



So, the “New Normal” is settling in at Crossroads. For the months of January and February we continued our three day a week service schedule. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we provide what we consider our normal set of services with some exciting new additions. On Wednesdays we provide a drive through grocery pickup service. Once again, we were blessed to have no cases of CoVid among our staff and volunteers. Our clients were also fortunate as we did not have many cases among them.

Services

We are currently providing the following services on Tuesday and Thursday:

- Hot Breakfast
- Hot Lunch
- Showers
- Laundry
- Hygiene products
- First Aid Products
- Weekly Bible Study program
- Monthly Worship Service
- Harris Health Mobile Clinic - Thursdays
- Harris Health Low Income Medical Insurance Administration – Thursdays
- Harris Health vaccine and caseworker services
- C2 Medical – Covid Testing and basic medical checks
- Haircuts
- Hope Haven – Residential Navigation Service
- Bristow Path – substance abuse counseling
- Private Insurance counselors
- Small Food Pantry
- New socks and underwear – first week of every month
- Haircuts - The Factory Salons, first week of every month

These services are provided by our volunteers, other non-profit agency staff members, private businesses, and Harris Health staffers. We no longer accept clothing donations; however, we do accept new socks and underwear.

Food Distribution

We have received a mobile pantry delivery from HFB every Wednesday in January and February and will continue to have a grocery distribution every Wednesday going forward. Our volunteers have been faithful in their service, and most are planning to continue this work into the future. But we could always use more help. If you are interested, please show up at St. Paul’s between 8:30 and 9 A. M. on

Matthew 14:19

..... He gave some of the bread and fish to each disciple, and the disciples gave them to the people....



Crossroads of Park Place

Wednesday, sign in and get your temperature taken then we will put you to work. We are usually finished by 11:30 or 12:00.

I have summarized our grocery delivery numbers below. Our food distribution is truly a “.....loaves and fishes....” event.

2022 Facility Maintenance

When Crossroads leased space from St. Paul’s we committed to do several maintenance items to the property. The biggest was the installation of a portable building at the back of the parking lot to accommodate Crossroad’s storage needs, laundry equipment and food pantry operation. We discovered that to place these buildings on the property would require a major renovation of the parking lot, sidewalks and drainage system. This work proved to be beyond our means, so we have postponed the installation of that building.

We have now engaged a contractor and the estimation process has begun for the kitchen renovation. We should have budget and execution plan ready during March. We expect the work to occur in June, July and August

Crossroads has been accumulating funds for this effort for the last two years. This is a major project and a great opportunity for individuals to support our effort. We are addressing five significant areas in the kitchen:

- Cooking area ventilation
- Electrical
- Walls
- Countertops
- Flooring

The goal is to bring the kitchen up to City of Houston code so that we can receive a commercial kitchen certification from the City of Houston. This certification will make us eligible to purchase food for our meals through the Houston Food Bank. It will also provide us with a safer and more efficient kitchen to operate in. The last renovation of the kitchen occurred to 1970.

This kitchen is also used support the AHA After School Children’s Enrichment program which currently serves evening meals to 50 children four days a week.

If you are interested in making a specific equipment donation (we need a commercial range, 10’ Type 1 ventilation system, stainless steel countertop, and FRP wall covering) to our Kitchen Project, please contact me. All equipment donations would be gratefully received. Financial donations would be 100% used on the kitchen project.

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We have also met with a Men's Group from one of our Covenant Church Partners. In the meeting we surveyed our showers and discussed a project to renovate the showers. The showers have served us for over eight years now and need a redo. If all goes according to the discussion at our meeting, we should be doing the redo this summer.

Numbers

During January and February, we provided the following services on our Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday service days.

Tracking Type	Services Provided
Houston Food Bank	1,753
02. Lunch (Almuerzo/Lonche)	1,273
01. Breakfast (Desayuno)	1,173
60. Hygiene Pack (Higiene)	568
Underwear New - Calzones)	192
Blanket (Cobija)	167
Socks (Calcetines)	131
06. Haircut (Corto de pelo)	166
03. Showers (Bano)	340
04. Laundry (Lavanderia)	177
53. Gold Card (Tarjeta de oro)	90
Harris Health Mobile Unit	53
Cap or Hat (Gorra)	36
Gloves	36
Homeless Letter	36
Housing Navigation (Hope HAVEN)	46
52. Harris Health (Salud)	38
07. Phone Charger	77
Reading Glasses	18
Pants (Pantalones)	13
Shirt (Camisa)	13
H.O.T ID	13

Volunteers

Crossroads is a totally volunteer supported organization. All our food distribution, facility maintenance, kitchen operations, daily intake, shower management, laundry and service delivery is accomplished

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Crossroads of Park Place

through the hard work of our dedicated volunteers. Crossroads has a diverse set of volunteers. Our volunteers come from our supporting churches, the local community, and our clients themselves. Everyone pitches in to make Crossroads possible.

We require volunteers to sign in, we take their temperature and record their service in our Volunteer Management system.

Volunteer hours during January and February are as follows.

	Jan 2022 Hours	Feb 2022 Hours	Total Hours
Total	868.00	977.00	1,845.00

Looking Forward

I continue to believe that Crossroads is on the right path as we continue to maintain our the focus on our mission. We will continue with our expanded service schedule.

We are excited about continuing our work at St. Paul’s and upgrading the facilities as we have committed. My goal is to continue to make progress on the kitchen work as quickly as possible.

Another maintenance item that we will be tackling this year is a redo of our six showers. They are in need of deep cleaning, re-caulking and painting. Contributions and labor donations toward this effort would be appreciated.

Another organization has begun to operate at St. Paul’s. They are the perfect complement to what we do at Crossroads. The Texas Center for Human Advancement (also known as AHA!) has begun an after-school enrichment program for elementary students at Park Place Elementary school. Their program operates in the afternoon while we operate in the morning. They provide tutoring, art, music and drama classes. They also provide a hot supper for the kids.

We are teaming with them to provide food to them for use in their kid’s supper program and for distribution to families in need through their program. It is my belief that our two programs can provide more valuable services together and Crossroads is committed to making that synergy a reality.

We are all looking forward to an active, productive, and blessed 2022 as we all figure out what the new normal looks like. For Crossroads that will be to continue to focus on our mission of providing basic services to the homeless and the less fortunate; and to provide those services in a respectful, safe and Christian environment.

Please join us in helping to make Crossroads thrive into the future. Crossroads is only able to do what we do with the support of our volunteers and our Board.

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Thank you for all that you do,

Doug Fortner
Executive Director

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