



**PARTNERS IN
HOPE**

2021 IMPACT REPORT

***HOPE IN MOTION:
THE JOURNEY BEGINS***

Giving Hope. Loving Neighbors. Growing Hearts.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are in motion...thank you for joining us!

“Let us pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another.” — Romans 14:19

We live in a world where turmoil and contention are more the rule than the exception. Yet we, His people, are called to bring light where darkness seems to dominate. By walking with the hurting, discouraged, and fearful, we model the teachings of Christ.

This calling is about being other-centered and about being aware of the pain our neighbors suffer. By building community filled with the Light of God, we can bring others into a space where they no longer need be alone in the darkness. Partners in Hope – Texas (PIH) is committed to building relationships so that those living in fear can find peace and those living without hope can find joy.

Through your support and generosity, PIH is fulfilling our mission of empowering communities to work together to eliminate social isolation and the hopelessness it causes. I am deeply humbled by all the new individuals and churches who are now giving to this ministry, and I’m encouraged by all who have faithfully supported us for years. Saying “thank you” seems woefully inadequate, but my heartfelt gratitude is without question.

Hope is definitely in motion! PIH is growing wider into Cedar Park/Leander and deeper with our involvement in Lake Travis and surrounding areas. Already, we are growing our staff and building new partnerships with churches and nonprofit ministries. We have also published new workbooks to equip ministries and volunteers on ways to lovingly walk with people in their communities. Stay tuned for more updates through our new *Connections* newsletter!

Thank you again for your part in spreading hope to our neighbors. May you remember God has blessed us to be a blessing, even as we receive blessings from those we serve.

In Christ,



Matt Peacock

Matt Peacock
Partners in Hope Executive Director

MINISTRY LANDMARKS: YOUR 2021 IMPACT



The PIH Way: Our Ministry Approach

- **We are a hyper-local, neighbors-helping-neighbors ministry.**
The community resources we offer are accessible locally.
- **Our ministry is relational.** We commit to walk with each family for one year, providing opportunities for fellowship and working through a collaboratively developed, strength-based, solution-focused care plan.
- **We're not the only ones who are serving.** As we get to know our families, we help them identify ways they can use their experiences, gifts, and talents to serve others in the community.
- **We give more than emergency needs.** Neighbors reach out for help with living conditions, which gives us the opportunity to move them into a healthier life and God-honoring community through additional support and resources.

FUELING HOPE: CONNECTION STORIES



Crissy: From Crisis to Community

Crissy was experiencing severe emotional trauma after losing her partner of three decades. Because she felt shame about the condition of her home and property, she refused to meet with anyone from PIH in person. After six months of our phone visits, Crissy had another crisis. A pipe had burst in her wall, leaving her with no water for several days and significant interior damage.

When we arrived, we were shocked by her living conditions. Her appliances were broken, and her yard was littered with totaled vehicles and mounds of construction trash. She shared with us that other people had started using her property as a dumping ground for their unwanted items. She was overwhelmed and alone.

It took patience to get Crissy to accept help and connection, but after six months we saw progress! More than 80 PIH volunteers joined together to clean her yard and give her functioning appliances. Then we worked with a local church group to regularly reach out to Crissy, which she has grown to welcome. She has gone back to work and most importantly, Crissy is experiencing community, the love of Christ, and compassion—all of which have made a world of difference in her life!

Billy: Ambassador of Kindness

Our PIH volunteers were hard at work on a Saturday morning, sprucing up a family's front yard. That's when a man named Billy motored up on his golf cart and asked what we were doing at his neighbor's house. He was fascinated to learn about Partners in Hope and even engaged in a passionate conversation about our work—particularly our goal of making connections and building relationships to live in community as God commanded.

PIH saw an opportunity to use Billy as a catalyst to bring neighbors together. And it worked! Because of his friendly invitations, the families who live up and down his street now meet once a month for lunch at each other's homes. They also recently invited a local pastor to join them for a meal and share messages of Good News. These gatherings have strengthened the relationships among the neighbors and created beautiful bonds that didn't exist before.

If you mention that Billy was the instigator of all this neighborly love, he'll just smile and say he doesn't remember it that way. But one thing is clear: his kindness transformed a community.



Hope-Filled Christmas: Spreading Joy, Warming Hearts

In December, PIH launched a new relationship-building campaign called *Hope-Filled Christmas*. Thanks to the generous and creative help from our volunteers, 18 of our PIH families were blessed with caring visits, delicious food, and holiday treats. Here are just a few examples of how these volunteers shared the Christmas spirit and God's love:



- Preparing and delivering hot meals
- Providing gift cards for dinners or groceries
- Surprising a family with a delivery of Tiny Pies
- Celebrating a late Christmas meal together
- Visiting on the front porch
- Going for a ladies pedicure date
- Spending time together around a fire pit for conversation and laughter (as well as enjoying homemade deer chili and s'more brownies!)

Special thanks to everyone who participated in this opportunity. You are a lifeline to those you so willingly serve, and we are always humbled by your commitment to help us achieve our mission of ending isolation in our communities!



VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVES: RICH AND TERRY GILCHRIST

Terry and Rich have been joyfully serving PIH families for several years. We asked them about their experience as volunteers:

What was your first impression of PIH?

When we moved to Texas in 2016, we were looking for ways to give back and learned about PIH from Bee Creek United Methodist Church. At our first workday, we were impressed by the large turnout and willingness of volunteers to do whatever was asked of them. And getting to know the folks we serve has been a wonderful blessing.

What surprised you the most about volunteering with PIH?

The power of the Holy Spirit is always present—bringing laughter even as we work hard and get sweaty and dirty. Who knew working in a dumpster could be so fun? It is amazing to see how much can be accomplished in a few hours on a Saturday morning. The friendships we have made with PIH staff, volunteers, and families are priceless!

What do you wish other people knew about the negative effects of social isolation?

Prolonged isolation impacts people physically, emotionally, and spiritually. When you meet someone who is standoffish or even rude to you, it's important to understand there's another side to the story. Maybe it's just a person having a bad day. Or maybe it's something deeper that prevents them from engaging in routine social situations. PIH walks with these individuals and assists with their finances, medical care, meals, and home maintenance. Most importantly PIH offers them connections. They are reminded that God loves them, and they are not alone. We recently witnessed a PIH neighbor who was isolated and fearful of leaving the house. With the Holy Spirit working through PIH and its volunteers, this neighbor has overcome fear, is now reaching out to friends, and even wants to start giving back.

What do you do when you aren't volunteering?

We're involved with many activities within our church. That keeps us quite busy, as do our four (soon to be five) grandchildren!

A NEW RESOURCE FOR RELATIONAL MINISTRY

- *Is your church, ministry, or nonprofit looking for a way to better connect your members and volunteers with those you serve—beyond one-time events?*
- *Do you, as a volunteer, want to learn how to come alongside your neighbors and people in your community to serve in a more impactful way?*

We are excited to share new tools to equip you in relational ministry! Partners in Hope recently published two workbooks that offer practical steps for fulfilling God’s command to love others and help those in need. Sharing the gift of our ongoing presence with our neighbors (“walking with others”) can be a complete game-changer in terms of the impact we have on our communities, our ministry partners, and the Kingdom of God.



The Power of “With”: Making a greater impact with a relational ministry culture, is a workbook for churches and faith-based nonprofits that will help you think differently about your serving model, develop partnerships with other ministries, and identify resources in your community. You will also gain an understanding of the importance of training your volunteers so your organization can better walk “with” others.

Walking with Others: Increase your impact by shifting the way you serve your community, guides volunteers through eight practical steps to strengthen your understanding of how to walk with your neighbors and grow your confidence to offer Christ in a relational way.

Both workbooks address the “why” and “how” of relational ministry and explore the Biblical basis for adjusting the way we serve others by building relationships with people in need rather than exclusively providing one-time, transactional support.

PIH leaders will offer training sessions associated with these workbooks, providing insights gained from more than 10 years of experience ministering to our neighbors in need of friendship. Contact matt@pihtx.org for more information on trainings.



MAPPING WHAT'S NEXT



Welcome B.J. (Bruce) Rogers!

Starting in April, B.J. will be serving as our Director of Ministry for Cedar Park/Leander and will be our first “on the ground” staff person in that area. We are excited that he will bring both experience and passion as we develop partnerships with other ministries in that area to fight the negative effects of social isolation.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

We are grateful to the following organizations who support Partners in Hope with donations, volunteers, and other resources. We are working to add even more ministry partners this year in both the Lake Travis and Cedar Park/Leander areas!

Cedar Park/Leander

*ACTS Church Leander
Bethany United Methodist Church
Christian Resource Center, Cedar Park
Hill Country Bible Church
Hill Country Community Ministries
New Hope First Baptist Church
St. Vincent de Paul*

Central Texas

*Capital District UMC Mission Board
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Texas*

Lake Travis

*ACTS Church Lakeway
Austin Christian Fellowship Four Points
Austin Ridge Bible Church Bee Cave
Austin Stone Northwest Campus
Bee Creek United Methodist Church
Cornerstone Restoration
Emmaus Catholic Parish
Episcopal Church of the Cross
Helping Hands Crisis Ministry of Spicewood
Hope Rock Church at Lake Travis
Ladies of Charity Lake Travis
Lake Travis Crisis Ministries
Lake Travis United Methodist Church
Lake Travis United Methodist Women
Life Austin Church
Marshall Ford Fellowship
National Charity League Hill Country Chapter
Queen of Angels Chapel
River in the Hills Church
St. Vincent de Paul
The Lakeway Church
Young Men's Service League Cavalier, Lake Travis, Four Points, and Viper Chapters
Zao Church*



LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW MINISTRY AREA!

CEDAR PARK:

Population: 87,139 (2020 census), increasing 78% since the previous census.

Known For: The H-E-B Center at Cedar Park is the premier multi-use entertainment facility in the area and hosts more than 150 events every year, including sports and musical acts.

History: Named for an actual park that was a rail stop in the late 1800s. Cedar posts were in high demand at that time, and many people earned their living as “cedar choppers.”

LEANDER:

Population: 82,660 (2020 census), increasing 211% since the previous census.

Known For: The “Leanderthal Lady”, a skeleton dating back 10,000 to 13,000 years found in this area. It’s one of the earliest intact burial sites discovered in the United States.

History: Previously named Bagdad, it was established in 1882 on land sold by the Austin and Northwestern Railroad Co. and named in honor of Leander “Catfish” Brown, one of the railroad officials.

Income: Both cities have an average household income around \$118,000, with home ownership around 70%.

School District: Both communities are in Leander ISD, which serves more than 41,000 students and is among the 10 fastest growing school districts in Texas.

Need for PIH Services

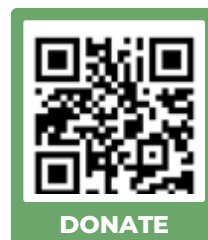
Social Isolation: All of our service areas have a relatively high income, yet pockets of social isolation and physical need still exist. This is true for both long-term residents who have become disconnected over the years, as well as newer residents who aren't connected to a life-giving community.



One Example: Our first client in this new ministry area is a disabled woman in her 50s who lives with her husband in a recreational vehicle (RV). The property they are on is being sold so they have to move onto her mom’s property, which is lacking suitable electricity and water. We will help this couple navigate their relocation while also helping the mom, who is socially isolated. Our goal is to help with immediate needs while also walking with them over time to introduce supportive people into their lives.

Ready to Accelerate Your Involvement?

- Sign up for our *Connections* newsletter by emailing us at info@pihtx.org.
- Stay tuned for news about orientation and volunteer training events.
- Learn about volunteer opportunities for Lake Travis and Cedar Park/Leander on our website, www.pihtx.org, and invite a friend to join you!
- Donate to help us reach even more people who need connection and hope.
- Join our Hope Angels Prayer Team by emailing jill@pihtx.org.



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Shaping Hearts

As I recently reread Matt's book, *Unexpected Connections*, a few sentences stuck with me:

- "Walking through life with people allows God to work in His timing."
- "God's whole design of serving is less about eliminating needs and more about shaping hearts."

I find myself willing to walk with people in our community but I often become impatient or weary when the journey seemingly becomes unproductive, repetitive, or simply frustrating, because in my judgment a person makes poor decisions or does not follow through on agreed upon courses of action.

Yet, I'm the one getting tired. I'm the one getting frustrated. I'm the one growing weary...NOT GOD!

I forget the purpose of the walk is to support our community members in need with friendship and love. God has His timing in mind and my schedule as nothing to do with it. I also forget God's design for serving others is not about eliminating needs (although I believe we are to meet certain immediate needs); it is about shaping hearts—mine and those members of the community whom we serve. Through the grace-filled work of the Holy Spirit, we are all transformed.



James (Jamie) E. Wilhelm, III
President

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Susan Priddy
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Discipleship Coordinator, Bethany UMC & Retired, Telecom Industry

Staff

Matt Peacock
Executive Director

Diahn Ehlers
Assistant Director and Volunteer Coordinator

Denise Ray
Community Outreach Manager

B.J. (Bruce) Rogers
Ministry Director, Cedar Park/Leander

Arinn Shelton
Living Conditions Coordinator

Jill M. Johnson
Director of Operations

Amy Williams
Finance Administrator

Yesenia Aguilar
Intern, Baylor School of Social Work

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021 Total Budget:

\$288,020

Total Expenses: \$308,332*

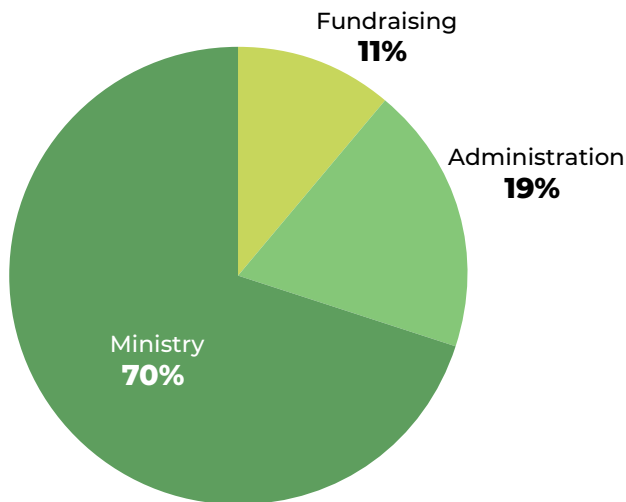
Total Revenue: \$528,661**

2022 Total Budget:

\$532,645*

*Higher expenses in 2021 and larger budget for 2022 due to increased staffing to initiate expansion plan.

**2021 Income over expenses was \$220,329, of which \$200,000 has been placed in reserve for the 2023 budget to help us meet expansion goals.



2021 Functional Expenses

2021 Statement of Financial Position

Total Assets: **\$401,399**

Total Liabilities: **\$ 6,381**

Total Net Assets: **\$395,018**





Want to learn more? Scan this code, which will take you to our website:



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Our mission is to empower communities to work together to eliminate social isolation and the hopelessness it causes. Imagine with us a world where no one has to navigate life alone!

Partners in Hope is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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