

MINISTRIES

Missions

About missions

- Local Volunteer Opportunities
- International Missions/Trips
- Youth Missions

Local Volunteer Opportunities

Advancing Churches in Mission Commitment

Austin Bridge Builder's Alliance

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Christmas International House

Community New Start

- Smart Start After-School Program
- Smart Start Mentor Program
- Smart Start Sponsorships
- Servant Chef Program
- Prayer for the Community
- Cross Works
- One-Time or On-Call Opportunities
- Community House
- Your Own Community
- Community Partners

Community Outreach

CROP Walk

Daily Bread

Foundation for the Homeless

- Tuesday Morning Breakfast
- Interfaith Hospitality Network

Habitat for Humanity

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship-Scholarships

Manos de Cristo

- Food Panty
- Clothes Closet
- ESL Teachers
- Annual Back-to-School Closet
- Various Volunteer Opportunities

Movin' and Groovin'

Presbyterian Children's Home

Samaritan Counseling Center

Texas Reach Out

West Austin Caregivers

Woolridge Elementary School Program

International/Trips

Cuba Mission Trip
Muang Thai Foundation
Nicaragua Mission Trip
Nicaragua Medical Mission
Zambia Medical Mission
World Vision: Senegal
World Welcome - International Student Mission
Prayer Team

Youth Mission Opportunities

Summer Mission Trip
Tijuana Trip
Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Cards to the Homebound

Local

Do you the time to help Austinites in need? Through local missions, Covenant members assist people and programs in and around Austin. We've spelled out numerous opportunities -- from mentoring and coaching young kids to preparing food and running errands or walking and running for a cause. Click on the following list to learn more about the local missions that Covenant sponsors.

Advancing Churches in Mission Commitment (ACMC)

(This organization is merging with Caleb Project and being renamed Initiative 360)
This group helps churches in Austin and in the entire Texas/Oklahoma/Arkansas region to take their rightful places in mission. They support and challenge area congregations to make missions happen. Blake McDaniel is the area contact, assisting with mission strategy and training in this region.

When

Volunteers may be asked to volunteer at the ACMC regional conference March 2-3 in Austin and/or to attend monthly ACMC training meetings.

How can I help?

You can help ACMC by:

- Attending the conference
- Assisting with training strategy by attending monthly meetings
- Providing monetary support for Mr. McDaniel

For more information about ACMC, contact Blake McDaniel

blakemcdaniel@austin.rr.com

Austin Bridge Builder's Alliance

The Austin Bridge Builder's Alliance (ABBA) is driven by the Biblical mandate in Jeremiah 29:7 to "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city." As such, ABBA's mission is

to serve Christian and community leaders. ABBA aims to connect churches, para-churches and non-profit ministries with one another to build alliances that contribute to making Austin a great city for all people.

Two key events of ABBA are:

- The Global Day of Prayer: More than 25 churches in Austin participate in prayer and activities.
- The Pastors' Prayer Gathering: Senior pastors of Austin churches gather at Camp Buckner to orientate new pastors, pray and celebrate.

When

- **Global Prayer Day** occurs annually on Pentecost Sunday.
- **Pastors' Prayer Gathering** will take place on January 29-30, 2007 at Camp Buckner.
- **Administrative, writing and research needs** are ongoing and can be scheduled with ABBA at a time convenient for you.
- **2008 City Symposium Steering Committee:** Symposium will bring city and community leaders together to facilitate discussion about what we can do as Christians to meet the needs of the city. Planning starts in early 2007 and attendance at planning meetings, usually held in the evenings, is requested.

How can I help?

You can help ABBA by:

- Planning and volunteering for various tasks at the Pastor's Orientation for newer pastors in Austin
- Providing various volunteer tasks for the Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday
- Writing articles for the ABBA newsletter
- Performing various administrative tasks
- Researching and compiling a database of Austin churches to show what missions churches are working on; this will be used to connect churches and volunteers throughout the city
- Providing financial support

For more information about the Austin Bridge Builders Alliance, contact Bob Sleet rsleet@austin.rr.com or 301-1950.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) works to help boys and girls achieve their potential through positive adult relationships. BBBS research shows that this volunteer program makes a powerful, lasting impact. Little brothers and sisters are:

- 52% less likely to skip school
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- More likely to get along with their families and peers

Covenant members also help with the BBBS Angel Tree Program, where volunteers mentor a youth with an incarcerated parent.

When

Big brothers and sisters volunteer at a mutually convenient time for the big and little for four (4) hours a month. The meeting may be at the home or school of the little brother/sister, or at another location.

How can I help?

You can:

- Volunteer to be a
 - Big brother
 - Big sister
 - Big couple
- Volunteer to be a big brother/sister in the Angel Tree Program

(In both opportunities, BBBS sets up the match, and provides a specialist to give guidance. The organization also provides discounts for certain activities.)

For more information about Big Brothers/Big Sisters, contact Eric Stumberg estumberg@austin.rr.com or 302-5741.

Christmas International House

The Christmas International House (CIH) is a Christian ministry designed to offer hospitality to students during the Christmas holidays. This program gives students an opportunity to visit in an American home and to become acquainted with different areas of the country and learn about the American culture. Students and hosts develop friendships and learn how to exchange ideas and develop relationships with people who come from countries with different ideologies. The Central Presbyterian Church leads this mission.

When

The Christmas International House seeks volunteers for a one to two-week commitment between December 16 and January 2.

How can I help?

You can help with the Christmas International House by:

- Opening up your house to an international student
 - CIH asks that you provide a place for the student to sleep and breakfast, and transport the student to the meeting point each day.
- Serve as a transition host
 - When the students move from one host to the next, sometimes the dates don't synch up. In these cases, we need a very short-term transition host.
- Plan and/or host tours, meals and/or events for the student(s) during the holiday break
- Provide driving for the students to the day's activity or other locations as requested

For more information about Christmas International House, contact Terry Cole terry.cole@amd.com or 453-2650, or Kathi Thomas (Central Presbyterian) Kathi@hasting.com at 301-2195.

Community Connections

Community Connections, a ministry working in the St. John neighborhood of east Austin, aims to “build community.” By training and encouraging leaders, and by connecting the various services already present in east Austin, residents will be empowered to overcome the problems that plague their families and build a safe, caring and productive neighborhood. Community Connections works closely with schools, health providers, churches, and others, and celebrates all cultures.

Community Connections welcomes partners from outside the neighborhood who wish to work beside residents in a dignified, empowering way. The organization believes that God has a purpose and plan for every man, woman and child in St. John and helps east Austin churches who have the desire to reach out to the residents.

When

Depending on the specific project, volunteering for Community Connections can be a one-time event, such as HopeFest – which brought 60 service organizations and agencies with 3,000 local residents for a day of community outreach, or a mission day of cleaning the neighborhood. Volunteers may elect to help with administrative tasks for a few hours once a week, mentor a child from one of the area schools or help coordinate an Alpha Spanish course.

How can I help?

Community Connections aims for volunteers from outside the neighborhood to come and work alongside the resident. In that spirit, the organization seeks the following:

Neighborhood clean-up volunteers: For its impressive participation in clean-up efforts, the St. John neighborhood recently won the "Best Neighborhood" award from Keep Austin Beautiful. Until recently, St. John was considered a very rundown neighborhood so this award marked quite a turnaround publicizing the fact that neighbors are taking pride in making the area a safe and clean place to live.

Adopt-a-class: Pickle Elementary, Webb Middle School and Reagan High need volunteers to mentor kids or set up short and/or long term projects to help support the schools.

Spanish Alpha Course coordinator: If you have Alpha experience, help coordinate and Alpha Course in Spanish for St. Johns residents.

Administrative assistance: Help with clerical tasks in the office a few hours or a full day once a week.

Mission training participants: Community Connections is looking for young people with a call to missions. We offer regular seminars, as well as longer-term training, in a cross-cultural environment.

For more information about how you can help with Community Connections, check out

the organization's website at www.connectionsAustin.org. Contact Allen Weeks aweeks@connectionsAustin.org or Julie Weeks jweeks@connectionsAustin.org or via phone at 653-4935.

Community New Start

Community New Start (CNS), an organization committed to transforming the city of Austin, aims to help at-risk neighborhoods. Currently CNS is focused on helping Austin's St. John neighborhood. CNS connects caring people and churches together through numerous events and projects.

When

Community New Start has opportunities at all times of day throughout the month. The activities are defined below; times and days are included in the descriptions.

How can I help?

You can help Community New Start by volunteering for the following opportunities, which are further defined below: <<[Click on these to get to the info below](#)>>

- Smart Start After-School Program
- Smart Start Mentor Program
- Smart Start Sponsorships
- Servant Chef Program
- Prayer for the Community
- Cross Works
- One-Time or On-Call Opportunities
- Community House
- Your Own Community
- Community Partners

For more information about Community New Start programs, contact Thais Kilday thais.kilday@earthlink.net or 453-3686.

Smart Start After-School Program: This program provides a safe, healthy, Christian learning environment where students receive personalized attention to their academic, spiritual, and physical needs through tutoring, bible study and recreation.

1. Pickle and Brown Elementary Schools (Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade)

Teacher's Aide: Assist the Smart Start teacher facilitating program activities.

- **When:** Volunteers in this role are available from 3-5:30 at least once a week. They participate in a two-hour orientation and pass a criminal background check.

Classroom Assistant: Establish relationships with and provide support to individual students or assist the class with specific tasks (such as homework help, bible study or recreation time).

- **When:** Volunteers in this role are available from 3-5:30 at least once a week. They participate in a two-hour orientation and pass a criminal background check.

2. Webb Middle School

Group Mentor/Coach: Serve as a mentor and coach to middle school-age boys and girls through Bible study, life skills, creative arts and team sports. Volunteers work in pairs with a group of up to six students.

- **When:** Volunteers are available on Thursdays from 3-5:30 p.m. They must pass a criminal background check. CNS asks for at least a one-semester commitment.

Group Events: Participate in events and activities where various small groups come together for social events such as pizza night or weekend trips to the pool.

- **When:** Volunteers should be available two times a month and pass a criminal background check.

Smart Start Mentor Program: Establish a one-on-one relationship with children, giving them the opportunity to grow spiritually, emotionally and academically.

1. **Mentor:** Brown Elementary, Pickle Elementary and Webb Middle Schools (1st-8th grades).
2. **When:** Mentor a child enrolled in the Smart Start program at a time of your convenience during the school day once or twice a month. Mentors must complete a two-hour orientation and pass a criminal background check. One-year commitment requested.

Smart Start Sponsorships: Provide quality after-school care free of charge to the families in the neighborhoods that CNS serves.

1. **A Student Sponsorship:** Contribute \$35 a month for curriculum, field trips and teacher costs for one child.
2. **Classroom Sponsorship:** Contribute \$350 a month to subsidize the cost of curriculum, field trips and teacher salaries for one class of ten students, and help CNS maintain a 1:5 ration of adults to students in the 15 Smart Start classrooms at Brown and Pickle Elementary Schools.

Servant Chef Program: Provide a family-oriented social time around a healthy meal for families with children in the Smart Start program

1. **Servant Chef Team:** Provide and serve dinner to approximately 40-60.
 - **When:** Three times a year on Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Prayer for the Community

Corporately call upon and praise God's benevolent intervention in the known and unknown troubles experienced by the members of the St. John community.

1. **Prayer Walking:** Walk and pray for the St. John community with the CNS family.
 - **When:** 4th Thursday of each month from 9-9:45a.m.
2. **Alternate Prayer:** Join the prayer teams around Austin to pray for Community New Start and the communities of Austin.

Cross Works: Provide a way for endurance athletes from our church partners to engage in training, discipleship, community service and competitions.

1. **Cross Works Team:** Train and compete in an endurance competition such as a triathlon, marathon, long distance cycling event or other athletic competition.
 - **When:** Contact CNS to find out how to join teams forming for events in 2007.

One-Time or On-Call Opportunities: Provide one-time or specialized assistance on an “as-needed” basis.

1. **Specialized Assistance:** Use your professional or vocational skills, such as healthcare and education, to enrich the lives of Austin families.
2. **One-Time Service Projects:** Participate in scheduled service projects in communities throughout Austin, such as Community Clean-Up Days or Clothing “Swap Meets.”
3. **Holiday Service Projects:**
 - Provide a meal for a family in a community served by CNS
 - Donate books, recreational equipment, and supplies for the Smart Start Program**When:** See church bulletins for when you can help with the ad-hoc scheduled events.

Your Own Community

Community New Start has a vision for the whole city of Austin. Be an instrument of community renewal in your own neighborhood by becoming a Haven House Leader on your very own block. Training is free and available upon request.

1. **Haven House Leader:** Participate in encouraging your neighbors to restore the bonds inherent in the word “community.”
 - **When:** Free training is available upon request.

For more information about all of these Community New Start Programs, contact Thais Kilday thais.kilday@earthlink.net or 453-3686.

Crop Walk

CROP Hunger Walks are community fund-raising events that bring together people of all faiths to raise money for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) events began almost 60 years ago. Today CROP Hunger Walks are the only events that raise awareness and funds to address both international and local needs.

When

The CROP Walk takes place in Austin annually on the first weekend in March; Covenant typically walks on Sunday.

How can I help?

You can help with the CROP Walk by:

- Walking in the event
- Donating to walkers in the event
- Volunteering to help with the event

For more information, contact Evangeline Herring evaherring@austin.rr.com or 458-6471.

Daily Bread/Lifeworks

Once a week, Covenant Presbyterian members provide the “Daily Bread”(a warm meal) for about 40 kids from LifeWorks, an Austin-based non-profit agency that offers youth and family services to homeless children and young adults, ages 10-23.

When

Volunteers are needed for Daily Bread on Tuesdays. Food can be dropped off anytime during the day, but must arrive by 4 p.m. The meal is served from 4:15- 5:30 p.m. at University Baptist Church.

How can I help?

To help with the Daily Bread program, you can:

- Buy groceries
- Prepare a meal and deliver it to University Baptist Church
- Serve the meal
- Donate backpacks and/or sleeping bags around Christmas.

For more information about Daily Bread and to learn how you can help, contact Cathy Pita jjcp45@aol.com or 250-9979.

Foundation for the Homeless

The Foundation for the Homeless (FFH) mobilizes community resources to alleviate homelessness in the spirit of compassion, hope and love. With these resources from faith communities, FFH aims to alleviate the suffering of homeless people in Austin. FFH also helps people work toward a self-sufficient lifestyle by building relationships between thousand of volunteers from local faith communities and homeless families with children. Covenant assists with two FFH programs:

- The Breakfast Program
- The Interfaith Hospitality Network (INH).

1) The Breakfast Program

On the second Tuesday of every month, Covenant members prepare breakfast for about 300 homeless people. Volunteers spend time visiting with the people. They provide some clothing, and make appointments for haircuts and eye exams. The Homeless Breakfast is served at First United Methodist Church at 13th Street and Lavaca.

When

Second Tuesday of each month at 5 a.m. at First United Methodist Church.

How can I help?

You can help with the Homeless Breakfast by:

- Purchasing, preparing and/or delivering food
- Serving and/or assisting with clean up at First United Methodist
- Visiting with the homeless at the church during and after the meal

For more information about the Breakfast Program, contact Gail Ross OBGMR@AOL.com or 327-6630.

2) Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network, a shelter program based on a national model, provides transitional shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Host churches, synagogues and support congregations collaborate to provide year-round shelter, meals and support to families as they work toward achieving goals of permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

When

Families stay at the church four to five times during the year.

How can I help?

Host congregations (Covenant is one of eight) provide overnight lodging, meals and hospitality in their congregation's facilities for one week at a time, four to five times a year. Volunteers can help by:

- Unloading the trailer (guests' belongings) and setting up "bedrooms" at the beginning of the week
- Assisting with laundry of bedding and towels at the end of the week
- Repacking the guests' trailer and turning the bedrooms back into church rooms at the end of the week
- Preparing and serving meals
- Acting as evening hosts
- Staying overnight as a host
- Assisting with organization and recruiting

For more information about the Interfaith Hospitality Network, contact Sara Chenault schenault@austin.rr.com or 451 2225.

Movin' and Groovin'

Movin' and Groovin' is a Covenant mission that helps the homeless by collecting gently used furniture to distribute to people who recently moved off the street into a home.

When

You can contribute your furniture at any time and arrange a convenient time for pick-up at your house.

How can I help?

- Donate your gently used furniture

For more information about Movin' and Groovin', contact Paul Mallory pmowry@sbcglobal.net or <need phone number>

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses. Habitat houses are sold to families at no profit, and are financed with affordable loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build more Habitat houses.

Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1,000,000 people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

When:

Covenant is the lead church for the Austin-area Presbyterian Build in 2007. Volunteers from about 10 local Presbyterian churches will build a house in spring 2007.

How can I help:

This spring, we will seek people to fill the following positions on our Habitat team:

- A lead coordinator to be in charge of the logistics of getting our team in place
- Volunteers to help with light construction, and meals and snacks for the team
- A prayer team

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, contact Thais Kilday thais.kilday@earthlink.net or 453-3686.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (ICF)

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (ICF) at the University of Texas is five independent, interconnected student organizations. The undergrad and graduate multi-ethnic groups enable us to celebrate aspects of culture by seeing differences and recognizing that no single culture fully reflects God's image by itself. Our ethnic specific fellowships are open to all, but seek especially to be places where we can share in and learn about the unique expressions, joys and challenges of our ethnic heritage. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship includes the following organizations:

- Texas Christian Fellowship
- OneWay Bible Study
- Texas Gospel Fellowship
- Asian American Campus Ministry
- LaFe - Latino Fellowship

When

Numerous opportunities throughout the school year are presented through ICF, which include weekly meetings for the specific organizations as well as an annual conference,

which takes place in December. All ICF activities are further defined at <http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/ivcf/events.html>.

How can I help?

Intervarsity needs your:

- Prayer support
- Help with various service projects (see web)
- Monetary support for scholarships

For more information about the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, contact Terry Cole terry.cole@amd.com or 453-2650.

Manos de Cristo

Manos de Cristo aims to provide Christian care and nurture for the body, mind and spirit of those who have difficulty finding and receiving this care from other services in the Austin community. Those served may be the poor, the homeless, refugees and others who for various reasons lack the resources to meet their daily needs. Manos de Cristo serves the Austin community with low-cost dental health care; pastoral counseling; a clothes closet; a food pantry; after-school tutoring; English and Spanish language classes; and citizenship classes.

The following Manos de Cristos activities are sponsored through Covenant:

- Food Panty
- Clothes Closet
- ESL
- Annual Back-to-School Closet
- Various Volunteer Opportunities

Food Pantry

The Manos de Cristo Food Pantry offers emergency assistance to four different households every day, Monday through Friday. Extra care is taken to meet families' preferences and special challenges, such as dietary restrictions or limited cooking facilities. The Pantry is stocked with donations from generous individuals, organizations and churches, as well as with food purchased from the Capital Area Food Bank. Individuals and families are eligible to return to the Food Pantry every six months, if needed.

When

2-3 hours once a month

How can I help?

As a monthly volunteer, you would:

- Prepare grocery orders that yield nutritious and balanced meals

Clothes Closet

The Manos de Cristo Clothes Closet offers gently used clothing for infants, children and adults. Volunteers sort and organize the clothing and assist people in making selections. Baby clothes, work pants and shoes are always in high demand. For many adults, the Clothes Closet gives them the opportunity to have an appropriate outfit for job interviews or other important events. Individuals and families are eligible to return to the Clothes Closet every three months, if needed.

When

Work on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 – 11 a.m. at the Manos Clothes Closet. Once a month commitment requested; substitutes needed.

How can I help?

As a Manos Clothes Closet volunteers, you will be asked to:

- Sort and organize the clothing
- Assist people in making selections.

ESL

Manos holds ESL classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and those who attend usually do so before or after a long day of work. For some immigrants who came to Austin with little or no knowledge of English, ESL classes enable them to get a job or a promotion. At the conclusion of ESL classes, students participate in an optional devotional, consisting of prayers, music and song. Manos provides orientation and training for volunteer teachers of English as a Second Language classes. Ability to speak Spanish is not required, but it is helpful.

When

Volunteers for ESL classes are needed Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m., and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

How can I help?

Manos-trained volunteer instructors:

- Teach English
- Provide a supportive space where ESL students from 18 to 80 can learn without being laughed at or judged
- Help students learn basic life skills that help them with shopping, getting around the city and adjusting to United States culture

Annual Back-to-School Program

The Back-to-School Program is a community-wide campaign throughout Greater Austin with churches, corporations and individuals donating cash, resources and hundreds of volunteer hours. The service is open to all Pre-K through 8th grade children. In 2005, more than 1,500 students selected two new outfits for school and received a backpack of supplies. The challenge for Manos is to reduce the waiting time. But the students and their families don't seem to mind. They enjoy food, music and puppet shows while they wait their turn.

When

The Manos Back to School Closet occurs during three weeks in late July. Volunteers are needed daily for 3-4 hours.

How can I help?

The Manos Back-to-School closet needs volunteers to:

- Organize and sort clothing
- Set up the closet
- Distribute clothing to students in the community.
- Assist with spiritual components: crafts, music, singing, puppets and Biblical drama.

Administrative Volunteers

Manos needs administrative assistance in the office during the week.

When

Help in the office at your convenience arranged with the Manos coordinator at Covenant.

How can I help?

You can help in the Manos office by:

- Performing administrative tasks in the Manos office, such as mailings, data entry and typing, as well as other clerical tasks that need attention.

Covenant Coordinators

Manos de Cristos needs volunteers from the church to coordinate Manos activities on the Covenant Church campus.

When

Manos volunteers pitch in for 30 minutes two to three times during the week or between Sunday services.

How can I help?

You can help Manos with publicity; the organization often seeks volunteers with desktop publishing skills to create posters and announcements.

As a volunteer coordinator, you may be asked to help with:

- Annual benefit fund in March
- Back-to-school in June
- Annual tamale sale in November and December
- Ongoing requests for food and clothing donations from members.

For more information about any of these Manos de Cristos activities, contact Cheryl Banks cbesta@austin.rr.com or 231-8493, or Gloria Moren antonglo@mycidco.com or 459-0634.

Presbyterian Children's Home

The Presbyterian Children's Home provides a loving home for up to six girls who would

otherwise be placed in foster homes. Founded in 1903 to serve the needs of orphans, the Presbyterian Children's has expanded to meet the changing needs of children and families in crisis. Today, the mission has 18 group homes in five Texas locations serving 130 children at any given time.

When

Covenant members act as liaisons between the Presbyterian Children's Home and our church to facilitate communications between the two organizations. Volunteers are expected to work for about one hour a month. Coordinators also meet two times a year to discuss special events, which may require additional Covenant volunteers.

How can I help?

You can help with the Presbyterian Children's Home by:

- Serving as a liaison between the home and Covenant. In this role, one to two volunteers are asked to give a one-year commitment and will:
 - Facilitate communication between the two organizations
 - Identify opportunities for service and collaboration. This may include volunteer opportunities for Covenant members, and financial and/or material needs at the home
 - Maintain contact with the home
 - Provide recommendations regarding Covenant's continued support of this ministry

For more information about the Presbyterian Children's Home, contact Thais Kilday, thais.kilday@earthlink.net or 453-3686.

Samaritan Counseling Center

The Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care is a private, not-for-profit, interfaith counseling center. The Center offers faith-based mental health counseling to adults, children, individuals, couples and families of all ages in offices throughout central Texas. The Center also provides workshops, educational seminars and training opportunities for clergy, congregations, civic groups, employers and other community organizations on a variety of mental health topics. Services are provided regardless of an individual's ability to pay. In 2005, the Center provided nearly 1,400 individuals with 10,000 counseling sessions; 20% of whom are Presbyterian. Approximately 15% of Presbyterian clients are from Covenant Presbyterian Church, twice as many as any other church.

When

Covenant volunteers may serve as a liaison between the Samaritan Counseling Services and Covenant Presbyterian Church and work for one hour, or less, a month. Volunteers may also provide administrative help in the counseling center's office for two hours a month on a regular basis.

How can I help?

You can help at the Samaritan Counseling Center by:

- Becoming a liaison. In this capacity, you will:
 - Facilitate communication between the two organizations
 - Identify opportunities for service and collaboration
 - Maintain contact with Samaritan Counseling Center
 - Provide recommendations regarding Covenant's continued support of this ministry
- Providing administrative help in the Samaritan Counseling Center where you will help file, answer phones and greet clients

For more information about the Samaritan Counseling Center, contact Thais Kilday thais.kilday@sbcglobal.net or 453-3686.

Texas Reach Out

Texas Reach Out Ministries specializes in transitional housing for homeless as a result of unsuccessful integration into society after an extended prison stay. Reach Out Ministries serves only those men and women who have made a serious commitment to change their life course and a conscious decision for Christ. To assist the residents in rebuilding their self-esteem, volunteers from Reach Out Ministries actively seek employers to hire residents, giving them the means for a future of self-sufficiency.

When

Texas Reach Out seeks volunteers who are willing to meet with residents 1-2 hours a week or lead a Bible study once a week.

How can I help?

Texas Reach out is looking for volunteers who are willing to step up to the following assignments:

- Mentor: Take one-two hours a week to mentor a Texas Reach Out resident.
- Bible study leader: Once a week, lead a group in a Bible Study.
- Sponsor a house bed: By giving \$200 a month, you enable Texas Reach Out to support another resident.
- Join the Christian Employer Network: If you own a business or hire employees for a company, you could become part of this network. By joining the network, you agree to interview residents.

For more information about Texas Reach Out, contact Nelson Mann at nmann@austin.rr.com or 459-5692.

West Austin Caregivers

West Austin Caregivers is a coalition of congregations that offer services at no charge to the recipients, mostly older adults. These services, such as providing rides and assisting with grocery shopping, help older adults maintain and improve their quality of life. With the assistance of volunteer caregivers and program staff, clients can meet their own needs and continue to live independently. West Austin Caregivers is run by two staff members,

a board of directors, an interfaith coalition of 16 congregations and more than 100 volunteers.

When

Volunteers may be asked to provide services throughout the week, or they may visit or run errands for older adults on their own timeframe. They receive one hour of training. Also, 25 volunteers, usually members of the MOMs group, bake and deliver cookies just before Christmas as part of the West Austin Caregivers' Cookie Connection.

How can I help?

There are many ways to help the West Austin Caregivers. Volunteers may be asked to:

- Provide rides for medical visits and grocery shopping
- Handle minor home repairs
- Visit the older adults
- Drop off medical items, such as walkers and wheel chairs, to older adults
- Bake, package and deliver cookies prior to Christmas
- Provide financial support

Note: West Austin Caregivers has a geographical service area North: HW 183, South: Town Lake, West: 360 and Lake Austin, East: Burnet Rd.

For more information about the West Austin Caregivers, contact John Scurlock scurryjs@prodigy.net or 453-7903.

Wooldridge Elementary School Education Program

Help boys and girls achieve their potential through positive adult mentoring relationships. By mentoring these grade school-age children, you serve as positive Christian mentor and encourage the best in Austin youth.

When

Volunteers in the Wooldridge School Education program are expected to meet with their assigned student once a week, usually at the school during school hours, such as lunchtime.

How can I help?

You can help the Wooldridge Elementary program by:

- Volunteering to be a mentor
- Helping to recruit new volunteers

For more information about the Woolridge Elementary School Education Program, contact Barbara Rogers at 452-6265.

INTERNATIONAL and TRIPS

Covenant church members participate in several mission trips throughout the year. Through our travels, we spread God's word to countries where He can serve to give new hope and make a real difference in the lives of the people there. We often bring supplies,

such as layettes and medicines, to improve the health and living for people abroad and in some cases, we help to build and restore homes and schools.

We invite you to learn more about the following trips:

- Cuba Mission Trip
- Muang Thai Foundation
- Nicaragua Mission Trip
- Nicaragua Medical Mission
- World Vision: Senegal
- World Welcome - International Student Mission
 - The Navigators
- Zambia Medical Mission
 - Alliance for Children Everywhere
 - e3 Partners
 - Justo Mwale Theological. College, Zambia

Cuba Mission

The Cuba partnership is about developing long-term relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Luyano Presbyterian Church in Havana, Cuba. Because of the political climate in Cuba, volunteers aim to create relational bonds with Luyano congregation members, rather than the traditional physical building that mission trips often provide.

When

The Cuban Mission trip takes place in November when volunteers spend a week in Havana. Registration for the trip takes place from February to May, allowing ample time to prepare proper travel documentation.

How can I help?

To help with the Cuba Mission trip, you can:

- Volunteer to go on the trip as one of the 15 (or so) Covenant members who travel to Havana
- Contribute supplies, such as over-the-counter medicines and baby goods
- Pray for those traveling to Cuba

For more information about the Cuba Mission trip, contact Jack Kern
jackckern@sbcglobal.net or 454-9166.

Muang Thai Foundation

The Muang Thai Foundation works to teach English to rural Thai children in the Roi-et Province in northeast Thailand. It has the goal to build relationships in Christ's life.

When

Continual Support is needed for this mission. Covenant has sent and supported one missionary, and seeks support for future, as yet unplanned, missions.

How can I help?

The Maung Thai Foundation seeks monetary support or a future mission, college scholarships and gift boxes.

For more information, contact Joe Muck thaimuck@gmail.com or 794-9260.

Nicaragua Mission

Twice a year, 30 Covenant members embark on a week-long journey to Nicaragua, working to improve the lives of disadvantaged Nicaraguans by providing them with the tools to meet some of their long-term needs in the areas of salvation, medical care, education and employment. Traveling as part of the NiCE (Nicaragua Christian Education Foundation) ministry, our members are part of a short-term mission team comprised of people of all ages and denominations from different cities with skills that enable them to have a meaningful experience ministering in Nicaragua.

When

The next mission trip will take place in Spring 2007. Volunteers are asked to meet monthly to plan, promote and gather collections for the trip and the mission team.

How can I help?

You can help the Nicaragua Mission by:

- Traveling to Nicaragua as part of the mission team
- Performing the duties of trip planner
- Helping to promote the mission and the trip
- Organizing items, such as layettes, books and other items for the trip
- Contributing layettes, books and other items for the trip.

For more information about the Cuba Mission, contact Cathy Pita jjcp45@aol.com or 250-9979.

Nicaragua Medical Mission

Covenant members travel to Nicaragua to help with healthcare, construction, tutoring and more. Through this mission, our volunteers, some of whom are health care professionals, provide medical treatments, promote better health and deliver medicine. They also assist with construction and in schools.

When

A medical mission trip is planned for October 2007.

How can I help?

While there are many healthcare and health-related components of this trip, we also help with many other things. If you are interested in traveling to Nicaragua, you may:

- Work as a healthcare professional to assess and provide help for the people
- Work in schools with the children of Nicaragua
- Assist women who have just had babies,
- Assist in the construction of needed buildings and homes

You may also volunteer to be a “sender” for this trip by:

- Assisting in planning and publicizing the trip
- Transporting the Go team to and from the airport
- Updating the congregation on the team’s progress abroad

If you are interested in learning more about Covenant’s medical mission to Nicaragua, contact Cathy Pita jjcp45@aol.com or 250-9979.

World Vision: Senegal

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. The group works to transform the lives of the world’s poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries, including the United States. The cornerstone of Covenant’s work with World Vision is sponsoring children in the Tattaguine Area Development Plan in central Senegal. Through child sponsorships (\$35 per month), about 200 Covenant families directly support 250 children and their families. These Covenant families communicate with their sponsored child through letters, making the child, the situation and his/her hope real and personal.

When

Help with the Senegal project is needed on a periodic basis, and usually involves marketing between Sunday services, and preparing reports, flyers and kiosk displays on your own time. About five church members travel to Senegal for 10 days (March 14-24) and other members act as senders, taking part in meetings and keeping the congregation information of the team’s projects.

How can I help?

To help with the World Vision Tattaguine project in Senegal, Covenant members can:

- Sponsor a child
- Administer the sponsorship program by helping to publicize semi-annual sponsorship opportunities on the patio
- Prepare periodic reports and publicity via church publications, flyers and kiosk displays
- Create scrapbooks and video compilations to preserve the record of our Senegal mission
- Travel to Senegal and visit the Tattaguine project. On the 10-day trip, members attend an evangelical event, visit the villages where we sponsor children, and visit related missions in the area as emissaries for Christ
- Act as “senders,” attending the preparatory meetings and learning about this project, and the culture and language of the people. Senders take the traveling team to the airport to see them off and receive them back. The senders keep the congregation informed of the team’s progress.

For more information about how you can get involved with World Vision: Senegal, contact Noel Durrant Noeld@austin.rr.com or 346-7435.

World Welcome – International Student Mission

World Welcome is a ministry that seeks to express the love of Christ to international students living in Austin. Many international students face loneliness, isolation and confusion. Through World Welcome, students attend social events, Bible studies and English classes. This ministry also provides practical assistance for the students as they adjust to life in the U.S.

When

World Welcome sponsors a number of events for students that include Bible lessons on Mondays throughout the school year from 9:30 to noon, friendship partners who meet on their own time, event planners who also meet on their own time and event day volunteers for special events scheduled in September, March and May. Expect three hours for these events.

How can I help?

To assist international students through the World Welcome Mission, you may volunteer for any of the following:

- Small group leader: Lead a small group of international women discussing the English language and the Bible
- Substitute small group leader: Those who can't commit to lead small groups every week may sign up to help out when the regular leader is unable to attend
- Friendship partner: Meet one-on-one with international student
- Event planner: Plan and prepare for special events for the families of international students. These events are typically in September, March and May
- Event day volunteers: Attend events and socialize with the students

For more information about World Welcome, contact Julie Williams jlrwilliams@sbcglobal.net or 346-4590.

- **The Navigators** (works closely with World Welcome): The Navigators, <http://www.navigators.org/us/>, is an international evangelism organization working in the U.S. and abroad. CPC works with one evangelism team that serves University of Texas international students. Covenant provides monetary support for David and Karen Evans, who administer the local program. For more information, contact Karen Evans karenevans4@sbcglobal.net.

Zambia Medical Mission

Covenant members travel to Zambia to help with the healthcare needs of the country's poor. The team also helps with schools, construction and other related needs. The Covenant team is also involved in church planting. When local churches decide that they want to establish a New Covenant fellowship, our volunteers assist with the process, and train the pastors and elders. In 2006, Covenant helped start three new churches.

When

The trip to Zambia will take place May 31- June 11, 2007. The "Go" team will participate in cultural training prior to the trip.

How can I help?

While there are many healthcare and health-related components of this trip, we also help with many other things. If you are interested in traveling to Zambia, you may:

- Work as a healthcare professional to assess and treat the people
- Be a church planter, a person who evangelizes the Christian faith and assists and trains the Zambians to set up a New Covenant fellowship
- Work in schools with the children of Zambia
- Assist women who have just had babies,
- Assist in the construction of needed buildings and homes

You may also volunteer to be a “sender” for this trip by:

- Assisting in planning and publicizing the trip
- Transporting the Go team to and from the airport
- Updating the congregation on the team’s progress abroad

For more information about traveling as part of the medical mission to Zambia, contact Harold Skaggs hskaggs@hughes.net or 288-3467.

Zambia-Related Missions

- **Alliance for Children Everywhere:** Alliance for Children Everywhere (<http://www.childreneverwhere.org>) works for children in North America (Native American reservations), South America and Africa, and most recently in Zambia with children in crisis and AIDS orphans. They use their experience and skill in child rescue, and they partner with churches and individuals to bring children into healthy families, provide them with a basic education and share the love of God. For more information about this mission and how it relates to our work in Zambia, contact Terry Cole terry.cole@amd.com or 453-2650.
- **e3 Partners:** e3 Partners (<http://www.e3partners.org>) is an organization dedicated to evangelizing the lost and establishing churches. e3 missions, an organization that operates short-term mission trips throughout the world is a part of e3 Partners. Covenant is asked to support CPC member Patricia Caroom who participates and leads many church planning mission trips throughout the year to various locations including India, Africa and South America. For more information, contact Patricia at 454-2979.
- **Justo Mwale Theological. College, Zambia:** Justo Mwale Theological College services seminary students from all over Africa. These students are current and future evangelists, preparing to service the African continent for their lifetimes. We support them with our prayers and monetary support. For more information, contact Terry Cole terry.cole@amd.com or 453-2650.

Prayer Team

Behind all of our missions are lots of prayers. During these trips, the Prayer team meets and prays for those traveling, and serves as the liaison between them and the church. Provides intercession for mission trips.

For more information about prayer teams, contact Jan Obar Jansobar@aol.com or 259-1492.

Youth Missions

The young people of Covenant are busy with missions of their own. Junior and senior high school students learn about giving and see the world at the same time by participating in various programs sponsored by Covenant. From New Orleans to Tijuana, our kids are following God's word and making a difference in the lives of many.

Even our younger kids are learning early about how good it feels to give by sending letters and cards to our homebound members and donating key items to Manos de Cristo during Vacation Bible School and throughout the year at Sunday School.

Our youth take part in the following mission opportunities:

- Summer Mission Trip
- Tijuana Mission Trip
- Cards to the Homebound
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) Missions

Summer Mission Trip

Every summer, Covenant's high school and junior high school students embark on a mission trip of their own. On this journey – both a physical and spiritual one – our kids learn valuable lessons about helping others, all the time led by God's word.

When

The one-week trip usually takes place in July.

How can I help?

If you take part in this summer mission trip, you get the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who are less fortunate or who have come upon hard times. For instance, for the last two years, the youth have traveled to New Orleans to help with repairs in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. If you travel with the youth, you may be asked to:

- Repair homes and buildings affected by Hurricane Katrina or other natural disaster
- Clean up homes and buildings

For more information about the summer mission trip, contact Lesa Raney LRaney@covenant.org or 334-3008.

Tijuana Mission Trip (Project Casas)

How did you spend your last Spring Break? A group of Covenant kids, every year, travel to Tijuana to build houses for families, often led by single moms, who have never owned a home. Working with the Homes Without Boundaries organization, Covenant youth and adults work together on this challenging endeavor.

When

The students will travel to Tijuana March 10-17, 2007.

How can I help?

If you take this mission trip, you will helping in a number of ways, including:

- Building six 12x24-foot houses from foundation to finish (This means leveling the ground, laying a cement foundation, framing walls, building a roof and installing windows and doors)
- Worshipping together
- Playing with kids at the orphanage where we will be staying.

Note: At least 10 adult sponsors and Youth Staff also make the trip.

For more information about the Tijuana trip, contact Lesa Raney LRaney@covenant.org or 334-3008.

Cards to the Homebound

Just before the holidays, our younger children get their creative juices flowing, creating cards for our members who are homebound. During the Bible Adventures section of our Sunday School experience, the kids work on the cards.

When

The children work on the cards on Sunday mornings, usually for two or three weeks prior to Christmas, Valentines and Easter.

How can I help?

Kids, keep coming to Bible Adventures and making those cards. The more you make, the more fun it is for our homebound members to receive their care packages.

For more information about Cards to the Homebound, contact Stacey Grooms sgrooms@covenant.org or 334-3005.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Missions

Kids don't just have a great time at Vacation Bible School focusing on all the wonderful things that God has done, they give back. Children attending VBS are asked to bring new socks and underwear and place them in bins scattered throughout the church. The donations go to the Manos de Cristo Back-to-School Clothes Closet.

When

During the week of VBS, June 11-15, 2007.

How can I help?

Kids can help by bringing in these valuable donations of underwear and socks. Church members can help by:

- Administering this program during VBS
- Marketing the program and ensuring that VBS parents know about the donations
- Decorating the bin (In the past, the bin has been volcano or a jeep, making kids

notice it and want to contribute)

For more information about VBS missions, contact Stacey Grooms
sgrooms@covenant.org or 334-3005.