

Meet Francis of JustHope



For some time now, the political situation in Nicaragua has been challenging, forcing many JustHope partners to put their annual PartnerTrips on hold. In seeking ways to continue meaningful engagement with the work of JustHope, our Outreach Ministry Team was excited when approached with the opportunity to sponsor one of the JustHope Nicaragua-based staff.

Francis is a long-time employee of JustHope working in the community of Chacraseca. She serves as a veteran translator for JustHope and

is involved with the women of Stitching Hope, as they reimagine this business now with only local markets. She also meets monthly with the University scholarship recipients, providing accompaniment and technical assistance. JustHope is working hard to ensure that Nicaragua-based staff can continue their important work on the ground until congregations like Harvard Avenue can show solidarity through travel. Harvard Avenue will sponsor Francis' salary during this tumultuous time. With this sponsorship, we will receive monthly updates from Francis about her work and the conditions in and around Chacraseca. We look forward to sharing these updates with you! *We're glad to continue our partnership in this new way as we stand with the people of Nicaragua.*



Thanks to your generous giving, this year our congregation gave **\$30,126** to Week of Compassion! This gift joins with others across the country to provide disaster relief and sustainable development efforts around the globe.

Harvard Avenue continues to be a leader within the denomination with our annual gift to Week of Compassion. Thank you for standing with those in need and helping them move toward wholeness.

Stitching Together Opportunities for Refugees in Tulsa

The Outreach Ministry Team recently received a presentation from The Rise (known to some as Rising Village). This Tulsa-based non-profit provides sewing training and support to refugee women so they can help support their families. The organization seeks out refugee and immigrant women who are ready to work, but need training and guidance to find jobs that pay a fair wage and are family-friendly. Classes are currently held at Jenks CarePoint Ministry. We are trying to gauge interest in this opportunity as we continue to learn more about their work and mission. Volunteers can be involved



by being assistants in the sewing classes, donating fabric or supplies, assisting with English classes, childcare, or tutoring, or simply being available to provide rides to appointments and help families navigate processes like school registration and medical needs. Contact Community Pastor Kevin Howe (kevin@hacctulsa.org) and we will connect you with the organization.

Relationships are Growing in Our Garden

This spring, a small group from Harvard Ave did some initial garden clean up. Later, a collaboration from Hunger-Free Oklahoma, Whole Foods, the American Heart Association, and Tulsa International Fellowship worked to restore the garden to a state ready for spring planting. Hunger-Free Oklahoma as well as the American Heart Association (both members of the Tulsa Food Security Council) are working with Tulsa International Fellowship, a small immigrant congregation, and Harvard Avenue to create a mutually beneficial plan to use the garden this spring for planting and harvesting. This is an exciting collaboration and potential use of our community garden! Be on the lookout for more information about these growing relationships and how you can share in the gardening this spring.



Day of Service

On March 30th, Harvard Avenue hosted a second annual Lenten day of service, *In Christ's Name*. We had over 80 volunteers, ages 4 to 84, participate! Eight different projects were completed both at the Harvard Avenue facility and beyond!

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

Family Promise 2019

As our partnership with Family Promise continues to thrive, we look forward to our next host week: **May 5 - 12**. We can also mark our calendars for our remaining host weeks for 2019:

- August 18 - 25
- November 10 - 17
- December 15 - 22

There are volunteer roles of all kinds as we host families for a week, so please sign up to be part of this special week of hospitality here at Harvard Avenue. Sign ups become available about a month before each host week. **If you haven't been trained and would like to volunteer, just let us know!**

For more about Harvard Avenue's Outreach and Community Engagement ministries:
www.hacctulsa.org > **SERVING**

QUESTIONS?

Contact
Community Pastor
Kevin Howe
or
Outreach Team Lead
Diana Booren
at any time with questions,
concerns or ideas!

kevin@hacctulsa.org
dianabooren@gmail.com

Want to be part of the
Outreach Ministry Team?
We'd love to have you
join us!

You'll find more about Family Promise under **SERVING** > in our community