

The Five-Star Church

*INFORMATION ON DISTRICT AND
CONFERENCE ADVANCE PROJECTS CATALOG*

2021-2024



**RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio, Texas 78248
888-349-4191
www.riotexas.org**

*The Five-Star Church Project Catalog 2021-2024
Updated January 2021*

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National Mission Institutions

Note: These mission institutions related to United Methodist Women are located within the Rio Texas Conference. Churches making contributions to any of these will receive conference Five Star credit:

Good Neighbor Settlement House, Brownsville, El Valle District

Holding Institute, Laredo, Las Misiones District

Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, Capital District

Southside Community Center, San Marcos, Hill Country District

Wesley Community Center, Robstown and Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend District

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Five-Star Program Information

Earn special Annual Conference recognition! And increase your church's mission involvement and understanding!

The Five-Star Church Program was developed in 1990 to encourage every local church to grow in mission outreach every year by choosing to participate in every phase of United Methodist mission.

This official program of the Rio Texas (RTX) Annual Conference is for voluntary, designated, second mile giving ("the Advance") over and above apportionment giving. Local churches – as well as individuals and families – may choose to support particular, approved mission programs or mission personnel with their financial gifts.

Becoming a Five Star congregation is easy. Simply

- (1) pay your apportionments in full – or more
- (2) contribute to the annual UMCOR Sunday special offering (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing), and
- (3) contribute support beyond that to a project in each of the following five categories, perhaps a project that has a special meaning to you or to members of your congregation:

- Project in the Rio Texas Conference (see listings that follow)
- National project, somewhere else in the United States*
- International project, in another country*
- Project related to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)*
- One United Methodist missionary supported by the General Board of Global Ministries*

One hundred percent of your gift to an Advance project is sent to the ministry you choose. That has been true for more than 70 years, after the Advance was established in 1948 by the General Conference, which declared a commitment to "a world-wide Advance in which Methodists may share in a ministry of relief and in carrying the Gospel of Christ to the peoples of the earth."

Your Five-Star church will be identified at the Annual Conference session and you will receive a certificate to display in your sanctuary, narthex, or fellowship hall as a continuing thanks for your involvement in connectional outreach.

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Note that all funds for Advance giving must be paid through the RTX Conference Treasurer's office in order for your Five-Star participation to be recorded and tracked. Also, some mission projects receive apportionment funds in addition to Advance contributions. For your church to receive Five-Star credit, your Five-Star giving must be in addition to the amount of your church's apportionment for that project. **We suggest a minimum \$50 Five-Star gift to a project in each of the five categories listed above.**

*Advance projects in addition to the ones printed in this booklet are listed on the General Board of Global Ministries website https://umcmmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Advance_Catalog_19_REVISED.pdf There is also background information about the advance at <https://umcmmission.org/about-the-advance/>

Extensive information about United Methodist financial support for mission and ministry can be found at <http://www.umcgiving.org>

The mission projects listed here are eager to share their story with the Rio Texas Conference. They welcome visitors who want to learn more about their work, and many of them also welcome volunteer assistance. Contact the project directly to arrange a tour or a volunteer orientation.

Questions about the Advance or the Five-Star Program can be addressed to:

Diana Woods, Conference Advance, and Five-Star Program/Harvest Sunday
Offering Coordinator
512-917-9072; bumccommunitypartner@gmail.com

Ruby Hernandez, Rio Texas Conference Treasurer's Office
210-408-4523; rubyh@riotexas.org

NOTE: The information for each approved project (see listings that follow) comes from information supplied by the project itself. Please contact the project directly to get further information or if you have questions about the work being done there.

Advance Projects in the Districts and Annual Conference

Note: The listings are in order by project number, not in alphabetical order by name.

Capital District

- #1106 Wesley Foundation of Austin
- #1124 Caritas of Austin
- #1129 Austin Habitat for Humanity

Coastal Bend District

- #1201 Corpus Christi Metro Ministries
- #1216 Mission of Mercy

Crossroads District

- #1325 Cathedral Oaks Worship & Retreat Center
- #1326 Crossroads District Mission
- #1327 Lighthouse 2911
- #1331 Golden Age Home

El Valle District

- #1406 Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
- #1409 Women Together Foundation, Inc.
- #1426 Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH)
- #1427 El Valle Ramp Project
- #1428 El Valle District Border Refugee/Immigration Ministries

Hill Country District

- #1526 The Helping Center of Marble Falls, Inc.
- #1531 The Barnabas Connection
- #1532 United Campus Ministry at Texas State

Las Misiones District

- #1605 San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (SAMM)
- #1607 Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio
- #1608 Mobility Worldwide – San Antonio (formerly PET Project)
- #1609 Wesley Foundation of San Antonio
- #1620 Texas Diaper Bank/Diaper Assistance
- #1621 Magdalena House
- #1625 San Antonio Region Justice for Our Neighbors

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West District

#1729 Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Program aka Soup Kitchen

Rio Texas Conference

#502 Methodist Children's Home in Waco (MCH)
#2005 Kingdom Kamp
#2007 Mission Service Project (MSP)
#2013 Academy for Spiritual Formation Scholarship
#2016 Methodist Border Friendship Commission
#2026 U. M. ARMY
#2037 Project Transformation
#2038 Russia/Eurasia Initiative

National Mission Institutions

Note: These mission institutions related to United Methodist Women are located within the Rio Texas Conference. Churches making contributions to any of these will receive conference Five Star credit:

Good Neighbor Settlement House, Brownsville, El Valle District
Holding Institute, Laredo, Las Misiones District
Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, Capital District
Southside Community Center, San Marcos, Hill Country District
Wesley Community Center, Robstown and Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend District

Advance Projects Related to the Capital District

District:

Capital

Project Number:

1106

Project Name:

Wesley Foundation of Austin

Project Location:

2200 Nueces Street, Suite #101, Austin, TX 78705

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:

Rev. David McMinn, Executive Director

512-474-1151 Phone

David@texaswesley.com

www.Texaswesley.com

Project Description:

The vision of the Texas Wesley Foundation is to be an open and welcoming community engaged in the vital Christian ministry to students, faculty and staff of the University of Texas and all Austin institutions of higher education with the purpose to build up generations of Christians who lead and serve. The Texas Wesley Foundation seeks to provide a place for United Methodist students and other Christians to continue growing in their faith during their college years and we seek to engage the university setting with the good news of Jesus Christ and invite persons in this setting to embrace Christ in their lives. The Wesley offers a variety of ministries throughout the year including weekly worship services, retreats, service projects, prayer and discipleship groups, small groups, bible and book studies, mission trips and opportunities for service and witness to fellow students and the university community.

District:
Capital

Project Number:
1124

Project Name:
Caritas of Austin

Project Location:
611 Neches St; Austin, TX 78701
PO Box 1947, Austin, TX 78767-1947

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:
Sydney Smith, Grants Coordinator
281-979-9364 phone
ssmith@caritasofaustin.org
www.caritasofaustin.org
<http://www.facebook.com/caritasofaustin>

Project Description:

Our programs use only evidence-based practices as we serve our mission to prevent and end homelessness. While our organization and services have changed and grown exponentially since our founding, our core values of dignity, respect, and stability for all people remain unchanged. We continue to offer housing and wraparound services, such as employment, education, food services, community access and individualized case management. We host thousands of volunteers each year, hold educational and fundraising events, and engage regularly in working groups within our social services community. By providing this assistance to individuals and engaging locally in the community, we assist low-income individuals in building sustainable well-being. We believe (and data shows) that when individuals have a safe, stable place to call home, reliable income, social support, nutritious food, and the life skills necessary to maintain these resources and connections, they are better able to contribute positively to the community, creating a more vibrant Austin for all.

District:
Capital

Project Number:
1129

Project Name:
Austin Habitat for Humanity

Project Location:
500 W. Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78704

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:
Beth Halbert, Deputy Director of Development
512-472-8788 phone
512-476-1304 fax
bhalbert@ahfh.org
www.austinhabitat.org
www.facebook.com/austinhabitatforhumanity

Project Description

Austin Habitat for Humanity is excited to continue our relationship with our Methodist Church Partners in Central Texas to build high-quality affordable homes for hard working families in need. Every other year we offer the Methodist Build, inviting local Methodist Churches to come together and make it possible for us to build a home for a qualified family through financial support and volunteer commitment on our homesite. Congregations are invited to build alongside our team and the family who will move into the home to make the American Dream of homeownership come true!

Advance Projects Related to the Coastal Bend District

District:

Coastal Bend

Project Number:

1201

Project Name:

Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, Inc.

Project Location:

1919 Leopard St, Corpus Christi, TX 78408

PO Box 4899, Corpus Christi, TX 78469

Project Sponsor:

First United Methodist Church Corpus Christi, Tx.

Project Contact:

Patty Clark, CEO & Executive Director

361-887-0151 ext. 222 phone

361-887-7900 fax

grants@ccmetro.org

www.ccmetro.org

Project Description:

The goal of Corpus Christi Metro Ministries is to help individuals end homelessness and become productive community members. We have five transformational programs serving difference-yet-overlapping populations. Our five programs are: (1) Loaves and Fishes Cafeteria: serving 100,000 nutritious meals to 5,000 to 6,500 underserved children, women, and men. (2) Rainbow House: emergency shelter and transitional housing program for homeless women and children. (3) Rustic House: emergency shelter and transitional housing program for homeless men. (4) Gabbard Health Clinic: free healthcare to residents and uninsured Coastal Bend residents. (5) Vineyard Social Services and

Case Management: individualized case management, work/education resources, and daily life needs.

Services in all five programs are free and take a holistic approach to serving people. Residents work with case managers to develop individualized plans to hold them accountable for transition into independent living. All residents must be employed or seeking employment, improving job skills through training programs, or attending educational courses. Residents must save 70% of earnings in a bank account. Once residents graduate, case management continues for six months to ensure successful transition to self-sufficiency. Through programs that show mercy and encourage self-reliance, we counsel, teach, train, heal, feed, house, and give hope.

District:

Coastal Bend

Project Number:

1216

Project Name:

Mission of Mercy, Inc.

Project Location:

2421 Ayers St., Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Project Sponsor:

First United Methodist Church Corpus Christi, TX

Project Contact:

Sherry Bowers, CFRE, Executive Director

2421 Ayers St, Corpus Christi, TX 78404

361-883-5500 ext. 104 phone

361-452-1819 fax

sbowers@amissionofmercy.org

www.amissionofmercy.org/Texas

<https://www.facebook.com/missionofmercytx/>

Project Description:

Mission of Mercy provides free healthcare and free prescription medications to the uninsured and underinsured working poor in Corpus Christi and our mobile clinic site in Sandia, 42 miles northwest of Corpus Christi. Our patients are people who work, cannot get health insurance, and cannot afford to pay for healthcare on their own. They are “falling through the cracks in the health care system”. Mission of Mercy is fully equipped to diagnose conditions ranging from acute to chronic illnesses. We treat our patients whenever possible and, when specialty care is required, refer patients to a network of hospitals, private providers, and specialists who treat our patients for free.

Advance Projects Related to the Crossroads District

District:

Crossroads

Project Number:

1325

Project Name:

Cathedral Oaks Worship & Retreat Center

Project Location:

1225 County Road 248, Weimar, TX 78962

Project Sponsor:

Crossroads District Board of Trustees

Project Contact:

Clarence Littlefield, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (or C.O. office Rev. Pat Gideon)

9921 FM 443, Shiner, TX 77984

830-672-7546 Phone

512-558-1864 Cell

clarence.littlefield@swengineers.com

umccathedraloaks@gmail.com

www.umccathedraloaks.com

www.facebook.com/CathedralOaksWRC

Project Description:

Cathedral Oaks is a Christian worship, retreat, and camping center, owned, and operated by, the Crossroads District. Cathedral Oaks provides an interdenominational setting for conferences, retreats, assemblies, meetings, leadership training, and reunions for any non-profit organizations or institution that adheres to the Christian values of Cathedral Oaks. It is available for day use and overnight use for youth and adults. Cathedral Oaks seeks to provide a safe and welcoming facility for the purpose of offering Christ to all. It is a great place to relax, refocus, rejuvenate and re-center yourself with Christ.

District:

Crossroads

Project Number:

1326

Project Name:

Crossroads District Missions

Project Location:

Crossroads District, 5606 N. Navarro, Suite 200 C/D, Victoria, TX 77904

Project Sponsor:

Crossroads District

Project Contact:

Fritzi Simon, CLM, Co-Lay Leader-Crossroads District

512-947-2166 phone

361-573-4392 Fax

crossroadsdistrict@riotexas.org

<https://gocrossroadsdistrict.org>

Project Description:

The Crossroads District Missions Fund has been in effect for quite a number of years. Monies donated to this fund are used to aid those who are working to bring assistance and relief to those who are experiencing disasters of various kinds. Volunteers go to areas afflicted by flood, tornados, hurricanes and impacted by weather or that adversely affect public health. These funds ultimately help to purchase supplies to bring relief to churches, families, and individuals suffering loss from these events in the Crossroads Mission field. This assistance will bring relief to victims of congregations in the Crossroads District, out in communities of these churches, and beyond.

Funds are used to aid Crossroads District churches for maintenance and repairs. Volunteers gather to repair roofs, pain, put in handicap ramps, restore damaged facilities, assist churches experiencing financial loss due to other horrific or catastrophic events.

District:
Crossroads

Project Number:
1327

Project Name:
Lighthouse 2911

Project Location:
2149 State Highway 111N, Edna, TX 77957

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:
Paul Beard, Executive Director
361-293-1350 phone
No Fax
Lighthouse2911@msn.com
www.lighthouse2911.org
www.facebook.com/lighthouse2911

Project Description:
Ideally our trained staff members have direct contact with youth and their parents. Every moment of contact becomes an intense learning experience. Youth are taught healthy life concepts and skills and are mentored and supported. Our staff members assist youth in applying valuable life lessons in their everyday lives. Parent programs give parents a valuable resource for support, crisis management, and parent education. Positive Attitudes & Life Skills (PALS) is a multifaceted program directed at improving the attitudes and life skills of youth. It is a drug-use and violence prevention and educational support program as well. This comprehensive program includes Support Groups, Social Skills Outings, Summer Camp, Community Service Restitution, Summer Program, Education Services, Workshops, Early Offender Programs, and Placement Alternative Programs.

District:
Crossroads

Project Number:
1331

Project Name:
Golden Age Home – Lockhart, Texas

Project Location:
1505 South Main St., Lockhart, TX 78644

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:
Nicole Burnett, Executive Director
512-398-2421 phone
512-398-5591 fax
NBurnett@goldenagehome.com
www.goldenagehome.com
www.facebook.com/GoldenAgeHomeAssistedLiving

Project Description:
Golden Age Home was founded by Lockhart FUMC in 1959 to offer a Christian environment for the elderly who could no longer maintain their own homes. The Crossroads District of the Rio Texas Conference and local UMC churches have maintained their involvement in the operations of GAH by serving as members for the Board of Directors. Golden Age Home offers a place for Senior Adults who live on fixed incomes (many relying solely on their Social Security checks) to get the additional help they need while maintaining dignity and independence. Basic services include but not limited to; 3 balanced meals a day, weekly housekeeping and laundry service, shower assistance, lifeline alert buttons, 24-hour a day staff and medication management. Golden Age Home offers 16 rooms at the HUD low-income housing rates. Donations given through the 5-Star program help offset a fraction of the cost to allow this program. By offering these independent apartments at a third of the cost for assisted living rooms and services, we can

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provide to those who would otherwise not be able to afford the help they needed. Golden Age Home receives no monetary assistance from the government for offering these rooms.

Advance Projects Related to the El Valle District

District:

El Valle

Project Number:

1406

Project Name:

Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.

Project Location:

724 N. Cage Blvd, Pharr, TX 78577

PO Box 6251, McAllen, TX 78502

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:

Stuart I. R. Haniff, MHA, Chief Executive Officer

956-904-4505 Phone

956-682-7921 Fax

shaniff@foodbankrgv.com

www.foodbankrgv.com

www.facebook.com/FoodBankRGV

Project Description:

The Food Bank RGV distributes free food to individuals and families in need via a network of over 275 partner agencies in the three counties of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy. Covid-19 response and recovery food assistance will continue through 2021.

District:

El Valle

Project Number:

1409

Project Name:

Women Together Foundation, Inc.

Project Location:

511 N. Cynthia, McAllen, TX 78501

Project Sponsor:

Women Together/Mujeres Unidas

Project Contact:

Estella De Anda, Executive Director

956-630-4878 phone

956-687-4715 fax

womentog@swbell.net

www.mujeresunidas.org

[www.facebook/mujeres.unidas.94](https://www.facebook.com/mujeres.unidas.94)

Project Description:

Women Together/Mujeres Unidas provides emergency shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families in Hidalgo and Starr Counties. The organization's vision is to end violence so that individuals may live without fear, abuse, or oppression.

District:

El Valle

Project Number:

1426

Project Name:

Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH)

Project Location:

1254 E. Tyler Street, Brownsville, TX 78520

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Hugo Zurita, Executive Director

956-542-2368 phone

956-541-9465 fax

hzurita@goodneighborsettlement.org

www.goodneighborsh.org

www.facebook.com/GoodNeighborSettlementHouse

Project Description:

GNSH is a non-profit, multi-service agency. Through targeted assistance which helps the often-marginalized populations, services including nutritious meals, clothing, showers, and referrals to other agencies are provided. As well, GNSH houses and manages the Food Pantry for the Buena Vida neighborhood, which provides pantry items for local families.

Since 1953, GNHS continues evolving its array of services to better meet the growing needs of its community. With current federal measures to cease the recent immigration influx of mostly Central Americans seeking asylum in the U.S. and the COVID-19 pandemic, GNSH has transitioned its standard dining room services into curbside service for locals while asylum seekers at the local bus station are provided with a complimentary hot meal by GNSH staff, Monday-Friday, during regular business hours.

District:

El Valle

Project Number:

1427

Project Name:

El Valle Ramp Project

Project Location:

1801 Trenton Ave., McAllen, TX 78504

Project Sponsor:

Texas Ramp Project

Project Contact:

Alan Moore, Project Coordinator

956-245-5742 phone

moore4@msn.com

www.texasramps.org

www.facebook.com/TexasRamps

Project Description:

No one anticipates the need for a wheelchair ramp. It arrives suddenly, from progressive illness, such as diabetes; after an acute event like a stroke; or from traumatic injury, such as a car accident. Local ramp organizations work with social service organizations, healthcare professionals and governmental groups to identify clients who need a ramp. The referring agency determines the financial need. We build for clients of all ages. The need is growing, as Texans grown older and as certain diseases become more common. By building a ramp, we can help people stay in their homes, living an independent life close to family, friends, and familiar surroundings.

District:

El Valle

Project Number:

1428

Project Name:

El Valle District Border Refugee/Immigration Ministries

Project Location:

1801 Trenton Ave., McAllen, TX 78504

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Susan Hellums, Border Area Mission Coordinator

956-648-8509

shellums@mcfirst.com

www.elvalleumc.org

Project Description:

“Welcoming the stranger.” Being a Christian present to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Providing a shower, a fresh set to clothes, something to drink and eat, medical assistance if needed, food for the journey, minimal hygiene items, a safe place to rest. Education in our congregations is a big key to this ministry. Learning how to be the people of God is just one of the things that is learned by those who become involved with this ministry.

Advance Projects Related to the Hill Country District

District:

Hill Country

Project Number:

1526

Project Name:

The Helping Center of Marble Falls Area, Inc.

Project Location:

1315 Broadway, PO Box 402, Marble Falls, TX 78654

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:

Sam Pearce, Executive Director

830-385-4315 phone

sam@helpingcenter.org

www.helpingcenter.org

www.facebook.com/helpingcentermf

Project Description:

The Marble Falls Helping Center primarily provides nutritional assistance to individuals and families in Burnet County in Ecumenical Christian Service. We also provide financial assistance for prescriptions, shelter, gas, utilities, and medical expenses when possible. Our Clients are of all ages, genders and races facing hardships. The services we provide are essential in helping our clients transition through difficult situations such as loss of employment, under-employment, divorce, domestic abuse, medical emergencies, or death in family. We also serve those who are disabled or elderly and living on fixed incomes. This is all done through funding by our sponsoring Churches, private donors, special fundraisers, foundations, the community-at-large and grants.

District:

Hill Country

Project Number:

1531

Project Name:

Barnabas Connection

Project Location:

501 Old Kyle Road Building 2, Suite D, P. O. Box 145, Wimberley, TX 78676

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Kate Sowell, Executive Director

512-842-9674 phone

barnabasdirector@gmail.com

www.barnabasconnects.org

www.facebook.com/barnabas.connection

Project Description:

Over the last 16 years, The Barnabas Connection has grown from a small group that formed in the Methodist Church, to a Nonprofit that has grown to provide access to health and human services, client advocacy, and community education and emergency relief. Our work has included advocacy with local utility providers and county and government services; annual events providing for specific community needs, and direct financial assistance to assist clients. We are thankful to be able to have such wonderful support from our local community and churches as we have come together during COVID-19.

District:

Hill Country

Project Number

1532

Project Name:

United Campus Ministry at Texas State

Project Location:

510 North Guadalupe Street, San Marcos, TX 78666

Project Sponsor:

Rio Texas Annual Conference

Project Contact:

Rev. Todd Salmi

512-396-4222

ucmtxstate@ucmtxstate.org

www.ucmtxstate.org

www.facebook.com/ucmtxstate

Project Description:

The United Campus Ministry at Texas State is the United Methodist college extension ministry at Texas State University. The UCM is a place where students find faithful friendships, a community where they can grow spiritually, and discern God's purpose in their life. We reach out to the 39,000 students at Texas State to share the love of Jesus Christ

Support for the UMC Texas State develops young adults as the next generation of Christian leaders for the church and the world. We provide a grace-filled community with worship, bible study, ministry events, and community services right next to campus. We provide a "home-away-from-home" and help students as they discover God is calling in their life.

Advance Projects Related to the Las Misiones District

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number

1605

Project Name:

San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries SAMM

Project Location:

1919 NW Loop 410, Suite#100, San Antonio, TX 78213-2325

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:

Nikisha J. Baker, Chief Operating Officer

210-321-5631 phone

210-348-6798 fax

nbaker@samm.org

www.samm.org

www.facebook.com/samministriesovercominghomelessness

Project Description:

SAMMinistries has provided services in San Antonio for 37 years and works to reduce the rate of homelessness and strengthen our community and its members. Housing programs in conjunction with support services are employed to help individuals and families stabilize their living conditions and work toward building self-sufficiency. Efforts include street outreach to assist the chronically homeless; homeless prevention to help families avoid falling into the cycle of homelessness; rapid re-housing to help families who have already become homeless re-attain housing; and transitional and permanent housing to help those who need longer-term assistance as they work to break the cycle of homelessness. Holistic support services include support for secondary and post-secondary education, basic financial skill-building, and health and wellness activities and are encouraged as key components of success.

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number

1607

Project Name:

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio, Inc.

Project Location:

311 Probandt, San Antonio, TX 78204

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Faith Relations Associate

210-223-5203 ext. 148 phone

210-223-5536 fax

FaithRelations@HabitatSA.org

www.HabitatSA.org

www.facebook.com/HabitatforHumanityofSanAntonio

Project Description:

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio is an ecumenical Christian non-profit housing organization working in partnership with God's people in need to build modest, decent, and affordable homes. We are in our 44th year of serving families in San Antonio and have built 1,141 homes in Bexar County so far. We are not a charity or a "handout" program, but instead we help families help themselves. Founded as an ecumenical Christian organization in 1976, Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio is driven by a desire to put faith into action. We believe each house built by Habitat serves as a vehicle for witnessing God's love. Born out of a commitment to shared principles, partnerships with local churches and faith organizations play an essential part in our goal to eliminate substandard housing. Faith organizations provide us with much-needed volunteer, spiritual, and financial contributions. Congregations that partner with us find new ways to express their faith and experience a stronger sense of community through their service to God.

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number:

1608

Project Name:

Mobility Worldwide – San Antonio

Project Location:

219 E. Nakoma, P. O. Box 701172, San Antonio, TX 78270

Project Sponsor:

Helotes Hills United Methodist Men

Project Contact:

Joe Srubar, Vice President

210-284-2318 phone

jsrubar@sbcglobal.net

www.mwsanantonio.org

Project Description:

The Mobility Worldwide Project (formerly the Personal Energy Transportation PET Project) began in 1995 as an ecumenical ministry dedicated to providing “the gift of mobility” to persons in developing countries who have lost the use of their legs due to land mines, disease, accident, or injury. The three-wheeled hand-cranked wooden wheelchair is called a bike in some countries and a cart in other countries, but by the volunteers who build them, it is affectionately called a “PET” cart. PET carts in child and adult sizes are built by volunteers using mostly donated components.

MW San Antonio was established in September 2004 and the PET carts are distributed through mission projects social service organizations in Mexico and Central America. Donations are used to purchase raw materials and supplies for construction and assembly in San Antonio.

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number:

1609

Project Name:

Wesley Foundation of San Antonio

Project Location:

102 Belknap Place, San Antonio, TX 78212

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Rev. Valerie Vogt, Campus Minister

210-733-1441 Phone

210-733-9838 Fax

vvogt@travispark.org

office@saumcm.org

www.saumcm.org

Project Description:

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio (formerly The San Antonio United Methodist Campus Ministries or SAUMCM) is an outreach of the Rio Texas Conference to students and faculty of colleges and universities in the area of San Antonio, Texas. With on-campus registered student organizations at San Antonio College, UTSA, and Trinity University, The Wesley SA unites students from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds in Christian community, spiritual celebration, leadership development/and works of charity, mercy, social justice, and public witness.

Activities include weekly student led fellowship and worship, Bible/book studies, Hot Potato Issues, small group ministry, student internships, mission trips, and service and outreach projects at area missions.

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number:

1620

Project Name:

Texas Diaper Bank-Diaper Assistance

Project Location:

1803 Grandstand Dr., Suite 150, San Antonio, TX 78238

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Michael Crittell, Officer

210-731-8118 ext. 601 phone

210-731-8168 fax

mcrittell@texasdiaperbank.org

www.texasdiaperbank.org

www.facebook.com/txdiaperbank

Project Description:

Established in 1997, TXDB is the first, and largest diaper bank in Texas. TXDB leads the charge in tackling overlooked public health issues. TXDB differs from other nonprofits by uniquely addressing 3 neglected public health concerns; the diaper gap, the incontinence gap, and period poverty. TXDB's programs transform lives beyond San Antonio, extending across Texas in 13 counties to impact over 83,000 individuals and distribute 2.7 million diapers annually. TXDB's primary focus is to improve the physical health, mental health, and economic well-being of low-income families with children, children with disabilities, and senior adults impacted by diaper, feminine hygiene, and incontinence health supplies insufficiency.

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number:

1621

Project Name:

Magdalena House

Project Location:

PO Box 692041, San Antonio, TX 78269

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Rev. Denise Barker, Executive Director

210-561-0505 Phone

210-885-7413 Cell

dbarker@maghouse.org

www.maghouse.org

www.facebook.com/maghousesatx

Project Description:

Magdalena House is a neighborhood of transitional homes that serves mothers and their children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives by providing transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. We instill hope and cultivate lasting change in mothers and their children by:

- Offering a safe home and loving community for each family.
- Engaging in authentic, long-term relationships.
- Requiring participation in full-time accredited education (ESL, GED, college).
- Supporting related education costs, including tuition, transportation, and books not covered by loans and scholarships.

District:

Las Misiones

Project Number:

1625

Project Name:

San Antonio Region Justice For Our Neighbors

Project Location:

5084 De Zavala Road, San Antonio, TX 78249

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Matt Lohmeier, Executive Director

844-727-5366 phone

executivedirector@sarjfon.org

www.sarjfon.org

www.facebook.com/sarjfon

Project Description:

The San Antonio Region Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is situated at the epicenter of the current wave of immigrants. SARJFON provides a ministry of hospitality for those living at 200% above the poverty level and below. We provide an atmosphere of acceptance, security, and stability; we welcome the stranger who needs help on their journey in lawful permanent resident status, asylum status or citizenship; and we provide affordable, high-quality immigration legal services. We offer education in communities of faith and the public. SARJFON advocates for unification of families, a path to citizenship, and protection of unaccompanied minors. We work for the transformation of communities to reflect the Kingdom of God as the justice and mercy of God is reflected in all we do.

Advance Projects Related to the West District

District:

West District

Project Number:

1729

Project Name:

Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Program – AKA Soup Kitchen

Project Location:

301 18th Street, San Angelo, TX 76903

Project Sponsor:

Project Contact:

Pamela Burke, Director

860-593-2522 phone

325-653-9028 fax

Pamrhome@yahoo.com ; Wesleytrinitydb@outlook.com

www.wesleysoup.com

www.facebook.com/wtdbsoupkitchen

Project Description:

The Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Program has a goal to reach out to those in need within the San Angelo community. The mission is to feed the body, soul, and spirits of those needing support services. Providing 3-4 course meals 6 days a week, nursing support, counseling and social services support is available. A clothing Closet is also available for men, women, youth, and children.

Advance Projects Related to the Rio Texas Conference

Project Number:

502

Project Name:

Methodist Children's Home

Project Location:

1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, TX 76708

MCH Family Outreach Offices in San Antonio and Corpus Christi

Project Sponsor:

The 6 Annual Conferences of Texas and New Mexico

Project Contact:

Rev. Don McAvoy, Jr., Benefactor Relations Officer

800-853-1272 phone

254-750-1342 fax

dmcavoy@mch.org

www.mch.org

www.facebook.com/wacomethodistchildrenshome/

Project Description:

Although our name has changed through the years and our program of care has adapted to the needs of those we serve, Methodist Children's Home (MCH) remains true to our mission to equip children, youth, and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services, and support. Founded in 1890, MCH is a nationally accredited nonprofit childcare ministry affiliated with the six United Methodist Annual Conferences of Texas and New Mexico.

Today, MCH serves families through; residential programs on the Waco campus and Boys Ranch; foster care and parent education; transition services for youth preparing for adulthood; and a variety of collaborative services in communities throughout Texas and New Mexico including both San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

In addition to learning about our ministry through our website, we encourage you to tour our residential campuses or invite a speaker to your church. In these presentations, you will see evidence of God's blessings through the vision and leadership of current and former administrators and benefactors who have enabled MCH to become one of the leading childcare agencies in the United States.

Project Number:

2005

Project Name:

Kingdom Kamp

Project Location:

16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248

Project Sponsor:

Rio Texas Conference

Project Contact:

Rev. Nancy Day

512-393-9772 phone

nday@riotx.org

www.kingdomkamp.org

Project Description:

Kingdom Kamp is a Christian camping experience for developmentally challenged, physically mobile adults 18 years and older. Offered over Labor Day weekend at Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center in Weimar, Texas, campers connect with friends old and new, and their caregivers get a much-needed break. A story from the Old or New Testament is the theme each year. Worship, songs, crafts, Godly Play devotions, and prayer stations center around the given theme that always celebrate God's love and grace. Additional activities include swimming, games, a talent show, a dance, movies, and mandatory rest time each afternoon. Volunteer clergy and lay adults serve as staff for the camp. Two registered nurses are on site the entire weekend. The cook team provides healthy, nutritious meals that accommodate the particular dietary needs of campers and staff. Campers and staff return year after year, eager to experience God's love and catch a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth.

Project Number:

2007

Project Name:

Mission Service Project (MSP)

Project Location:

1801 Trenton Road, McAllen, TX 78504

Mailing:4200 N. McColl, McAllen, TX 78504

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Susan Hellums, Border Area Mission Coordinator

956-648-8509 Phone

shellums@mcfirst.com

www.missionserviceproject.org

Project Description:

Mission Service Project (MSP) is first and foremost a Christian ministry based on God's unconditional love. It partners with many El Valle District churches. It is a life changing experience for youth and adults alike, no matter how many times they may have attended. The families that the youth/college students go to serve with are most often found in "colonias" of the area. The homes are mostly substandard housing, some even lacking basic electricity and water services. Worship and dinner out in the community where the groups are serving, daily devotional, evening worship, meals, prayer, and so much more contribute to the faith experience of all who take part in this week. Relationships within the teams, churches, families, communities and beyond are formed as the love of Christ is shared.

Project Number

2013

Project Name:

Academy for Spiritual Formation Laity Scholarship

Project Location:

16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248

Project Sponsor:

Academy Council of South Texas

Project Contact:

Rev. Donna Strieb, Chairperson

210-822-9176 phone

201-826-3897 fax

dstrieb@ahumc.org

www.riotexas.org/spiritual-formation-2

Project Description:

This project is used to provide scholarships for any interested lay person, within the bounds of the Rio Texas Conference, who would like to attend either a Five-Day or Three-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation. Dynamic speakers, daily worship, small group sharing, and times of silence create a unique atmosphere for spiritual growth in these events. The Academy offers a covenantal retreat experience that combines academic learning and spiritual practices annually. It is a program of Upper Room Ministries and offered through The Academy Council of South Texas in conjunction with the Rio Texas Conference.

Project Number:

2016

Project Name:

Methodist Border Friendship Commission

Project Location:

1801 Trenton Road, McAllen, TX 78504

Mailing: FUMC, 4200 N. McColl Road, McAllen, TX 78504

Project Sponsor:

El Valley District of the UMC

Project Contact:

Susan Hellums, Border Area Mission Coordinator

956-648-8509 Phone

shellums@mcfirst.com

Project Description:

The Methodist Border Friendship Commission coordinates existing ministries among the border districts of the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC and the Eastern Conference of the Methodist Church of Texas and assists in the development of new ministries as the need arises, promoting friendship and fellowship, evangelism, and mission.

Project Number:

2026

Project Name:

U. M. Army

Project Location:

40 N. IH35, Unit 4D4, Austin, TX 78701
PO Box 12170, College Station, TX 77842

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Jenny Monahan, Rio Texas Regional Director
512-557-0513 phone
jennymonahan@umarmy.org
www.umarmy.org
www.facebook.com/UmArmySWTX

Project Description:

U.M. ARMY is a place where participants can experience a world that is as close to heaven as we can imagine...a mission week dedicated to service for the community and each other with special focus on worship, encouragement, and joyful service. We have several mission models including our traditional models: U.M. ARMY, U.M. ARMY Basic, U. M. ARMY Mixed Age, U.M. ARMY HOMEFRONT, U.M. ARMY Family, U.M. ARMY Reimagined for the current pandemic, U.M. ARMY Local, and U.M. ARMY Home.

U.M. ARMY provides Christ—Centered Missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth and young adults. Join us as we prepare to be with #God at Work in 2021 by visiting our website www.umarmy.org and signing your group up to serve.

Project Number:

2037

Project Name:

Project Transformation Rio Texas

Project Location:

1902 Vance Jackson, PO Box 100876, San Antonio, TX 78201

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Kercida McClain, CEO

512-718-1340 phone

Kercida@PTRioTexas.org

projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/

Project Description:

Project Transformation Rio Texas meets the challenges of 3-C's: Children, College and Church in the unique context of Central and South Texas. Children in at risk, underserved areas participate in holistic summer camps that focus on literacy, social-emotional learning, and developmental relationships. The highly successful camps are led by the second C of College. Young adults, 19 years old and/or having completed at least one year of college are recruited, hired, and trained for a summer experience of camp, call, and community. Young adults are given professional training and experience implementing the summer camps and intentional space is created for the college students to ask where God is calling them and how their education intersects their passion. All of this is done while living in intentional Christian community designed to build deep and lasting relationships with a diverse group of young people creating shared experiences through work and worship, play and prayer and equity and inclusion. This work is hosted and undergirded by the 3rd C of Church. Congregations invest in their communities through intentional work with their neighbors, re-anchoring themselves in those communities. Congregations connect through financial and volunteer support as well as prayer.

Project Number:

2038

Project Name:

Russia/Eurasia Initiative

Project Location:

Khamovnichesky Val, 24 str. 2, Moscow Russia 119048

Project Sponsor:**Project Contact:**

Cindy Stone

512-476-6688

stonecj12@gmail.com

Project Description:

The Russia/Eurasia Initiative helps provide pastoral support, orphanage and other social service outreach, and leadership development through the Good News UMC in Vologda, while the MTS seminary in Moscow educates pastors and lay leaders to help ensure the growth of the Methodist church in that part of the world.

Advance Projects Related to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

UMCOR receives no apportionment funds but instead is supported by

- The UMCOR Sunday offering (formerly **One Great Hour of Sharing**), (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/umcor-sunday-ministry-article>)
- Gifts to the Advance, which is the designated giving program of The United Methodist Church.

Individuals and churches can search for UMCOR Advance projects at <https://umcmmission.org/umcor> A contribution to any UMCOR project fulfills one of the Rio Texas Conference Five Star program requirements. On April 26, 1940, at a meeting of the General Conference of The Methodist Church, retired Bishop Herbert Welch, in view of the horrific violence of World War II, called for the formation of an agency to respond to the vast needs of human suffering worldwide, and to act as a "voice of conscience among Methodists." The result was the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief (MCOR), which focused on studying the most urgent needs and pressing problems around the world, reporting these needs to the local churches, and administering the necessary funds to "the least of these" through partner agencies and ecumenical networks. The agency was renamed the United Methodist Committee on Relief in 1968 and became a permanent unit of the General Board of Global Ministries in 1972. It is the global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church, working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. UMCOR's work includes emergency response, health, hunger, and immigration and refugees. UMCOR operates one supply depot in Louisiana and another in Utah. UMCOR's 11 non-governmental field offices, established in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe, use integrated programs to help communities ravaged by natural and human made disasters develop their means, opportunities, and inherent capacities to overcome challenges. See <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/> for further information about UMCOR.

UMCOR project recommendations follow:

- #3001 UMCOR – Undesignated
- #3010 Disaster – USA
- #3016 International Disaster
- #3019 Church World Service, CROP Hunger Walk
- #3031 UMCOR Depot, Sager-Brown
- #3065 Maua Hospital Maternal and Child Health Program
- #3124 Heifer International, Living Gifts
- #3133 Justice for Our Neighbors
- #3166 Clean Water and Sanitation
- #3197 Anti-Human Trafficking

Missionaries Related to the Rio Texas Conference

"Missionary" is one of the oldest and most honored offices of the Christian church, with origins in the New Testament. The letters of Paul are those of a missionary called and commissioned to Jesus Christ.

Missionaries witness and serve in a variety of locales and cultures and engage in a range of professions and activities. They come from many places and backgrounds. The General Board of Global Ministries has strong mission "partnership" relations with autonomous and ecumenical churches. Approximately 17 percent of our missionaries come from our partner churches. Missionaries are assigned and equipped for service on a truly global basis. <https://www.umcmmission.org/serve-with-us/missionaries>

In the Rio Texas Conference, churches and individuals partner with a missionary when they enter into a Covenant Relationship. This partnership is much more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship where the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. By deepening awareness of the struggles and triumphs of the missionary, the individual or congregation participates in a work that is truly connectional. There is more information about individual and church Covenant Relationships at <https://www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/covenant-relationships>.

At any given time, there are a number of missionaries who are supported by RTX Conference churches and individuals. Some of them work in the United States, some of them in other countries. As of November 2019, there is one missionary who is actually from the Rio Texas Conference: Anna Troy, serving in Clarksburg, WV (<https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-1643-troy-anna.aspx>). However, supporting any Global Ministries missionary counts toward the "missionary support" requirement for the RTX Five Star program.

United Methodist Mission Giving General Information

United Methodists have a variety of channels for supporting mission and ministry.

The first channel is the apportionment requested of every local church every year to support work at the district, annual conference, national, and international levels.

Second, there are six approved Special Sundays throughout the year, raising funds for Native American ministries, peace and justice projects, and other causes.

And third, the Rio Texas Conference sponsors an annual Harvest Sunday offering in the fall to help support hunger-fighting projects.

Further information about the denomination's financial program is on the website, "UMC Giving," particularly <http://www.umcsgiving.org/how-we-give>

Advance Application and Application Guidelines

The Five-Star Program is managed by the Rio Texas Conference Transforming Communities Vision Team. Projects are reviewed at least quadrennially for inclusion in this catalog.

The application form and application guidelines can be found on the Rio Texas Conference website, <https://riotexas.org/5-star-advance-special-information-at-rio-texas-conference>