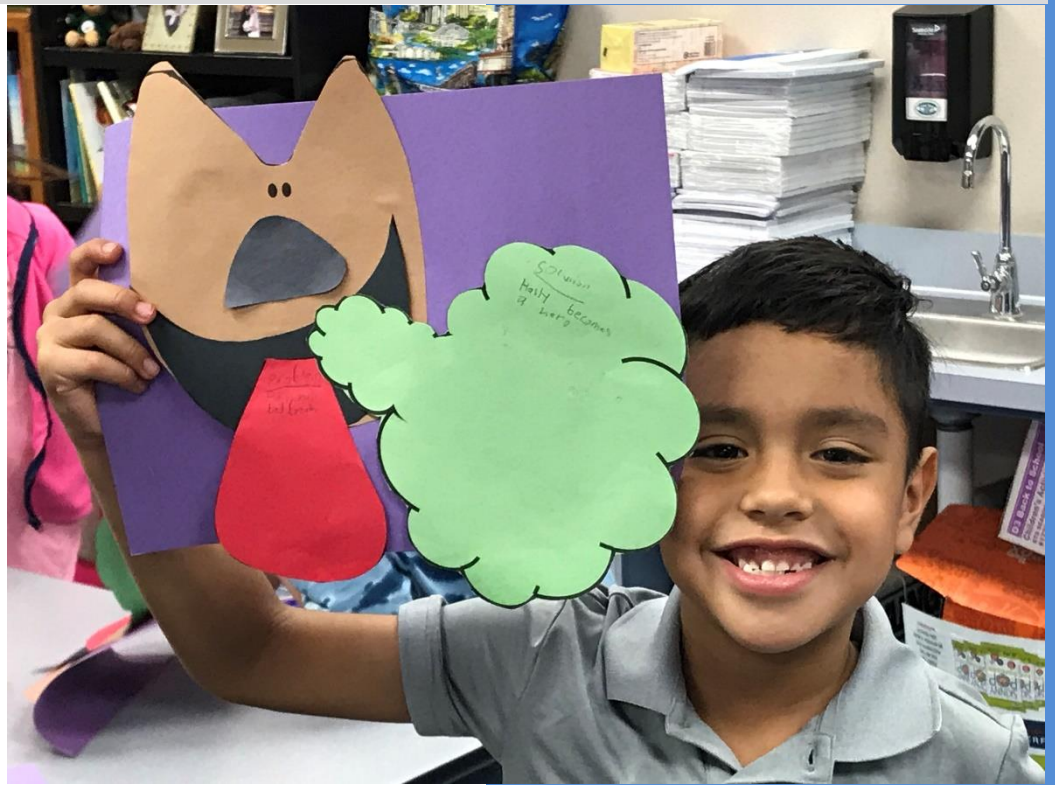


2019

# Community Storehouse





Christian Community Storehouse dba

Community Storehouse

2019 Case Statement



### **Wolves at the Door**

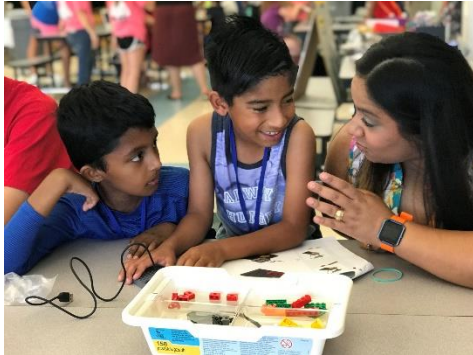
Mario's\* mom works two jobs to make sure he and his brothers have what they need. She is their sole support. When the flu hit their family, Mario's mom lost ten days of work because she had to stay home and take care of them. For a single mom living paycheck to paycheck this was a crisis wherein hunger and homelessness are the wolves at the door. After paying rent, nothing remained for food or utilities. Mario's school counselor referred her to Community Storehouse where she qualified for assistance with food and hygiene products for the next three months. Additionally, Community Storehouse was able to pay their utility bill. Providing this type of short-term assistance to families keeps the wolves from the door and provides the time needed to recover from financial crisis before it becomes unmanageable.

\*Names changed to protect client confidentiality.



## Helping Children Since 1982

An impoverished childhood is one of deprivation, exclusion and vulnerability devoid of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed to thrive. Poverty is mean. It is ruthless. Without intervention, poverty can become a life-sentence.



Christian Community Storehouse positively changes educational outcomes for children in crisis. We provide quality care for at-risk children, conduct relevant educational programs and provide supervised service learning opportunities. Community Storehouse provided over 107,000 services to over 5,000 children and their families in 2018. Our programs give lasting impact rather than sustaining generational poverty.

The demand for our services continues to increase due to population growth, economic conditions, natural disasters, societal factors, situational life crisis events, and health issues. Children born to generational poverty or experiencing the consequences of a household crisis such as income loss or death of a parent are more likely to fail in school. Keeping children active and thriving in the Keller, Carroll and Northwest Independent School Districts is what Community Storehouse is all about. And we're the only Nonprofit, 501©3 children's charity in Northeast Tarrant County focused on this mission.

**Mission Statement:** "Dedicated to the education and well-being of low-income children in our community."

**Vision Statement:** "Closing the gap between opportunity and achievement for children in our community."

## Our Programs

Think of Community Storehouse as the first responders to any issues that threaten to interfere with a child's success in school. Programming is developed based on the realized needs of children in our region. **Over 12,000 school-aged children qualify for assistance in our three county service area, including 20.2% of children in Northwest ISD and 23.7% of children in Keller ISD.** The cycle of generational poverty can and will only be broken through education of these children. Statistics show that children in these circumstances are also more likely to go without educational support and good nutrition at home. These children are therefore more likely to drop out of school, continuing the generational poverty cycle. According to The



National Dropout Prevention Center Network, “82% of prisoners in America are high school dropouts.” Christian Community Storehouse has the programs in place to help break this cycle in the areas we serve.

## Educational Programs

### Quest Summer Enrichment Program

100 Children Served\*

When children begin to feel good about themselves as readers, they begin to feel successful and become open to increased learning on many levels. Unlike a traditional summer school program, our summer reading program, Quest, is geared towards not only identifying and addressing a student’s academic needs, but also focuses on providing an inviting and upbeat environment. By providing a variety of new and exciting experiences, Quest helps children connect what they are learning in the classroom with the world around them.

Music, art, and physical education are taught in addition to a targeted reading instructional program. A light breakfast, snack and lunch are provided daily to ensure that nutritional needs are being met and to help them energize for the day’s activities. We strive to create a summer camp atmosphere for the children which helps keep their excitement level up.

During guided reading instruction, students read books that are on the exact level needed for their individual progression. Students are given a personal copy of the book they are reading in class which is theirs to take home and keep. This encourages them to continue reading on their own and at their own pace, while allowing them to show off their new skills to family members.



An instrumental component of Quest is providing children who come from low-income households with a variety of real world experiences to increase their background knowledge. It’s much more exciting to read about helicopters if you have watched one land just yards away and are able to peer inside at its many controls and gadgets! When children meet and speak with—or see demonstrations by— authors, firefighters, motorcycle riders, musicians, football



players, pilots, electricians, dancers, and even state senators, they are exposed to ideas and vocabulary that strengthens their reading comprehension, creating a more confident reader!

The Community Storehouse Quest Program is a community effort. Our highly trained, qualified teaching staff, along with about 25 volunteers per day, work together to ensure our students make measurable progress in reading and begin to identify themselves as readers. Parents report that children who were previously averse to working on school reading assignments, and never looked at books, are now asking for books and for opportunities to read.

### **Community Storehouse Summer Book Club**

50 Children Served\*



Children without access to learning opportunities in the summer can suffer 3 months of learning loss during the summer break. This means low income students can be an academic year behind their middle-income peers by 9th grade. Summer Book Club motivates children to read for pleasure and become engaged readers and writers. Students experience positive read aloud sessions followed by enrichment activities in STEM subjects, writing and art. This program provides students with high quality books to take home daily to encourage further reading and build their home libraries. Additionally, Summer Book Club provides students with meals, daily snacks, take-home snack packs and hygiene supplies.

### **Community Storehouse After-School Reading Program**

40 Children Served\*

The Community Storehouse Afterschool Reading Program pairs volunteers with low-income academically at-risk children. Volunteers read aloud to small groups of children, discuss readings, and facilitate word attack games to increase student fluency levels. This program also promotes literacy in the home by providing these children with a variety of books to take home to build their home library.

The After-School Reading program provides scholars with a variety of quest readers from our community. This gives our scholars regular exposure to people who exemplify the idea that





*leaders are readers.* These opportunities increase background knowledge, build vocabulary, boost self-confidence, and improve social and communication skills. This program will help scholars begin to link education and career aspirations particularly among students from low-income households who will be future first-generation high school graduates and first-generation college students.



### Early Childhood Literacy Programs

Children from low-income families are disadvantaged when it comes to early exposure to reading. This creates massive reading readiness gaps between even the youngest children. By age three, children from wealthier families have typically heard 32 million more words than children from low-income families.<sup>2</sup> Upon entering school, children from low-income families have one-fourth the vocabulary of children from wealthier homes.<sup>3</sup> By the time children from low-income families enter kindergarten, they are 12-14 months below national norms in language and pre-reading skills. Community Storehouse educational literacy programs focus providing opportunity for parents to recognize their role as “teacher” to their young children. Giving parents the tools they need for this task is instrumental in changing their child’s economic future

### Little Learners

12 Children Served\*



Little Learners is a program designed for young learners, ages 18 months to 3.5 years, and their caregivers. Each session focuses on a different story and includes a free book, craft, small snack, and an educational experience full of exciting discoveries. Although mostly structured, all activities are optional which makes for a pressure-free introduction to the early learning classroom. This program encourages caregivers to focus on early literacy and developmental milestones to better prepare their children for educational success. This literacy focused program also will incorporate “special sessions” focused on specific topics such as the importance of exposure to developmental toys and imaginative



play; social/language growth through music, movement and games; and occasional guests to give the little ones further enrichment opportunities.

### **Community Storehouse Children's Lending Library**

460 Children Served\*

Researchers have found that while there are more than a dozen books per child in middle-income neighborhoods, in low-income neighborhoods the ratio is closer to one book for every three hundred children.<sup>1</sup> Compounding these differences, low-income families engage in much less conversation and use smaller vocabularies when talking with their children. The result is that there are stark differences in the early exposure to reading in low-income households. In low-income families, time as well as money are scarce, and books may be a costly luxury.

Having a home environment that supports literacy is one of the most effective approaches to helping children develop literacy skills. Having ready access to a variety of books at home promotes reading outside of school, the development of relationships, ideas, vocabulary, language and overall reading skills.

The Community Storehouse Lending Library provides free children's books to low-income children, tots to teens, living in our service area. Books are available at our resale locations, food pantry, seasonal events, educational programs and all summer feeding program locations. In spring 2019 Community Storehouse will expand our Lending Library program. Focused on creating access to reading materials to low-income families, Little Lending Libraries will be placed in low-income areas providing 24/7 access to books (and encouraging a love of reading!) in areas where books are scarce. By growing the home libraries of underprivileged children in our community, we positively contribute to their literacy.

### **Kids2College**

476 Children Served\*



Studies show that students born into families that are in the bottom 25% of income have only a 9% chance of graduating from college. By contrast, students born into families in the top 25% of income have a 54% chance of earning a degree. College grads tend to get better jobs, avoid layoffs, and earn



more money over their careers. College doesn't just change lives, it transforms communities.

The Kids2College program raises college-awareness at the middle school level. Community Storehouse works in partnership with UNT, the Sally Mae Fund, and a middle school campus where 57% of students qualify for the free/reduced lunch program. Kids2College is focused on opportunity through education. Students complete a six-session curriculum which combines hands-on activities with information on careers, college life, academic preparation, and includes a take-home component. The students participate in a visit to UNT at the end of the program. 146 sixth graders toured UNT in 2015, 446 students in 2016, 468 in 2017, and 475 students are scheduled to tour in 2018.

## Youth Leadership/Service Learning

1,243 Children Served\*

In order for youth to be prepared to work in partnership with adults, they need to develop and/or enhance their leadership skills. Leadership training prepares youth to manage time, work as a team, set goals, start conversations, facilitate meetings, and make effective presentations. The Community Storehouse promotes youth leadership as a great way to gain positive life skills:

- Youth Leadership teaches youth effective listening and communication skills
- Youth Leadership develops tolerance and appreciation for diversity
- Youth Leadership develops skills in conflict resolution
- Youth Leadership develops character and personal responsibility
- Youth Leadership encourages students to begin developing habits in community service.
- Youth Leadership creates communication links between the students of Keller ISD, Northwest ISD and the volunteer service needs of the community.



The Community Storehouse Youth Leadership Development Program also offers the youth in our community the opportunity to develop a myriad of practical skills through the volunteer





experience. These skills include: general office and data entry, event planning and operations, retail and merchandizing, donation management and distribution, teaching assistant and youth mentor.

Youths volunteering to accumulate Green Cord or Service Learning hours can find an abundance of opportunities to actively participate with the Community Storehouse in community work as well as a means to officially document their service hours for college entrance applications, resumes, scholarship applications, Youth Mission or Confirmation goals. Youth seeking to complete Court Ordered Community Service hours have the opportunity to do so in a positive, character building, and faith-based environment.

### **Community Storehouse Junior Board**

The Community Storehouse Junior Board provides young leaders in our community the opportunity to hone their leadership skills. Interested Youth must submit an application, letters of recommendation, proof of maintaining a 3.0 GPA and interview to obtain a position on the Junior Board.



Junior Board Members learn what it means to serve on the Board of Directors from current Community Storehouse Board member mentors. The Junior Board members must draft their charter and elect officers to their Board. At each of their monthly meetings, the Junior Board hosts a guest speaker from the community (a community leader in local politics, business, the clergy, etc.) who gives a talk followed by a Q & A session.

### **Youth Leadership Award**

The Community Storehouse Youth Leadership Award identifies young people who are working to make a difference in our community. Applicants must demonstrate leadership and ingenuity as trailblazers undertaking community initiatives that have measurable results. Initiatives must align with the Community Storehouse Mission Statement and/or the Community Storehouse Vision statement. The program is open to youth between the ages of 15 and 18. This award and a \$1000 scholarship will be presented to the winner(s) at the annual Community Storehouse Hope Dinner and Auction.



## Wellness Programs

Hunger prevention is vital to proper growth and development of children. In Tarrant county 23.3% (116,370) of the county's children live with food insecurity. School Counselors refer families in crisis to Community Storehouse. Studies show:

- Children who have their food needs met are more likely to reach their full growth potential.
- Children who have their food needs met are generally healthier and tend to have higher academic achievement because they are well prepared for school and absent less often.
- Healthier children display social and behavioral wellness because they tend to adapt better to environmental stress.

### Community Storehouse Food Pantry

2,536 Children Served\*



Families facing food insecurity can apply for assistance in our client services office. Case managers determine eligibility based on documentation provided by the applicant, an intake interview, and state income guidelines. Food pantry vouchers are issued typically for 1-3 months of food assistance at a time. Emergency food boxes are available to anyone requesting food. No one requesting food is turned away. Supplemental food is made available for qualifying families when their children are out of school during summer and holiday breaks. Senior citizens 62 years and over qualifying as low-income can apply for the Senior Food Program and receive grocery assistance each month as well as holiday food.

### Snack Pack Program

40,663 Snack Packs provided directly to children\*

The Community Storehouse Snack Pack Program meets the nutritional needs of children at risk of hunger during weekends and school holidays. Most of these children rely on the federally subsidized free or reduced meal program to provide them with breakfast and lunch during the school week. Food insecurity over the weekends causes these students to come to school very



hungry Monday mornings. The Snack Pack Program provides these children with bags filled with kid-friendly nutritious foods at their school site. The snack packs are assembled by volunteers at the Community Storehouse food pantry and delivered by volunteers to school partners each week. The school staff (counselor, nurse, teacher, etc.) identifies students suffering from weekend food insecurity and the Community Storehouse Snack Packs are put into their backpacks each Friday. A typical pack will contain: granola bars, cereal bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, pretzels, trail mix, dried fruit, beef jerky, Pop Tarts, fruit cups, pudding cups and other non-perishable, child-friendly snacks.

### **Summer Feeding Programs**

Summer leaves many kids with a season of food insecurity. During the summer these children



do not have access to the National School Lunch Program which provides free or reduced lunch each and every school day. The national child food insecurity rate is 22.4%. In Tarrant county 23.3% (116,370) of the county's children are food insecure. Unfortunately, for many low-income children, their parents simply cannot cope with the increased cost to feed them through the summer months.

Meeting the summer food needs of low-income children is important because children who have their food needs met are more likely to reach their full growth potential, be healthier and display social and behavioral wellness. To combat summer food insecurity, the Community Storehouse has implemented the Summer Food Box, Summer Lunch, and Mobile Food Programs.

### **Summer Food Box**

698 Children Served\*

In the spring semester, school counselors identify students who can benefit from supplemental food over the summer months and encourage parents to register. The Summer Food Box program provides these families with a box of kid-friendly supplemental food in June, July and August. Volunteers assemble, pack and distribute Summer Food Boxes adding children's books, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables to the distribution as available.



### **Summer Lunch**

174 Students Served\*



The Summer Lunch Program provides a meal for any hungry child up to age 18 at a fixed feeding site where the at-risk population of children suffering food insecurity is highest. There volunteers play board games, puzzles and help attendees pick out free books to encourage summer reading. Volunteers also serve the food and maintain clean conditions at the feeding site.

Additionally, this program provides lunch to every child attending our Quest Reading and Summer Book Club educational enrichment programs.

### **Dignity Closet**

788 Children Served\*

Kids who have poor hygiene don't perform as well at school.

It is well known that a lack of food and/or health care can affect a child's education. But another critical need is proper hygiene. These children are teased and become social outcasts, which affects their self-esteem, ability to concentrate on lessons, and their desire to come to school. Middle and high-school girls who are menstruating might stay home for several days each month because they can't afford feminine hygiene products. This affects school performance and attendance.

These might sound like easy fixes, but they're not if you simply don't have the money.

Many low-income families are food stamp recipients. Food stamps, however, do not pay for laundry soap, dishwashing soap, toilet paper and other hygiene necessities that many of us take for granted. Low-income parents are forced to prioritize just like higher-income parents. But, instead of "Make dinner, or get take-out?" it's more like, "I have seventeen dollars to last me through the month-do I spend it on food, or shampoo and laundry soap?"

We provide basic hygiene products to Title I schools in KISD, CISD and NISD. These schools have the highest percentage of students on the free or reduced lunch program.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, combs, soap, deodorant and feminine hygiene products are stocked on campus for distribution to students as needed per the school counselor, nursing and teaching staff.





### **Baby Dignity Closet**

263 Children Served\*

Can you imagine how impossible it would be, on top of having the stress of a newborn, if you are wondering where your baby's next diaper is coming from? Nearly 30% of parents in the United States cannot afford diapers, which can cost up to \$100 every month per baby. Moreover, diapers are not an expense not covered by food stamps. This negatively effects both the stress level in low-income homes, but the health and well-being of the infants.

The Baby Dignity Closet program helps to provide diapers, wipes, baby wash, lotion, pull-ups, socks, hats and other goods needed by babies in low-income households.

The Community Storehouse Baby Dignity Closet Program provides the afore mentioned baby items as well as baby books, developmental toys, seasonal clothing, maternity clothing, strollers, cribs, and other donated items as needed to the Pregnancy Related Services Program Coordinators in Keller, Carroll and Northwest Independent School Districts to dispense to low-income teen parents as needed. The donated items ensure that each baby's basic needs are met and aid both school districts in preventing students from dropping out. If every teen parent can make it to graduation, it will make a profoundly positive difference in the lives of their babies.

In 2019, over the Baby Dignity Closet program provided over \$2000.00 in donated developmental toys, baby books and toddler clothing to the Northwest ISD "Parents are Teachers" program, focused on school readiness from birth to preschool.

## **Holiday Programs**

Unfortunately, many low-income children usually have a holiday that is a lot more barren and depressing than most of us could possibly imagine. The Community Storehouse believes every child deserves a happy holiday. We want each child to know that even if things seem hopeless, that there is a world out there where people care about them and love them.

### **Hunger Doesn't Take a Break**

Children dependent on the free/reduced meal program at school often face food insecurity during school breaks. Community Storehouse works with school counselors to provide supplemental food to low-income families ensuring children do not go hungry over their school/holiday breaks.





**Spring Break**

882 Children Served\*

**Fall/Thanksgiving Break**

1,149 Children Served\*

**Winter/Christmas House**

1,400 Children Served\*



Christmas House is stocked with thousands of toys donated from the community and Toys for Tots and manned by an army of volunteers. Parents can come and select gifts for their children ages newborn to 18. There are also books, stocking stuffers, games, socks, underwear and gift wrap available for the parents to help create a wonderful holiday for their children. A boxed holiday meal is provided to each family. This program allows the parent the dignity and independence to choose what they would like to give to their child.

\*Number of children served in 2018

## References

1. Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006.
2. Hart, B., and Risley, T.R. (2003). "The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap." American Educator, 27(1), pp. 4–9.
3. Spiegel, Alix. (2011). "Closing The Achievement Gap With Baby Talk." NPR.org Accessed 4 September 2012.