



## HOUSTON LEVEE COMMUNITY CENTER

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, it is worth looking back and noting just a few of the highlights from the year. It was a busy year as we celebrated our Grand Opening of the Houston Levee Community Center. We were delighted that Senator Kelsey, Director Rallings, and Commissioner Roland could join us to share their enthusiasm for our efforts to serve the Cordova community. If you haven't seen the pictures, please check out the website or Facebook page.

The Center's efforts in 2016 continually received publicity from several media and print outlets, including guest appearances on two morning shows and feature stories with the *Memphis Daily News* and the Latino newspaper, *El Norte*. Amy Speropoulos with WMC-TV (Channel 24) not only welcomed HLCC to the *Local Memphis Live* studio prior to our Grand Opening, but she also recently featured our Christmas Promise Dinner. Likewise, we had the privilege of appearing with Marybeth Conley at WREG-TV (Channel 3) on her *Live at 9* morning show. We are very grateful to these stations for sharing our story with the city of Memphis! These appearances can be viewed on our Facebook page or on the stations' websites if you missed them.

The provision of grant-aid to support the community center is one of our main highlights and priorities. This year we acquired grants from Mid-South Literacy Foundation, Wal-Mart and one anonymous large grant with a combined total value of \$1.02 million dollars. Our hats are off to the Houston Levee Community Center Board of Directors for their support in securing these funds as well as achieving 100% participation in board giving. Let's take a look at how funds received enabled HLCC to impact the community in 2016:

In March and October we provided two semesters of ESL classes to 40 Hispanic residents at the Cottonwood Apartments. We were able to teach functional conversational classes ending with each participant receiving a certificate and library card. Special thanks to a group of five committed volunteers who provided a combined total of 120 hours of their time.

We would also like to recognize the special efforts of a committed group of volunteers who participated in our Drive Thru Prayer event. We are thankful for such a movement of God during the initial event and to see the continuation of the program every Wednesday evening.

In May, we hired a program and a development manager as we entered into our first summer camp program. We registered over 80 participants for Summer Camp, and 98% of parents reported being very satisfied with the program services their children received.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was a huge success with over 15 teams and 20 sponsors. We are anticipating a growing and exciting golf event for 2017 and will be announcing the date and location soon.

Work continued this year with our Before and After-school Program which currently has a waiting list. To date, we have 20 children who use the before care only, 40 for both before and after, and 20 for after only. Parents are so excited to have a safe, affordable, Christian environment that allows them to travel to work worry-free.

Other Highlights include:

- Hired a total of 10 Calvary members for employment opportunities and 2 Cordova residents.
- Zumba instructor is a Cordova resident and averages 15 participants per week
- Served 15 families this year from Food Pantry.
- Adopted Mt. Pisgah Middle School.
- 8 HLCC families attended VBS and approximately 5 families visited a Sunday service
- Over 25 business partnerships created including United Health Care, Paragon Bank, Trustmark Bank, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Shelby County Schools, and Goodwill Job Center.

Houston Levee Community Center is a dream come true! The potential is immense. We hope you will continue to join us in our efforts to extend the love of Christ into this community in 2017!

Respectfully,

Tonya Bradley  
Executive Director