



**Spring 2017 - Summer 2018  
Program Report**



**A 501(c) (3) Making a Difference  
in the Lives of Underserved Youth**

# OUR VALUES

## OUR MISSION:

To provide equitable opportunities for youth and teens to grow in mind and spirit, expand their personal horizons, and succeed in life!

## OUR PURPOSE:

To equip these individuals and their communities with access to the resources, programs and education needed to live mindfully, have healthy relationships, be of service to others, and take effective action for a better future.

## OUR VISION:

That youth who are underserved will always have a safe place where personal growth, resources and supports are available.

## OUR COMMITMENT:

- Have empathy for others and treat them with kindness
- Act with integrity towards everyone
- Quality of services is #1
- Accountability in all areas
- Ask what youth want, not tell them what they need
- Find the right ways to succeed



## **BACKGROUND**

Austin Youth Leadership and Counseling (AYLC) was founded in 2014 in Austin, Texas, with the goal to develop leadership and counseling services for underserved youth in the East Austin area where youth lived in disadvantaged circumstances.

We began in a zip code that had the highest rates of crime, single parent families and substance abuse in the city.

In 2015, we were incorporated as a 501(c) (3) Educational and Community Service organization, both in Texas and the Federal Government.

Our initial center of operations was a Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall where we provided a safe place for youth to gather after school with youth-related activities and free meals.

At the end of 2017, we changed our doing-business-as name to Our House. When the Lutheran Church closed its doors, we partnered with Travis Early College High School and began offering programs to the students on campus. After school programs there included art direction and training, a creative writing program and community leadership opportunities. Travis High School has fully embraced our programs and all activity ideas with full use of the space of the cafeteria, locker and storage space, and additional classroom space.

In 2018, in addition to the After School program, Our House launched the Community Café program at Travis High School, at which youth and their families were provided with a free meal, connection with local resources, and speakers of community interest. We developed and implemented a student survey on what the students wanted from Our House.

During the three years after incorporation, we have served over 500 youth and their families. We are growing, with partner organizations such as Communities in Schools, Austin Community College Service Learning Center, St. Edward's University, Nuestras Escuelas/Nuestros Poderes, Güeros Taco Bar, and Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church.

[www.ourhouseatx.org](http://www.ourhouseatx.org) (in English and Español)

FaceBook: #ourhouseatx

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

During the 2017 - 2018 school years, our programs involved students in the following activities:

- Implementing a special art and creative writing program to raise awareness around Black History Month;
- Initiating a Coats for Kids drive;
- Creating holiday cards for the children in Austin Children's Shelter;
- Rebuilding the Culinary School and Flora Gardens at Travis High School, and cleaning up and replanting the High School flowerbeds in partnership with St. Edward's University;
- Establishing sewing classes for both boys and girls;
- Developing and creating Refugee "Necessity" Packages for victims of Hurricane Harvey;
- Developing Yoga, Photography and Healthy Cooking programs for the Fall 2018 - Spring 2019 semesters;
- Raising awareness of disparities of community facilities and resources in the local area in partnership with Austin Community College's Macroeconomics program; and,
- Expanding the Community Café services to include community projects identified by the students' families.



## FINANCES

Our Financial Statement January 2017 through June 2018 is as follows:

| <b>Our House Financial Statement Jan 2017 through July 2018</b> |                           |                            |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|   | <b>Jan-Dec 2017 (EOY)</b> | <b>Jan-July 2018 (EOM)</b> |
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                           |                            |
| Cash on Hand  | \$26,630.92               | \$5,086.43                 |
| Short-Term Investments  | -                         | -                          |
| Accounts Receivable   | -                         | -                          |
| Prepaid Expenses  | -                         | -                          |
| Long-Term Investments   | -                         | -                          |
| Deposits on Leased Property                                     | -                         | -                          |
| Property & Equipment  | -                         | -                          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>   | <b>\$26,630.92</b>        | <b>\$5,086.43</b>          |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>  |                           |                            |
| Accounts Payable  | -                         | -                          |
| Compensation  | -                         | -                          |
| Refundable Advances   | -                         | -                          |
| Long-Term Debt  | -                         | -                          |
| Expenses  | \$4,002.90                | \$3,078.97                 |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>  | <b>\$4,002.90</b>         | <b>\$3,078.97</b>          |
| <b>NET ASSETS (Cash on Hand)</b>                                | <b>\$22,628.02</b>        | <b>\$2,007.46</b>          |

We have had 50 private donors and two nonprofit donors over the past 18 months.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**Steve Larson, D.Min., LMFT/S, LPC/S**

**President and Counseling Director**

Steve is a founding member of Our House. He is a Marriage and Family Therapist/Supervisor and a Lutheran clergy person who has over 50 years of service working with Ft. Worth Police Department, Federal Prisons, Travis County Correctional Center and Travis State Jail. He has served in Ft. Worth, Austin, and Berkeley, California, as both clergy and therapist. His work has been with the homeless, substance abusers, the incarcerated, and youth who are dependent, neglected, and depressed.



**Ed Miller, M.Ed.**

**Vice President, Marketing & Communications /  
Cognitive Behavioral Director**

Ed is a founding member of Our House and has worked in several other community service organizations in Austin, earned an Undergraduate Degree in Communication, and Master's Degree in Education, and while serving as an Adjunct Professor at Austin Community, was Lead Instructor in an acclaimed program assisting recently released young offenders, the homeless, and others who were chronically unemployed. He brings a great deal of prior experience as a broadcast news anchor and print journalist, and has operated his own private practice as a strategic marketing planning consultant with clients across a wide area of the US. Ed serves Our House as Vice President and Director of Marketing and Communications, and is responsible for guiding the planning and development process.



**Paula Vaughan, MSM**

**Interim Executive Director and Program Director**

Paula is a retired Insurance Operations and Systems executive. Her 38-year career with Prudential included many years of insurance systems project management, with emphasis in continuous quality improvement and metrics for projects. She was engaged in major operations start up or transformation projects in Poland, Mexico, and Japan. Paula's other developmental achievements: Masters Certificate in Business Process Re-engineering, Hammer and Company; Managing Change in Complex Organizations, MIT; regional facilitator for Prudential's Women in Management Workshop (including Career Development, Assertiveness Training, Conflict Resolution, Power and Leadership development); and, selected for Prudential's executive development for women program, Leadership America, class of '96. Since retirement, Paula has worked with local non-profits on a pro bono basis. Efforts have included: project management instruction for staff; process analysis of key functions; operations and systems projects; and, various roles as Board, Advisory Board, and Committee member.



**Rev. Mikail Davenport**

**Secretary/Treasurer and Mentoring Director**

Mikail is a founding member of Our House and a 70-year old entrepreneur and activist with multiple non-profit experiences. He is a 6th generation native Texan. He has competed in 5K, 10K, half and Full Marathon wheelchair and hand cycle racing events since 2000. He retired from racing in 2012 after completing his 25th hand cycle marathon over his 12-year racing career. He has worked for many years supporting the spiritual needs of Texas prison inmates. Mikail is an ordained interfaith minister and now provides spiritual direction for prison inmates across the country. His motto is: **NO LIMITS!**



**Skye Howell, M.Ed., CTRS**

**Community Engagement Director**

Skye Howell is Faculty Coordinator, Equity Advocate and an Associate Professor, Adjunct in the Student Development and Human Services departments for Austin Community College. She received her graduate degree in Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity from the University of Colorado- Boulder and her undergraduate degree in Recreation Therapy at Texas State University. As an educator, her teaching philosophy is to prioritize equitable student opportunities and encourage student development using a servant leadership approach. She has served families in central Texas communities as a volunteer, educational advocate and therapeutic professional for over 12 years.



**Leticia Urieta, MFA**

**Creative Director**

Leticia Urieta is proud Tejana writer from Austin, TX. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and holds an MFA in Fiction writing from Texas State University. She works as a teaching artist in the Austin community with a focus on the pedagogy of equity in creative writing and teaches at St. Edward's University. She is also the program coordinator of Barrio Writers in Austin, a free college level youth writers workshop founded by author and activist Sarah Rafael Garcia in Santa Ana, CA.



**Scott Harpst, LMFT, LPC, CSW**

**Counseling Co-Director**

Scott has worked with families, adolescents, and children for over 35 years, 25 of which have been in private practice in Austin. With a BS in Psychology and a Masters in Clinical Social Work, Scott has supervised programs for emotionally disturbed and abused elementary school children for over 10 years. He has served as Chapter President and Group Facilitator for the Austin Chapter of Parents Anonymous, a supportive psychological program for parents involved with Child Protective Services.



**Rev. Lea Walker-Clark, M. Div., LPC**

**Pastoral Director**

Lea is an ordained Reverend Deacon currently pursuing a Pastoral Leadership role in the ELCA Lutheran Church. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, the President of Texas CROSS, and President/CEO of **No More, No Más, Inc.**, a non-profit dedicated to addressing domestic violence against women and children, particularly those in the faith community. Although the non-profit's founding purpose was to uplift women and their families, since 2011 *No More, No Mas, Inc.* extends its hands and feet to serve **all** (e.g., LGBTQ+) who are searching for purpose and need renewed hope in finding their destiny after experiencing the traumatic experience abuse brings.