Mission
To unify churches breaking the language barrier, by providing training and creating disaster response teams aware and ready to respond to our neighbors affected by natural disasters, our communities in crisis, and to reinforce communication to better help one another.

2021 Key Initiatives / Accomplishments
- Winter Storm Uri Response
- Food & Water Distribution
- LA Hurricane Supply Donations
- COVID-19 Response

STORY: Responding to Homelessness
In recent years, Houston’s homeless community has been forced out of downtown to the areas around East Harris County and Baytown. The faith-based community saw the need to help the homeless but did not know how without the backing of law enforcement and local government agencies. Unbeknownst to the faith-based community, the Harris County Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) was already engaged in homeless outreach there, so they knew working together would multiply their collective impact.

Pastor Irvin Clark, the Outreach Leader with Inspire Church and the HOT Team, Marcellus-Williams Resource Center, and three Houston Responds Coalitions (East Harris, Baytown, Crosby/Huffman) formed a collaboration to help address the critical need. They began by cleaning the underpasses, providing food, clothing, ID assistance, and other social service programs to the camps where these people resided. Harris County Sheriff’s Department had also begun to see a need to bring resources to the ever-growing homeless community and to focus on advocacy rather than incarceration. To show their “heart beyond the badge,” the HOT Team opened dialogue between law enforcement and the homeless community, and the partnership began to touch the lives immediately.

The collaboration began to gain attention in the faith community, and Celebration of Life Church in Baytown offered to host discussions on additional ways of working together. Representatives from Celebration Life Church, Inspire Church, Harris County HOT Team, Harris County Sheriff’s Department, Houston Responds East Harris, Baytown, and Crosby/Huffman coalitions, Marcellus-Williams Resource Center, Empower Network, Love Network, and the Baytown Police Department all came together. Out of the initial meeting, the East Harris County Navigation Center (EHCNC) was born. (continued…).
Each organization had the same heart to develop a first-class Navigation and Outreach Center that would service the entire east side of Houston. In the past year, a broad-based group of community leaders, advocates, and stakeholders have been actively seeking to acquire property for the Navigation Center and a transitional housing program.

Marcellus-Williams Resource Center will play an integral part through case management to ensure that supportive services are provided, such as acquiring identification documents, referrals to medical, dental, recovery providers, mental health counseling services, life skills training, job training, educational opportunities, housing assistance, and spiritual guidance. After receiving initial services, the next step will be to enter the transitional housing program.

Since the initial meeting at Celebration of Life Church, 231 clients have been served, and more than 840 resources have been provided. Once a physical location is established for the Navigation Center, it plans to offer more than 5,000 resources per year.

Now that the match has been struck, the fire is beginning to blaze as many other agencies have chosen to support this endeavor. The East Harris County Navigation Center is a great example of what can be accomplished when multiple coalitions, congregations, and organizations collaborate to address a critical need in their community.

2022 Goals

Church Participation
Double church participation, including churches that better represent the diversity and geography of East Harris County.

Stronger Relationships
Cultivate more and trusting relationships amongst church and community leaders.

Asset Mapping
Develop a usable database managing as much information as possible on available resources and services offered by church and community partners.

Collaborative Initiatives
Undertake at least two collaborative initiatives that engage most participating churches in addressing a community need.

Disaster Readiness
Equip local churches to create their own internal disaster readiness plan and develop a plan for coordinating efforts in the event of a crisis or disaster.

Participating Churches
Abiding Faith Church
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
Baker Road Baptist Church
Baytown Community Church
Berea Church of God in Christ
By Faith Ministries International
Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
Cedar Bayou Baptist Church
Cedar Bayou Grace UMC
Central Baptist Church
Christian Life Church
Coady Baptist Church
Emanuel Church - Iglesia Emanuel
Eternal Word of Life Ministries
Faith Family Church
Faith Presbyterian Church of Baytown
Fellowship Community Baptist Church
First Christian Church of Baytown
First Church Baytown
Fountain of Faith Fellowship Church
Garth Road Baptist Church
God Order My Steps Ministries
Greater St. John Baptist Church
Hillside Church
Holy Family Catholic Church
Iglesia Cristo Viene
Kisses for the King Ministries, Inc
Lakewood Church of Christ
Memorial Baptist Church
Missouri Street Church of Christ
Men of Character Ministries
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Northside Baptist Church
Old River Assembly of God Church
Olive Press Ministries
Peace Tabernacle UPC
Pentecostals of Baytown
Port Arthur Tabernacle
San Jacinto Church
Second Baptist Baytown
St. John’s UMC
St. Mark’s UMC
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
St. Paul’s Lutheran Food Pantry
Sweet Home Baptist Church
The Sanctuary
Trinity Tabernacle Assembly of God Church
Victory Baptist Church
Victory Temple Church
Word Alive Ministries
Word of Life Ministries

Participating Organizations
Baytown Police Department
Be a Champion
Harris County Commissioner Precinct 3
Harris County Constable Precinct 3
Harris County Sheriff’s Department
HCSO Homeless Outreach Team
Hearts & Hands of Baytown
JP Cares
Local Initiatives Support Corp.
Love Network
Marcellous-Williams Resource Center
Pathfinder Mission
Somebody Cares
St. Paul’s Lutheran Food Pantry
United Way Baytown/Chambers
Youth-Reach Houston

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