

NAM Notes

Winter 2016



Stories of Neighbors Helping Neighbors

15555 Kuykendahl Road • Houston, TX 77090 • (281) 885-4555 • www.namonline.org



Left to right, back row: Carrol Merriman, volunteering during NAM's Thanksgiving distribution; Marco, 12; Maribel, 9; mom Maria Atonal; Jonathan, 8; Luis, 2 and Kevin, 4.

NAM's Holiday Project is Back! Thousands of families in need will benefit from this year's distribution

For more than 16 years, NAM has delivered holiday meals and toys to hundreds of families in the Houston area, and this year was no different. Almost 2,000 families registered with the Assistance department for NAM's Holiday Project.

NAM's Holiday Project started as a way to put food on the table and alleviate other expenses many families were incurring during the holiday season. Many cannot afford to buy gifts for their children or those special meals for both Thanksgiving and December holidays.

"We want families to know they don't have to do it alone," explained Debbie Peterson, Assistance Program Director at NAM. "Many of them come to us with weary souls and little hope, but knowing that there are other neighbors, congregations and

local businesses ready to help, lets them know that someone truly cares about them and that they're never alone," Debbie said.

During the month of November, a total of 814 families received a turkey and all the trimmings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The food was valued at \$50 and was enough to feed a family of four for three to five days.

"We want families to know they don't have to do it alone."

As 2016 comes to an end, you too can be part of the holiday season by bringing joy to hundreds of people. The last leg of NAM's Holiday Project, the December Toy and Food Distribution, will provide holiday meals and toys for children (ages 0 through 12) for at least 1,000 registered families on December 17, 19 and 20.

Continued on page 3

That's a Wrap! Jeans & Jewels 2016



Left to right: Tom and Darlis Fuller, Honorees of the 2016 Jeans & Jewels Gala; Carol and Mike Watford, Honorary Chairs.

More than 400 guests attended this year's Jeans & Jewels Gala!

Continued on page 5



**BE THE CHANGE
This Season**

DID YOU KNOW YOUR GIFTS TO NAM ENSURE THAT FAMILIES IN NEED MAKE IT THROUGH THE HOLIDAY SEASON?

Continued on page 7

NAM's Veterans Assistance Program



Janell Wells and her 13-year-old son Jaden are some of the individuals that have benefitted from NAM's Veterans Assistance Program.

Continued on page 6

Financial STATEMENT

For the 12 months ended 09/30/16 (preliminary, unaudited)
 Total Support and Revenues\$9,530,637
 Expenses
 Program services\$8,463,521
 Management and General\$673,235
 Fundraising and Development\$480,882
 Total Expenses\$9,617,638
 Total Expenses Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets\$(87,001)
 NAM's fiscal year runs Oct. 1, 2015 to Sept. 30, 2016

Planning a Legacy?



As 2016 comes to an end, now is a great time to revisit your annual giving commitments and consider an estate gift to NAM. We are seeing an increase in the number of people in our area that need our assistance and our success is only possible because of your giving. As a way to sustain, and potentially increase our resources, we are helping our constituents understand the different types of deferred gifts that benefit the donor as well as NAM. More information can be found at www.neflegacy.org, our new gift planning website. For more information, please contact Lindsay Roh, Chief Advancement Officer, at (281) 885-4608 or via email at Lroh@namonline.org.

Mission VISION AND VALUES

NAM's **Mission** is to strive to meet basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

NAM's **Vision**, grounded in our mission and true to our values, is a community in which neighbors care for neighbors through our collaborative effort 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.

NAM's **Values**: maintaining a strong commitment to our mission of meeting basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors; fostering a spirit of respect and charity; striving for excellence in all we do; and strengthening connections with our spiritual, funding and volunteer partners.

FROM THE President & CEO

What a year it's been! Together we have faced floods, economic uncertainty and growing need in our community. But through it all *you* have allowed NAM to *Be the Change* and bring hope and help to Neighbors in Need.



Many of the neighbors we served this year would never have expected to need help. As flood waters rose and then poured into homes, there was nothing any of us could do to stop them. But with the help of our partner congregations, local businesses, donors and volunteers, NAM quickly established relief centers to meet basic needs at a time when so many lives were turned upside down.

Sometimes the storms that come are whirlwinds of life, not nature. At every age and stage, NAM's vision is to provide innovative, comprehensive services that help people regain independence—and to serve them with excellence on that journey. That's why the completion of the capital campaign this year, despite tough economic times, was so critical. The new Retail and Training Center will allow NAM to expand much needed short-term training programs to move people from poverty to self-sufficiency.

It's also why our Family Violence Center added services for victims of sexual assault, why we reinvented the model for our Interfaith Homeless Network and why we are in the midst of a huge expansion of Meals on Wheels.

Our efforts have been recognized through numerous awards including a 2015 Award for Excellence from the Better Business Bureau and the 2015 "Keeping Our Communities Healthy" Champion Award from Hunger Free Texans.

The most important recognition we receive, however, is from those who comprise the circle of Neighbors Helping Neighbors at NAM. The volunteer, who returns week after week, recognizing that their efforts make a difference. The donor, who invests resources to help us tackle the next challenge, and the neighbor in need who receives our help as a gift to change their life. Thank you for being part of that circle. Together, as we strive to *Be the Change* in our community, our lives are changing for the better as well.

Sincerely,

Carole Little,

Linda & Harlan Martens Endowed President & CEO

Programs & Services

Development/Cash Donations	(281) 885-4608
Assistance & Housing Services	(281) 583-5600
Joanne Watford Nutrition Center	(281) 885-4589
Children's Clinic	(281) 885-4630
Furniture Donations	(281) 885-4545
Family Violence Center	(281) 885-4673
Interfaith Homeless Network	(281) 885-4567
Learning Center	(281) 885-4616
Meals on Wheels	(281) 885-4628
Senior Services	(281) 885-4600
Treasures of the Heart: FM 1960 store	(281) 880-9000
Treasures of the Heart: Corner Resale Shop	(281) 885-4544
Volunteer Coordinator	(281) 885-4604
Other agencies at NAM:	
Harris County Social Services	(281) 885-4591
Harris County Sheriff's Department	(281) 885-4523

NAM's Holiday Project is Back!

Thousands of families in need will benefit from this year's distribution

...continued from cover

Here are some easy ways you can help families in need:

- 1 Buy new and unwrapped toys for boys or girls (ages 8 through 12 are especially needed).
- 2 Donate non-perishable foods to NAM's Joanne Watford Nutrition Center (a detailed list is available at www.namonline.org).
- 3 Organize a toy or food drive at work, with friends or at your local congregation.
- 4 Give at www.namonline.org/donate.
- 5 Stop by NAM's Assistance Department to drop off your cash donation.

If you would like more information about NAM's Holiday Project, please contact Debbie Peterson, Assistance Program Director at (281) 885-4587 or via email at dpeterson@namonline.com.



Melissa's Story

In 2015, Melissa Nylander and her husband didn't have enough money to provide school supplies, holiday food or gifts for their girls.

Through NAM's Assistance Program, Melissa and her family received a turkey and all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving feast as well as presents and holiday groceries at Christmas.

"It was fabulous," said Melissa. "My girls loved all their presents and the food was delicious. Receiving this help from NAM has really made a big difference in our lives."

Melissa said she looks forward to the day where she can help others and pay it forward to someone in need.

Thanksgiving Distribution Day 11/22/2016

NAM'S HOLIDAY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Thanksgiving Distribution

814 families received Thanksgiving meals

10,300 pounds of turkey were delivered to families in need

16,000 pounds of food were delivered

December Toy and Food Distribution

NAM expects to deliver:

1,000 families registered to receive food and toys

15,750 pounds of turkey / ham

20,000 pounds of food

5,000 pounds of fresh produce

2,000 toys for children



Left to right, top row: Nuri Venancio holding a frozen turkey; volunteer Carrol Merriman with TroyLynn Evans, Assistance client; canned goods ready to be delivered. Middle row: mom Debbie Alexander with her children, Eugene, 8, and Serenity, 4; volunteers: Chip Webb, Braden Hevle, Mark Stoebner and Gene Broccard; friends Jessica Archila with her baby, Jessica, 1, Justyn, 6 and his mom Flor Ojeda carrying Sophia, 2. Bottom row: volunteers ready at NAM's Joanne Watford Nutrition Center; officer Kent Mangum with his son Caiden, 15; NAM food vouchers; goodie bags ready for delivery.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Corporations making a difference!



LEFT TO RIGHT, CLOCKWISE: EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY; STREAM-FLO GROUP OF COMPANIES; TRIPLE CROWN BINGO; EXXONMOBIL CORPORATION; WHATABURGER; EXXONMOBIL REFINING & SUPPLY.

Donations making a difference!



Left to right, clockwise: Lisa Batten from Westfield High School; volunteer from Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church; Danielle Bell, Director of Apple Tree School with her students; Debbie Peterson, Assistance Program Director at NAM with Clydene Young-Holmes from Modern Woodmen of America and Bob Schenck from Timber Lane Utility District; Primrose School of Champions: Jennifer Quiñones with Debbie Peterson; Kevin and Peggy Keller. **Many thanks for your generous donations benefitting NAM's Holiday Project!**

NAM Events

Continued from cover

More than 400 guests attended the 2016 Jeans & Jewels Gala. The "Fiesta on the Río Grande, A Mission of Hope" took place at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016. The event honored Darlis and Tom Fuller. Carol and Mike Watford were the 2016 Honorary Chairs. This was the third and final event for this year's Jeans & Jewels series which raised almost \$700,000 for NAM's programs and services.

"Many thanks to everyone involved in this year's Jeans & Jewels," said Carole Little, NAM's President & CEO. "Your continued support validates NAM's mission of Neighbors Helping Neighbors," she said.



JEANS
& Jewels
...A Texas Size Party



Left to right: Nolan Lehmann, Auctioneer and Melissa Wilson, news anchor from Fox 26 and this year's Mistress of Ceremonies; Barbara Watson, Marilyn Batter and Courtney Cook; Lauren and Brian Temple; dance floor at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott; Jackie Riley with Bill and Cheryl Sessions; Scott and Cindy Chenoweth with Leslie and Dick Francis; guests dancing to the rhythm of The Drywater Band.

THAT'S A WRAP!

Thank you!

Sponsors & Donors

Harrell Family Foundation
Arch-Con Corporation
Ultra Petroleum Corporation
Cynthia and Rick Foley
Donna Asbill
Wendy and Jim Fryfogle
Louise and Stephen Slater
Bentley & Associates, P.C.
Northside Lexus
Dana and Kevin Roberts
ConocoPhillips
Judy and Glenn Smith
Bank of America
Laura and Howard Barousse
Fehr Grossman Cox Architects, Inc.
Ray Fitzgerald
Tiffany Dunne
Dan's Automotive
Valerie and John vonBerg

Platinum Partner

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Darlis and Tom Fuller
Plains All American Pipeline
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Carol and Mike Watford

Gold Nugget

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Margie and Rick Crump/
Jackie and Pat Riley
Twin Eagle Resource Management

Bronze Buckle

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Doranda and Rick Couch
Friends of Tom and Darlis & NAM
Larry and Nancy Padfield Foundation
Southwestern Energy
Nancy and Don Wiese

Blue Denim

Nancy and Bill Strange
Jane and Joe Untermeyer

Red Bandana

Avalon Advisors
Bank of America
Richelle and Gabe Birdsall
Caldwell Companies
The Diehl Family
Vickie and Terry Freeman
Constable Mark Herman
Pam and Bob Hughes
Huntsman Corporation
The Lanier Law Firm
Tony Lindsay
Lone Star College North Harris
Cheryl and Bill Sessions
Trustmark Bank

Thank You!

Cash gifts of \$1,000 or more,
excluding events

September - October 2016

American Lung Association
Anonymous
Lynne and Dave Anderson
Donna M. Asbill
Bank of America Foundation
Evelyn and Bruce Bentley
Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Foundation
Suzie and Kenneth Castlebury
Christ The Good Shepherd Catholic Community
Margie and Richard Crump
Mary and W. Kemp Culbreth
Cypress Creek Christian Church
The Elkins Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation
Cindy and Dr. Richard J. Foley
Darla and Stewart Fox
Margaret and Bill Ginder
Karen and Robert Guthrie
The George & Mary J. Hamman Foundation
Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
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Ingrid and Andrew Hoyle
The Jackson Foundation
John Wesley United Methodist Church
Mary and Kim Kehoe
Mary and Robert Kimball
Klein United Methodist Church
Laurie and Charles Kruse
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Lakewood United Methodist Women
Local Independent Charities of Texas
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Northwoods Presbyterian Church
Lawrence and Nancy Padfield Foundation
Laura Pate
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Candace and Mark Rigo
Barbara J. Rogers
Dr. Raul Sepulveda
Cynthia and Michael Solgere
St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church
Ernestine and Michael Terranova
TJX Foundation, Inc.
Marilyn and Pete Turner
United Way of Greater Houston
Robert W. & Pearl Wallis Knox Charitable Foundation
Carol and Michael Watford

NAM Highlights

Another Successful Fall Career Fair!

For the third consecutive year, NAM's Learning Center and Between Jobs Ministry (BJM) partnered to bring the NAM/BJM Fall 2016 Career Fair. The event attracted more than 1,000 jobseekers at Northwest Bible Church in Spring, Texas on Oct. 4, 2016. More than 35 employers from oil and gas, law enforcement, finance and other industries, as well as representatives from various non-profit and veteran organizations were present at the event.



NAM Opened Annual Memorial Garden

The Family Violence Center opened its annual Memorial Garden on Oct. 3, 2016. A total of 121 purple flags were placed in the Garden to honor the victims that die each year because of domestic violence in Texas. Supporters also placed yellow flags to

let survivors know they are never alone. If you or someone you know has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, please call the free 24/7 Hotline at (281) 885-4673. All services are confidential and free of charge.



"I love that I can show up with a simple meal and I'm rewarded with a smile every time."



NAM's Veterans Assistance Program ...continued from cover

The Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) is a one-year, renewable grant that provides rent and mortgage assistance as well as help with utilities for veterans, their spouses and children. More than 32 families have benefitted from this program, explained, Sonya Hackman, Case Manager and retired Army veteran.

"One of the greatest things about the VAP is not that we are giving our veterans a handout but a hand

in," she said. "This program is vital to the community because it keeps our veterans and their families safe, as it helps with homelessness prevention, which in turn allows our veterans to have a second chance in life," Sonya said.

If you know someone who may benefit from this program, please contact, Sonya Hackman, VAP Case Manager, at (281) 885-4588 or via email at shackman@namonline.org.

FROM A GRATEFUL VETERAN:



A few months ago, Janell Wells was transitioning from one job to another and risked being evicted. Thanks to NAM's help, Janell and her 13-year-old son Jaden were able to keep their home after receiving rental assistance.

"I wanted to personally thank you from the bottom of my heart. You showed great compassion for my situation and I feel you made it your personal business to ensure that my son and I continued to have a permanent residence. Because of your personal touch we are not lacking food and most of all, we still have a roof over our heads. My experience with NAM has encouraged me and Jaden to do what we can to support local organizations that provide assistance for people like me and my fellow veterans."

Janell Wells

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ashley Wells

After moving to Houston from Little Rock, Arkansas more than two years ago, Ashley Wells found herself wanting to meet new people. She joined the Junior League of The Woodlands and that became an excuse to get outside of her home-office to interact with others besides her typical errands.

"I never expected my heart to swell like it has for Meals on Wheels (MOW)," said Ashley. "What started as a selfish reason to get out of the house and fill some mandatory volunteer hours has now turned into one of the biggest blessings in my life. MOW has stolen my heart and given me a passion for helping others."

Ashley said volunteering always

puts a smile on her face and has also taught her valuable lessons such as patience, grace, compassion, gratitude and most importantly, the value of friendship. She said the MOW clients in her route always appreciate the fact that she takes the time to say hi or ask how they are. "It's taking a moment to stop and invest in others that otherwise might not have a friendly conversation that day or have the chance to smile," Ashley said.

Ashley takes great pride in the MOW cause and loves sharing her volunteering experience with others. She'll deliver meals as long as she's able and she's happy to impact other people's lives—one meal delivery at the time.

NAM WELCOMES:



Mike Watford

Currently serves as the Chair of NAM's Board of Directors. Since 1999, he's been the Chairman, President and CEO of Ultra Petroleum Corporation. Prior to this role, he also served as the CEO of Nuevo Energy Company. His vast experience in the oil industry spans more than 40 years working in oil exploration and production, downstream refinery, chemicals businesses, as well as managing product marketing, processing and pipeline businesses.



Lindsay Roh

Lindsay Roh is NAM's new Chief Advancement Officer. Lindsay comes to us with more than five years of gift planning and major gift experience. She's a graduate from Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina and has a master's degree in Marketing and Public Relations from Virginia Tech. Before joining NAM, she worked at the University of Houston as the Associate Director of Gift Planning.



Vinson Crawford

Joins NAM as the new Housing Services Manager for the Assistance Department. Vinson has more than 17 years of experience in the medical and nonprofit fields in administrative and marketing director roles. Before joining NAM, he worked as a Branch Manager Administrator for ResCare Homecare and also at SEARCH Homeless Services in Houston as a Center Manager working with approximately 200 clients per day.

NEWS FROM NAM'S CHILDREN'S CLINIC

PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Children's Clinic is excited about their Pediatric Intensive Case Management Program which provides a new standard of care for children dealing with chronic illnesses. The program offers a holistic approach that allows the Clinic's medical staff and families to assess, plan, implement, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the options and services to treat chronic illnesses in a way that meets the individual's health needs and that of their families. This program is modeled after the Patient Centered Medical Home model of care, which focuses on providing acute, wellness and preventive health services to the community through NAM's Children's Clinic. If you'd like to know more about this program, please contact Flor Porcher, Pediatric Intensive Case Manager at NAM's Children's Clinic at (281) 885-4649.

Update! New Retail and Training Center



We're excited to witness first-hand the construction of NAM's new Retail and Training Center. What started off with our capital campaign, Roots & Wings in 2014 to gather the necessary funds to start this project, has beautifully crystallized—from the ground up. The construction of the Retail and Training Center on NAM's property will finally allow NAM to enhance its Workforce Development program through a robust training center, as well as provide a permanent home for NAM's Treasures of the Heart Resale store.

BE THE CHANGE This Season

...continued from cover
Many families don't have the luxury of a warm meal during Thanksgiving dinner or toys for their children during the December holidays. But that can be changed in an instant—by you.

When you donate to NAM's campaign, Be the Change This Season, you'll be positively impacting people's lives and the memories they'll treasure for years to come. Your gifts ensure that families have enough to eat during the holidays and that children receive gifts during Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and others.

Your generous gifts can also have an impact beyond the holiday season. Your donations ensure that:

- Seniors and disabled individuals receive food through our Meals on Wheels program
- Children have the school supplies they need to start the year with confidence
- People receive vocational training necessary to be self-sufficient
- Women and children trapped by domestic violence get a second chance through counseling and safety planning

This is why we need your help to raise \$150,000 during the month of December. Join us in our quest to Be the Change This Season and experience first-hand how your help can change someone's life for the better. **Here is how you can make an immediate impact:**

- Season's Blessings **\$50**
- Holiday Helper **\$100**
- Merry and Bright **\$250**
- Cheerful Cherubim **\$500**
- NAM Star **\$1,000**
- Other _____

To donate to Be the Change This Season, please visit www.namonline.org/donate

Volunteers are urgently needed!

Be the Change this Season by volunteering a few hours once a week! **Meals on Wheels** and NAM's resale shop, **Treasures of the Heart** are in need of daily volunteers! To volunteer for any program at NAM, please contact NAM's Volunteer Coordinator at (281) 885-4604 or volunteer@namonline.org. You can visit our website to download our online application at www.namonline.org/volunteer. New Volunteer Orientations are held the first Wednesday of the month and the third Thursday of the month at **10 a.m.**

LAST VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS OF 2016:

- December 7 (Wednesday)**
- December 15 (Thursday)**

Wish List You can help NAM by visiting our website and looking through our Wish List benefitting NAM's programs and services. Visit www.namonline.org/wishlist

Easy ways to help

- Consider naming NAM as a beneficiary in your will
- Host a food or toy drive (for new, unwrapped toys)
- Give online or send a check to NAM
- Pick up extra groceries to donate



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AUTHOR OF "TO HEAVEN AND BACK" TO SPEAK AT 2017 NAM ENDOWMENT DINNER

Save the Date!

The NAM Endowment Fund is excited to announce the guest speaker for its 2017 NAM Endowment Dinner: Mary C. Neal, M.D., author of the New York Times bestseller *To Heaven and Back*. The 2017 NAM Endowment Dinner will take place at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott on Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

The book is an account of Neal's own brush with death. Neal drowned during a kayaking accident in 1999 while visiting Chile, but miraculously, she came back to life. *To Heaven and Back* describes Neal's meeting with God after her death.

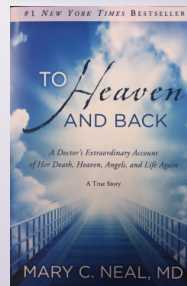
"Many described my accident as terrible and

tragic. I describe it as one of the greatest gifts I have ever received," Neal explains in her book. "It has inspired many people, stimulated discussion and often resulted in a rejuvenated relationship with God."

Neal is an orthopaedic surgeon and a graduate from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine. Her story has been featured in several media outlets and TV shows. The proceeds from the 2017 NAM Endowment Dinner will benefit the current and future services of NAM. Tickets will go on sale in January 2017.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Roh, Chief Advancement Officer

at Lroh@namonline.org or (281) 885-4608. You can also reach NAM's Development Coordinator, Samantha Gonzalez, at sgonzalez@namonline.org or at (281) 885-4609.



Mary C. Neal, M.D. author of the New York Times bestseller *To Heaven and Back*.

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