wanted more than once-a-year involvement. Soon, the kids were helping with Cross City food drives. Michael currently volunteers in the New Hope Center.

“Serving is really a requirement. It’s not something that, you know, if you have the time to do it, Jesus asked you to do it. It’s an absolute requirement. Our God, one of His distinct qualities is serving: Jesus came to serve,” Michael said.

Crystal and Michael both believe that one of their most important duties as parents is to be an example for their kids, and they’re grateful to have 6 Stones as one of many outlets for that service all year long.

“It’s God and 6 Stones, just bringing us all together,” Crystal said. “You’re bringing different people from different walks of life, they’ve had different backgrounds. Whether it’s addictions or hurts or hang-ups; emotional pains or loss that they’ve experienced, everybody gets to get together in one room under the love of Jesus Christ and share. And give. And reciprocate. That is just so amazing because you don’t see that much anymore.

“6 Stones provides the means to give people hope... [the love of Jesus] extends and flows through each one of us. 6 Stones gives us the avenue to express that.”



## 2019 NIGHT OF HOPE STATS

 21 CHURCHES

 55 SPONSORS

 1,888 VOLUNTEERS

 1,633 FAMILIES SERVED

 3,808 CHILDREN SERVED



## 2019 LIGA HEB INTRAMURAL SOCCER STATS

**4 SCHOOLS**

**77% AT-RISK**

**7 TEAMS**

**34 FEWER BEHAVIORAL INCIDENTS**

**112 STUDENTS**

**50% REDUCTION IN SCHOOL ABSENCES**





# 2019 BLACK AND BLUE FOOD DRIVE STATS



**FOOD ITEMS DONATED**  
**79,741**

**WINNING JUNIOR HIGH:**  
**BEDFORD JUNIOR HIGH**  
 10.60 ITEMS PER STUDENT  
 9,098 TOTAL ITEMS

**WINNING ELEMENTARY:**  
**DONNA PARK**  
 25.12 ITEMS PER STUDENT  
 13,567 TOTAL ITEMS

**WINNING HIGH SCHOOL:**  
**LD BELL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 2.30 ITEMS PER STUDENT  
 5,351 TOTAL ITEMS





# 2019 AWARDS

## 2019 GAME CHANGERS

Community Powered Revitalization

**Kelly-Moore Paints**

Operation Back 2 School

**Cross City Church**

Night of Hope

**Jon Rhiddlehoover**

New Hope Center

**Joyce Dodson**

Board of Directors

**Jim McKinnon**

Compassion Ministries

**Calvary Pentecostal Church**

Liga HEB

**Parra Car Care**

Corporate Sponsor of 2019

**Dalworth Restoration**

Corporate Volunteer of 2019

**Fidelity Investments**

Civic Partner Award of 2019

**City of Euless**

Faith Based Organization of 2019

**First Colleyville**

Partnering Non-Profit of 2019

**She Supply**

Next Gen Award of 2019

**YMSL - Southlake**

Inkind Sponsor of 2019

**Overhead Door Company of Fort Worth**

Gary McKamie Catalyst of Hope Award

**Jim Pack**

## 2019 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

**Operation Back 2 School**

Beth Gomez

Gene Shawl

Lone Star Black Belt

Melissa Yoshioka

Miray Hakim

Shelia Willis, Whataburger

**Night of Hope**

Acme Brick

Dot Gardner

John Elbitar

Linda Dibley

Pam Shawl

Tami Emery

**CPR**

Jesse Jones

Luis Gomez

Rodney McGrew

Vernon Turner

**Compassion Ministries**

Arlene Turner

Barbara Shaw

Jeanna Allen

Leah Chance

Nasareen Bunjwani

Net Res

**Liga HEB**

Brooke Leverette

Joe Harrington

Phillip Baumann

Stacy Force

## 2019 PARTNERING CHURCHES

121 Community Church

Calvary Baptist Church

Calvary Pentecostal Church

Central Bible Church

Community Bible Church

Compass Church

Cross City Church First Euless

Cross City Church en Espanol

Cross City Church International

DFW City Life

Euless First Church of the Nazarene

Euless First United Methodist Church

First Baptist Church-Grapevine

Fellowship of the Parks-Grapevine

Fellowship of the Parks-Keller

Fellowship of the Parks-Bedford

Fielder Church

First Colleyville

First Hurst

Freedom Church

Grace Community Fellowship

Harwood Terrace Baptist Church

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Life Church

Meadow Creek Baptist Church

New Beginnings

New Life Family Church

North Pointe Baptist Church

Peace Lutheran Church

Shady Oaks Baptist Church

St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church

The Village Church-Southlake

Trinity Baptist Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church

United Memorial Christian Church

Woodland Heights Baptist Church



# ANNUAL SPONSORS



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jim McKinnon  
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 Secretary: Linda Eilenfeldt  
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 Dianna Booher  
 Kim Campbell  
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Brian Chase  
 Trasa Cobern  
 Shannon Fisher  
 Ernie Flores

Don Green  
 Josh Hobbs  
 Gary McPherson  
 Robert White

**Special Recognition:**  
 Gary McKamie  
 Interim Executive Director, September 2018 - February 2019



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6stones.org  
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A grayscale background image showing a group of children, likely at a school or community event. A young girl with long, dark, curly hair and a white headband is smiling in the foreground. Other children are visible behind her, some holding hands, suggesting a group activity or dance.

**LORD, IS THIS OF YOU?**

**LORD, WHAT IS MY PART?**

**LORD, BLESS YOUR PEOPLE,  
SO THEY MAY GIVE GENEROUSLY.**