



Vision Campaign Update

Thank you for your involvement in this campaign designed to enable Riverbend accomplish new and exciting ministry efforts that we believe God has called us to. After our church-wide launch in February 2017, we felt it helpful to provide an update on the campaign.

As of the end of May, we have:

- 353 families and/or individuals who've made commitments to the campaign, pledging \$3.7 million.
- That puts us at 74% of our goal.
- Many of those who have made commitments have already indicated that they will contribute beyond what they've given or pledged to date.

Our hope and prayers are that people will continue to come on board and support the future vision for Riverbend over the next couple of years. In the meantime, church leadership has prioritized projects, and based on the **\$2.4 million of cash** that is currently available, we have begun work on the following projects within the three different areas of the vision campaign.

Missions & Outreach

Ministry for the Missions & Outreach portion of the vision campaign:

- We have entered into a letter of intent to develop property in the St. John's region of the city (east of I-35, south of 183, and north of 290). This new neighborhood development center (NDC) will hopefully be developed to serve this area of the city that has many needs. Currently a think tank of Riverbenders is being assembled for the purpose of envisioning ministry opportunities in this area of the city.

This spring, two other NDC projects are currently under further development:

- We are nearly complete in the construction of the new Riverbend OUTPOST – our own community center within the Community First Village on the east side of the city. This village has been developed by Mobile Loaves & Fishes for the purpose of lifting 200 chronically homeless men and women off the streets and into their own homes - many for the first time in decades. The Riverbend OUTPOST is a large, covered deck that will be a connecting location for Riverbenders and residents of this community.
- At our South Austin NDC, where we help to operate a food pantry and clothing closet for the needy, we gave out 25,000 pounds of food to over 3,000 residents last month. We are about to enter into an agreement through the Central Texas Food Bank with Starbucks, to pick up all of the leftover food each day from 32 Starbucks across the city. Starbucks will pay us to do this, which will enable us to purchase refrigerated trucks or vans, install new commercial refrigerators at the food pantry, and enable us to create some limited employment to help oversee this program and drive the truck for pickups. It will increase our food distribution by over 50%, enabling us to serve even more people in this area. Every person coming for food gets prayed over, relationships are built, and God is using this ministry to change lives.

We've approved the position and have an opening to hire a Missions Director position - a #2 position to support Pastor Aaron Foor, our Outreach and Missions Pastor.

We have already made two exploratory mission trips to Mexico, and are planning an exploratory trip to Chile, Ecuador, and Peru in the spring of 2018.

Building Community

For the Community portion of our vision campaign, the primary focus right now is on the Fellowship Hall renovation.

- To stay within budget, we continue seeking ways to modify the design and are planning to break ground November 6 if all goes well.
- All, or parts, of the Fellowship Hall will be closed off during the Nov-Feb time period in order to accomplish the remodel.
- This new remodel will enable us to convert the Fellowship Hall to an Adult Community Center, with up to six large classrooms (similar size to the plaza view room) that can be used on Sunday mornings for Community Groups and various types of other gatherings during the week, and yet still retain the big meeting space for large events.
 - It will also feature a completely new and rebuilt commercial kitchen to service all of our activities.

We have approved proceeding with the development and implementation of a new database system that will enable us to connect better with our members, improving communications and coordination within all of our ministries.

- We are currently fine-tuning the plans and hope to have a new database in place by this fall.
- This program will have touch screen monitors and Ipads throughout the campus that will facilitate check-in, data capture, and enhanced security for our children's ministry.
- It will also create check-in capability for all of our student ministry and adult ministry gatherings on Sundays and throughout the week.
- Members will be able to update and or check their own profiles online via their cell phones and or tablets.

The Arts

- We continue to work with our architect and tech team to design and construct a relocated sound booth near the mezzanine level of the Home for Hope, enabling the sound technicians to mix the room for a better experience.
- We are soliciting bids to replace and re-carpet all of the entrances, hallways, staircases, and mezzanine levels within the Home for Hope.
- We are working on some repairs to the various leaking issues within the towers of above the bookstore and art gallery.
- We are working with the architect to finalize the plans and costs for converting the bookstore to a new Welcome Center as well as coffee station at the center entrance.

- Our Creative Arts Team continues to research, and is accepting bids for, the best possible cutting edge technology solutions for a variety of areas:
 - Media presentation system and lighting technology for use in the Home for Hope. This includes projection onto smart glass or similar surface, and environmental projection and mapping on the stone and rock walls.
 - Front of House and Broadcast audio consoles, as well as upgrades to Broadcast cameras and switchers.
 - Build out of Riverbend's Recording Studio.

For more information about the **because GRACE** campaign, and/or to make a pledge or contribution, go to <http://www.riverbend.com/becausegrace>.