Mission
Mobilizing Northeast Houston churches to respond to crisis, collaborate for impact, and serve to transform our community.

2021 Key Initiatives / Accomplishments
• COVID-19 Education, Testing & Vaccines
• Meals & Masks Initiative
• Food Distribution

STORY: Freedom on the Block

Churches in Northeast Houston, during the pandemic, were no different than any others in our nation...struggling to serve the people entrusted to them and seeking to redefine mission. The Northeast Houston Responds Coalition saw no other option except to sanitize, mask up, marshal their resources, and serve those in their community who needed help the most. Hence, FREEDOM ON THE BLOCK was executed by a collaboration of over twelve local churches, businesses, nonprofits, and volunteers who came together to give away food & water, financial assistance, empowerment workshops, and the love of Jesus Christ. On a large socially-distanced parking lot of an abandoned strip center at 9929 Homestead Road, the aromas of hot food, worship, and community prayer filled the air. FREEDOM ON THE BLOCK was a monthly occurrence in September, October, and November that brought out elected officials, law enforcement, local business owners, artists, college students, and more.

Besides the unity achieved through this event, several specific outcomes were accomplished in serving families in the community.

• 5500+ meals were distributed.
• $9,000 in financial assistance was given.
• 450+ families were served.
• 78 adults registered for financial literacy & homebuyer workshops.
• 64 adults completed financial literacy & homebuyer workshops.
• 33 people put their faith in Christ.

Northeast Houston Responds would like to thank all the frontline partner organizations, donors, churches, and volunteers who took risks to help make the FREEDOM ON THE BLOCK outreach a huge success.
Addressing Critical Needs

One of the most powerful impacts the coalition has on Northeast Houston is mobilizing local churches and nonprofits to touch the lives of people who need help the most. Derrick Swanson (left) is a 24-year-old New Orleans native now residing in Houston. Derek was in between jobs, trusting in God’s provision for his family and navigating the pandemic when he encountered Coalition Coordinator Pastor Johnny Gentry (right) and Community Works CDC. He not only received much needed food during the pandemic, but Derek encountered friendly volunteers who connected him with financial assistance, access to job readiness training, financial literacy classes, and a spiritual community. Coalitions are at their best when they are boots on the ground in the community, loving, learning, and serving the community.

2022 Goals

Addressing Critical Community Needs
- Strive to address key issues in Northeast Houston such as senior citizen care, mental illness & wellness, trash dumping, food insecurity, poverty/financial literacy, education, vocational training, prison re-entry, home ownership, homelessness, afterschool programming, crime, etc.
- Identify and execute one joint effort community outreach per month.

Church Unity & Collaboration
- Collaborate to maximize the strengths and resources within the coalition.
- Unite on issues of resource & information sharing, senior care, food disparity and economic development.
- Centralize all coalition communication and resource sharing.
- Continue monthly coalition meetings.

Participating Churches

- Bethany Baptist Church
- Canaan MBC
- Christian Life Community Church
- East Park MBC
- Fellowship of Enlightenment
- Forest Lawn MBC
- Freedom Church International
- Good Shepherd MBC
- Grace Cathedral Church of Houston
- Grace Church International
- Greater New Grove Christian Worship Center
- Greater Oak Grove Church
- Greater Pure Light Church
- Greater True Light Church
- Household of Faith
- Kingdom Story Church
- Mt. Zion MBC
- New Beginning Church Supernatural
- New Faith Baptist Church Northeast
- New Pleasant Grove MBC
- Summer Creek Baptist Church
- Sweet Home MBC
- Tabernacle of Praise

Participating Organizations

- Community Works CDC
- City of Houston District B
- City of Houston Health Department
- Houston Food Bank
- Urban Community Network
- No Borders, Inc.

Contact us:

- www.NortheastHoustonResponds.org
- Johnny@HoustonResponds.org
- 832-453-6003