

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHILDREN AND TEENS IN HOUSTON

JUNIOR HIGH

L.E.A.D. - Letting Everyone Achieve Dreams (Museum District / Third Ward)

Founded by Ecclesiasticians Carter & Jamil Higley, L.E.A.D. teaches vision, empathy, and tenacity to at-risk middle school students in Houston. Through in-school character curriculum, one-to-one mentorship, community service, and summer adventures, L.E.A.D. seeks to eliminate the 9th grade dropout rate in Harris county and prepare these students for leadership and success in high school and beyond. If you can commit 45 minutes, twice a month during the school day, visit houstonlead.org or contact Cory Jackson: cory@houstonlead.org

HIGH SCHOOL

Young Life

Young Life is an inter-denominational Christian organization dedicated to sharing the truth of God's love and the lessons and values of the Christian faith with middle and high school youth. There are opportunities to serve in schools throughout all areas of Houston, as well as dedicated endeavors to serve teen mothers (YoungLives) and teens with special needs (YL Capernaum). Visit houstonregion.younglife.org to discover opportunities in your area.

Project 88

Founded by Garrett & Ericka Graham, Project 88 seeks to build a "college going culture" through leadership development in low-income, high-need communities. As of 2014, there were 700 HISD students for every one counselor, and many high schools had no college advisor or counselor at all. Project 88 is committed to improving this ratio! Contact info@project88.org to find out how you can be involved.

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Generation One (Third Ward)

Generation One is committed to the physical and spiritual transformation of the Third Ward by creating an environment of opportunity that empowers individuals and families to break cycles of generational poverty. Volunteer opportunities include after-school mentoring, meal prep, and neighborhood revitalization projects for groups. Visit generationone.net/volunteer

Youth-Reach Houston

Youth-Reach seeks to provide a fresh chance to troubled kids by introducing them to Jesus, providing a quality education, and teaching valuable life skills. The young men of Youth-Reach do a great deal to serve Ecclesia on the weekend, and there are ways we can serve them; by providing meals for the group and on-duty staff, or through service projects that aid in the upkeep of their campus. Contact Jimmy Garcia jimmy@youth-reach.org

AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH MENTORSHIP

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Greater Houston

There are literally hundreds of kids in Houston raising their hands to seek a relationship with a mentor. BBBS helps connect these children to individuals/couples committed to helping shape their future through presence, encouragement, and empowerment. By giving your love and time; a couple hours, a couple times a month, you can start a relationship that could be life-changing for you both. Visit bbbstx.org to learn more about volunteering.

FamilyPoint Resources (West Houston / Memorial)

FamilyPoint cultivates supportive relationships with area children, working toward mutual growth through listening, learning, and play. Volunteer opportunities include homework help and tutoring, and coaching for athletic leagues. Contact Judi Campbell:

judi.campbell@familypointresources.com

Mission Centers of Houston (Near Northside / Greater East End)

Minutes away from our Elder campus, MCH serves impoverished communities in the inner city of Houston by providing for physical and spiritual needs; their ministries including food & clothing distribution, after-school clubs, senior citizen care, E.S.L. classes, and more. Contact Erin Traylor for more information: erin@MissionCenters.org

Change Happens (Third Ward / Acres Homes)

Providing after-school and summer programs for youth ages 6 to 17, Change Happens seeks to develop and reinforce self-efficacy, social development, and commitment to community in students with a multitude of risk factors (neighborhood, peer, family, school, individual). Through tutoring, character building, and enrichment activities, students are introduced and challenged with new concepts, cultures, and a higher standard of excellence. For information on mentoring opportunities, contact Trinell Davis: tdavis@changehappenstx.org

Connect 4 Literacy

Hosted by the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, C4L connects individuals with opportunities to serve as readers in over 50 HISD schools (both during & after school), helping to ensure reading and writing fluency for all area children before the end of third grade. Visit www.connect4literacy.org for volunteer details.