



Caritas of Austin IMPACT REPORT

Empowering Through Employment



At Caritas of Austin, we know that a stable income is the key to lasting self-sufficiency. While much of our initial work with families and individuals is focused on housing, we also have an employment program dedicated to helping people find jobs. In 2014, Caritas Employment Specialists placed 600 individuals in jobs – a 25% increase over 2013.

While finding a job in Austin’s booming economy might sound easy, many of the people we serve face significant employment barriers. Barriers include a lack of job experience or transferrable skills, disabling conditions, and language barriers. This is particularly true for international refugees.

Tailyn was a practicing dentist in Havana, Cuba before she fled as a refugee in early 2014. Now living in Austin, she must start over to become a dentist in the United States. “The main difference between practicing medicine here and in my country

is the technology, and [here] everything is computerized. Although there was no technology in my country, we graduated with much knowledge and preparation,” she said.

Caritas of Austin’s employment services range from pre-employment preparation, resumé development, and workforce training programs to job placement, referrals to vocational training, and help with long-term career development.

“Caritas’ employment program played a critical role in me being able to work in a dental clinic,” said Tailyn. Team members helped her obtain an initial volunteer job at a local dental practice in order to gain experience and learn the vocabulary. She said language was a big barrier. “When I arrived, one of my challenges was the English language, but Caritas of Austin offered ESL classes and this helped me along my path.”

“My goal is to study and return to dental school, so that I can become a dentist in the United States.”

The Caritas of Austin team eventually helped her gain employment as a dental assistant, where she currently works at a pediatric dental office. “My goal is to study and return to dental school, so that I can become a dentist in the United States.” **Story continued on page 3**

Caritas North Coming Soon

Caritas of Austin is excited to announce the opening of a second location in north Austin in early 2015. **Caritas North** will be a smaller neighborhood center providing many of the same services as our downtown headquarter location.

Caritas North will be a leased space located at 9027 Northgate Plaza and will focus on providing appointment-based services for families experiencing homelessness.



Caritas North will be located in a leased retail center at 9027 Northgate Plaza.



The finish-out is in process at Caritas North, with a February/March 2015 opening.

Why We Are Expanding

In recent years, Austin's tremendous growth has led to skyrocketing housing costs, forcing thousands of families farther and farther out of central Austin. **A recent Brookings Institution report showed that Austin has the second fastest-growing suburban poverty rate in the nation.** We believe our downtown location should never be a barrier to families getting the support they need. Opening a second location will allow us to better serve families and individuals, and give us additional capacity to grow our services.

North Austin

In selecting a location, we analyzed where existing clients reside and what challenges they face accessing services

at our downtown location. We also looked at opportunities to raise awareness of our services for families who need assistance but might not know about Caritas of Austin.

Becoming a Neighborhood Partner

Our new location in north Austin will truly be a partnership. While Caritas of Austin brings important services for community members to access, we also know this community possesses great strengths and assets to build upon. We have spent a significant amount of time meeting with community leaders as part of the planning process, and we will continue this dialogue as long as Caritas resides in this neighborhood.

To date, we have raised \$200,000 in philanthropic donations to cover start-up costs for Caritas North, **with a goal of raising an additional \$300,000 in 2015.** If you are interested in supporting Caritas North, contact Director of Development, Amy Jackson, at ajackson@caritasofaustin.org or (512) 646-1262. If you would like to volunteer at Caritas North, contact Houmma Garba at hgarba@caritasofaustin.org.



Executive Director Jo Kathryn Quinn visiting Caritas North.

Employment - Continued

Another critical piece of Caritas' work is partnering with over 200 local employers who hire clients seeking employment. "Our plan for each person we work with is customized based on their skills, experience, and career goals, so it is important we have strong relationships across many industries," said Maritza Rosario, Caritas of Austin's Employment Program Manager.

One recent partnership is with JW Marriott Austin. In the last two months, they have hired more than 50 individuals through Caritas' employment program.

"The opening of our JW Marriott Austin hotel is a historical event, as it is the largest hotel in Austin and the largest JW Marriott in North America. Our partnership with Caritas of Austin is crucial in our success. We truly enjoyed meeting all the applicants from Caritas and we have hired most of them! We look forward to continuing our relationship and support Caritas of Austin in all their efforts," said Mily Kennison, Director of Talent Acquisition – Austin Market, White Lodging.

"Our partnership with Caritas of Austin is crucial in our success."

Your support of Caritas of Austin's employment program empowers hundreds of community members toward the life they want. If you are interested in learning more about Caritas' employment program or becoming an employment partner, contact Maritza Rosario at mrosario@caritasofaustin.org.

2014 Food Drive Challenge A Success

In October, we asked you to join our **Food Drive Challenge** to help keep the Caritas Pantry stocked. In the past year, we have seen a **16% increase** in the demand for pantry grocery vouchers.

You rose to the challenge! A total of **15,815 pounds of food** were donated in November and December — that's a **31% increase** over last year's donations. That is nearly 4,000 meals you are helping putting on the table for the families and individuals we serve. Thank you to the 70+ groups, organizations, and individuals who contributed!

2014 Food Drive Challenge winners:

Austin Ridge Bible Church (3,168 pounds)

ABC Home & Commercial Services (732 pounds)

Faith Lutheran Church (716 pounds)

We need help keeping the Pantry stocked all year long!
To host a food or donation drive for Caritas of Austin,
visit www.caritasofaustin.org or email Grace Alritz at
galritz@caritasofaustin.org.



OUR MISSION

Caritas of Austin provides a service continuum for those experiencing poverty that begins with a safety net and links them to resources to achieve self-sufficiency.

OUR VISION

We envision a community where there is respect for all individuals, hope for those experiencing poverty, and opportunities for self-reliance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harvey Giblin, <i>President</i>	Stacey Kennedy
Nancy Burns	Sterling Lands
John Cyrer	John Lavorato
Jennifer Cumberbatch	Luke Martinez
David Dunham	Lane Prickett
Keith Fern	Amy Villarreal
Sherrie Frachtman	Mike Haggerty
Dan Graham	Jo Kathryn Quinn, <i>Executive Director</i>
Felicia Herring	



P. O. Box 1947
Austin, TX 78767



Caritas of Austin IMPACT REPORT

Read inside about the lives being changed because of your support!



Caritas of Austin is a proud member of the **Austin: Welcoming City Initiative**, our city's formalized commitment to be a

welcoming, immigrant-friendly community. Partners include the Commission on Immigrant Affairs, the City of Austin's Economic Development and Health & Human Services Departments, Travis County Research and Planning, Austin Independent School District, the Immigrant Services Network of Austin (ISNA), and Capital Metro.

Take the Survey - This initiative is seeking the community's input to inform and define what welcoming means in our community. Take the survey here: austintexas.gov/internationalwelcome

Austin Welcoming City Summit (February 23-24) - The event will convene to explore the "Welcoming City" concept, learn best practices on immigrant integration, and further inform Austin's Welcoming City vision. To learn more or attend, contact Angela-Jo Touza-Medina at bc-Angela-Jo.Touza-Medina@austintexas.gov

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, 2015

We are excited to announce the **24th annual Harvey Penick Award** honoree:



Co-Owners of ThunderCloud Subs:
Andy Cotton, Mike Haggerty,
John Meddaugh, and Patty Sughrue

ThunderCloud Subs is one of the most beloved names in Austin. Celebrating 40 years in 2015, ThunderCloud Subs is not only our neighborhood sub shop, they've also contributed millions of dollars to Caritas of Austin and other organizations to better the Austin community.

More event information at caritasofaustin.org.



@caritasofaustin

www.caritasofaustin.org



/caritasofaustin