



# ANNUAL REPORT

**FOCUSING ON OUR MISSION** 

## DEAR GENERATION SERVE COMMUNITY,

In 2018, we engaged 3,479 families in volunteerism and inspired youth of all ages to be community-minded. We worked with youth on our Service Pathway participating in a variety of programs that fall under the categories of Family Volunteering, Service Learning, and Youth Leadership. Youth can now engage in service with us, their families, and their peers in many different ways throughout their development.

I took the helm as Executive Director of this innovative organization in April of 2018. Our staff is always working collaboratively to better serve our community of nonprofit organizations and volunteer families, so I was able to jump right in!

Internally, we want to make sure we are operating in the most effective ways so we can provide our youth and families with the best volunteer experiences, even as we continue to grow and extend our reach. So this year, we kicked off projects to ensure that our programs are inclusive and accessible and that our infrastructure is optimized for the next stage of growth.

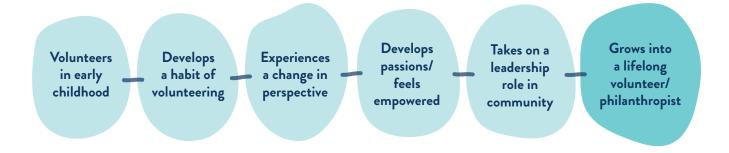
Read on to learn more about how we inspired service in 2018. We'll see you and your family out in the community!



Amy Loar
Executive Director



#### OUR SERVICE PATHWAY



## 2018 NUMBERS

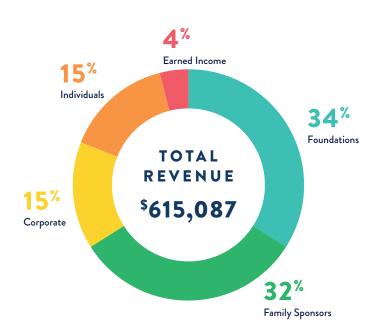
7,264

YOUTH, AGES 3-17, & THEIR FAMILIES VOLUNTEERED 16,591

HOURS WERE CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY

104

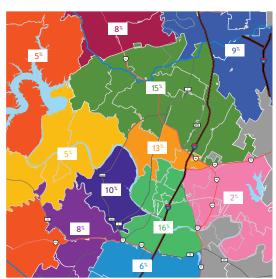
NONPROFITS WERE SERVED BY OUR PROGRAMS



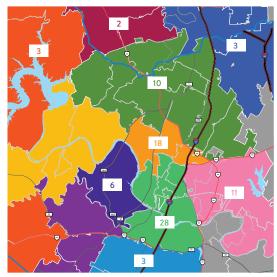


### OUR COMMUNITY

WHERE OUR VOLUNTEERS LIVE



WHERE OUR PARTNERS ARE LOCATED



Twenty partners have multiple sites.

## FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

Our Family Volunteering calendar allows families to volunteer in the community nearly every day of the year. Our volunteer activities are free and accessible for families to participate without making a long term commitment. However, we strive to make these experiences meaningful so families continue to participate month after month, year after year. Repeat participation allows youth and families to experience a real change in perspective and triggers a

motivation to make a difference in the lives of others. With this in mind, we launched two new programs in 2018 under the Family Volunteering umbrella that help families make a deeper commitment to service and learning. Little Helpers Learn & Play shows young children how they can be helpers in a variety of ways and Dedicated Family Placements teach teens more about a specific cause while providing our partner organization with consistent volunteers.

#### LITTLE HELPERS LEARN & PLAY

An Introduction to Giving Back



Ruby Morris, helping at Hope Food Pantry, during the Little Helpers Learn & Play program

Our Little Helpers Learn & Play program was held in both spring and fall of 2018 for our littlest volunteers and their families. This is a 6-week program for 3-5 year olds and their parents/caregivers with a curriculum designed especially for this age group. The parent/child duo attends an age appropriate service activity each week that is thoughtfully explained with a story time and discussion at each activity. The families are exposed to a variety of nonprofits and community needs throughout the program.

Ruby Morris and her mom, April, participated in our Little Helpers Learn & Play program which sparked a habit of volunteerism for their family. April shared, "This program helped us to start asking 'How can I help?' Rather than just observing what is going on in our community, we now think about specific actions we can take to make things better."

"THE PROGRAM
ENCOURAGED RUBY
TO THINK ABOUT
THE WORLD WITH A
SENSE OF PERSONAL
RESPONSIBILITY."

-APRIL

## DEDICATED FAMILY PLACEMENTS

#### Reinforcing the Importance of Service for Teens

Dedicated Family Placements were introduced in 2018, allowing teens and their parents to make a commitment to volunteer for an organization on an ongoing basis for an extended period of time.

Our partner organization, Jeremiah Program, helps transform families from poverty to prosperity two generations at a time. Jeremiah Program had a need for reliable, weekly childcare, while the moms in their programs participated in life-skills classes. Generation SERVE teens and their parents filled this need for Jeremiah Program, committing to

care for its clients' children several times over the course of two months.

"While volunteering at Jeremiah Program, I learned that helping with babysitting can make a big difference in helping these moms finish their education and create better opportunities for their family," said Jacob Nels, age 14.



Jacob & Tiffany Nels volunteering together

"Being able to volunteer each week, building relationships with the kids and learning more about them and their moms, allowed Jacob and I to have deeper conversations about the importance of education not only in the mother's life (supporting their family and getting access to more opportunity), but also the importance of play, education and engagement for the children and their ongoing development," said Tiffany Nels, mom of teen volunteer, Jacob Nels, age 14.

#### SERVICE LEARNING

Throughout 2018, 82 youth in 3rd - 5th grade participated in our Service Learning programs, focusing on helping people, animals, seniors, or the environment. Service Learning combines peer-based education about a community need with hands-on volunteering opportunities. Participants contributed over 380 hours of service to 24 nonprofits.

Each child in our Service Learning program brainstorms, plans, and implements their own personal extension project to conclude the program. It is incredibly inspiring to watch

these youth present what they have accomplished at the Extension Project Showcase at the end of each Service Learning program session. As the youth present their projects to their families, peers, and Generation SERVE leaders, you can see the spark of passion that has been lit through their experiences. They teach each other, learn from each other, and share their accomplishments. Their projects require empathy and hard work, and their presentations require preparation and bravery.

#### **EXTENSION PROJECT EXAMPLES**



Sydney (age 9) wanted to "bring virtual reality to seniors so they don't have to leave their comfort zone to explore the world." She hosted a virtual reality experience at Wildflower Terrace and six seniors at the facility attended and experienced her virtual tours!



Maddie (age 8) made homemade dog treats and sold them to raise money for Austin Humane Society. She created a video to promote her project and raised \$249!



Evelyn (age 9) supported Austin Pets Alive! with a dog treat fundraiser held at Auditorium Shores. Her donation helped pay for a week of milk for a litter of kittens and vaccines for a litter of puppies!



Jacob created a Harry Potter sock Christmas tree and fundraised for Mobile Loaves & Fishes. He donated 26 pairs of socks and \$120 to support Mobile Loaves & Fishes clients.

#### YOUTH LEADERSHIP

A lot of work was accomplished in the Central Texas community in 2018 as a result of Generation SERVE's teen leadership! In our summer Youth Leadership program, 48 teenagers trained to effectively lead adults and children in volunteer service. They contributed 2,036 hours to the community and learned important skills, like fundraising,

public speaking, CPR, and group facilitation skills, that will impact each of their future goals and communities.

Over 50 of our Youth Leadership program graduates from the last few summers are qualified to lead our Family Volunteering activities for us going forward.

## TEEN SERVICE DAYS

The Generation SERVE Teen Advisory Board conceptualized and helped launch our first Teen Service Days in 2017.

These are service fair style events that allow teens to come together from all over the city to work on service projects.

In 2018, the Teen Service Day program grew dramatically!

22
PARTNERS WERE
SERVED

TEEN SERVICE DAYS
WERE OFFERED

426
TEENS VOLUNTEERED
AT THESE EVENTS
917
HOURS WERE
CONTRIBUTED TO THE

#### 2017 - 2018 TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

Eliza Hammond
President

**Zachary Hicks**Vice President

Cheyenne Walker

Secretary

Grace Cotter

Social Media

Sofia Cruz

Project Coordinator

**Aaron Greisdorf** Project Coordinator Karyme Alejos

Josh Crowley

Sophia De Leon

Liah Goyal

Mary Hines

COMMUNITY

Mahir Kota

Mia Lee

Ramya Nambala

Cooper Rogers

Nihita Sarma

Mallory Thomason

Lianna Tidwell

#### TESTIMONIALS

#### WHAT OUR PARTNER NONPROFITS SAY

"Generation SERVE has faithfully served Community First! Village neighbors since 2017. Their youth and families working together exemplify what we value in the true spirit of volunteers. Marked by their organization, timely arrivals, and dependable nature, the Generation SERVE volunteers work with their whole heart amongst our Genesis Garden program, which produces healthy organic food providing nourishing food for more than 200 Community First! Village residents."

Anna Campbell, Volunteer Manager
 Community First! Village

## WHAT OUR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS SAY

"My experiences with Generation SERVE have solidified my belief that it doesn't matter how old you are, you can still make a difference. I know I am prepared for my future goals with the opportunities Generation SERVE has given me - as a Teen Lead, a Service Learning program leader, and a founding member, and now president, of the Teen Advisory Board."

Eliza Hammond,
 2018 Teen Advisory Board President

## WHAT OUR VOLUNTEER PARENTS SAY

- of parents report our service experiences had a positive impact on their child.
- of parents say important conversations were triggered by our family service activities.
- 90%

  of parents report their child's desire to make a difference in the community increased after participating in our programs.
- 86%

  of parents say their child has a better understanding of community needs after participating in our programs.

#### ABOUT US

Generation SERVE provides meaningful service experiences for Central Texas youth and families, engaging children in volunteerism and empowering them to make a difference in their communities. Through age-appropriate, hands-on family volunteer activities, service learning, and leadership programs, children learn how to take action in their community while providing vital support for our partner nonprofit organizations. Since its inception in 2009, Generation SERVE has organized 6,189 volunteer activities that engaged 39,891 children and their families, logging 91,355 total volunteer hours serving more than 100 Central Texas nonprofit organizations and groups.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Eric Greisdorf** Tracy Asamoah

President Erin Barber

Mindy Weber Liz Bronson

Robin Chapman Erin D'Andrea

Secretary Jim Curry

Carla Denison-Bickett

Treasurer

President Elect

Cara Fox Jennifer Loew

Brooke Freeland Virginia Miracle

Rhonda Hauser **Brad Neff** 

Jeff Hobbs Dawn Rust

Mina Kumar

#### 2018 NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Adelphi Acre Gardens

Alpha

American Heart Association

Annunciation Maternity Home

Any Baby Can Austin Animal Center

Austin Children's Shelter

Austin Creative Reuse Austin Diaper Bank

Austin Disaster Relief Network

Austin Groups for the Elderly

Austin Humane Society

Austin Parks Foundation

Austin Pets Alive!

Austin Sunshine Camps

Austin Wildlife Rescue

Austin Zoo & Sanctuary

Barton Hills Assisted Living

Beckett Meadows

BookSpring

Brush Square Museums Foundation

Buford the Book Bus

Bull Creek Foundation

Cards for Hospitalized Kids

Caritas of Austin

Carrying Hope

CASA of Travis County

Casa Marianella

Central Texas Food Bank

Central Texas SPCA

City of Austin Graffiti Abatement

City of Austin Watershed Department

Coats for Kids

/ The Junior League of Austin

Colin's Hope

Colorado River Alliance

Community First! Village

Easter Seals of Central Texas

El Buen Samaritano

Family Eldercare

For Every Child, Inc. Foundation Communities

Front Steps

Goodwill Central Texas

Harmony Point Memory Care

Hearing the Homeless

Homeless Task Force

Hope Food Pantry

Inside Books Project

Jeremiah Program

Keep Austin Beautiful

Manchaca Community Garden

Mayfield Park & Preserve

Meals on Wheels Central Texas

Micah 6 Pantry

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Mothers' Milk Bank

Mount Bonnell Park

Neill-Cochran House Museum Operation Blue Santa

Operation School Bell

Partnerships for Children Refugee Services of Texas

Ronald McDonald House Charities of

Central Texas

Run Free Texas

SAFE

Safe in Austin

Salvation Army Austin

Sammy's House

SAIVA

**STARRY** 

Texas Advocacy Project Texas Book Festival

Texas Farmer's Market

Texas Parks & Wildlife

The Christi Center The Dog Alliance

The Thinkery

Travis County Health & Human Services

Trinity Child Development Center

United Way for Greater Austin

Westminster Manor

Williamson County Animal Shelter

Women's Storybook Project

YMCA of Austin

Zilker Botanical Garden