



OPEN GATE HOMELESS MINISTRY



Open Gate's mission is to serve marginalized individuals—especially LGBTQ+ young adults—who are experiencing unstable housing; by providing a safe, stable community, we foster relationships to help address our participants' short- and long-term needs.

Open Gate's annual **100 Campaign: \$100 from 100 People** is underway, so we come to you again for support. Your **Campaign** contributions are our single most important income source and are particularly important now as we experience increasing attendance and costs.

We'd love to have many more than 100 donors and donations of more than \$100! However, if \$100 isn't in your budget, please contribute whatever you can over whatever time-period works for you. Open Gate has donors who pledge monthly or annual donations.

Will your employer match your contribution?

THIS YEAR, THE FIRST \$6,000 IN DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED ONE FOR ONE.

Open Gate provides dinners (Hawthorne Dinners), hygiene items, clothing, bus cards, diapers and infant items, infant formula, perishable and nonperishable food pantries, gift cards (for low-cost needs), and special assistance (e.g., rent and utility payments, work clothing and safety items, education costs, medical costs, drivers licenses, birth certificates).

In 2025, 273 unduplicated volunteers served 3,871 volunteer hours providing weekly services to 874 unduplicated participants.

Our *onsite* service providers include: Have Shears Will Travel (haircuts); Lone Star Legal Aid (civil legal help); UT Nursing School MY-RIDE (substance abuse counseling); Texas A&M Medical Students (Maroon Health, basic clinic; Healthy Harvest, perishable-food pantry); Stand Up For Kids (general outreach to homeless youth); and a health insurance volunteer. We also refer participants to social services; medical, dental, and mental health services (Legacy Community Health; and identification-document services (Operation ID).

The **100 Campaign** ends July 31. You can contribute online at beringchurch.org or by mail. If you have any questions, please contact David K. Johnson (dkjohns77006@yahoo.com or 281-685-8200). We deeply appreciate your generosity and continuing support at any level.

A 501(c)(3) Organization

Bering Memorial United Church of Christ
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Phone 713-526-1017; Fax 713-520-6866

WHY BE A DONOR?

Bering has traditionally risen to meet community needs especially those where there are holes in the fabric of social response. Face-to-face interaction is an important component in addressing youth homelessness, especially young adults who have “aged out” of traditional young peoples’ homeless programs. It is where God’s call is most pronounced.

– *Frank Staggs*

Rick and I have learned the depth of the Open Gate Ministry. Services include offering life skills resources and distribution of hygiene packs, infant packs, backpacks, and clothing. We humbly support Open Gate Ministries with our prayers and monetary contributions in hopes homeless young adults know they are God’s family and our family without precondition or judgment.

– *Amy and Rick Hume*

As homelessness presents significant social challenges within our community, we often grapple with questions like, “Which homeless organizations are truly legitimate?” and “How can I ensure that funds are wisely used to directly benefit those in need, rather than being consumed by unnecessary administrative costs?” However, when supporting Open Gate, those concerns vanish. We are confident in the competence of their board and the dedication of their caring volunteers, who always prioritize the well-being of their clients. Supporting Open Gate is both a privilege and an effortless way to give back to our community.

– *JT Rayburn and Patrick Lucas*

I donate to Open Gate because I am inspired by the commitment of the volunteers who initiated and continue to work in this important ministry. The volunteers are carrying forward a longstanding tradition of Bering Church. This tradition is to put faith in action and to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

– *John Lehner*

Warren's Story. My mother grew up in an abusive family. When she and her sister were teenagers, they ran away from home to a nearby city. Fortunately, there were angels in that city who provided housing and other support. Because of this, my mother and aunt were able to live safely and happily for the first time. They went on to attend nursing school and to live long and happy lives. But without these angels (relatives, strangers, and a Methodist Church), their story would have had a different ending. I give to Open Gate because its staff and volunteers are Houston's angels for young people like my mom.

Marsha's Story. Both my grandmothers lost their mothers when they were infants and toddlers; they were sent to live with other families. From their experience, I know how difficult life can be for a child in a disrupted family, and, years later, for their children as well. I know that many of the Open Gate clients have similar experiences: various forms of family disruption. Donating to Open Gate is my way of paying it forward on behalf of my grandmothers. I also support Open Gate because I am so inspired by the commitment of the staff and volunteers. It may seem like a small thing, but I always feel encouraged by the personal thank-you letters I receive for our donations, and by seeing the welcoming spirit of our church congregation.

– *Warren and Marsha Holleman.*

We have a close friend who spent time on the streets as a teen, including in this neighborhood. We have seen first-hand how important it is for these young people to be treated with respect and kindness. Open Gate not only puts food in people’s stomachs, it gives them a safe place where they are seen and are treated as beloved children of God. That’s why Open Gate holds a special place in our hearts and we give regularly in support of its mission.

– *Kevin Geurts and Angela Smith*



OPEN GATE

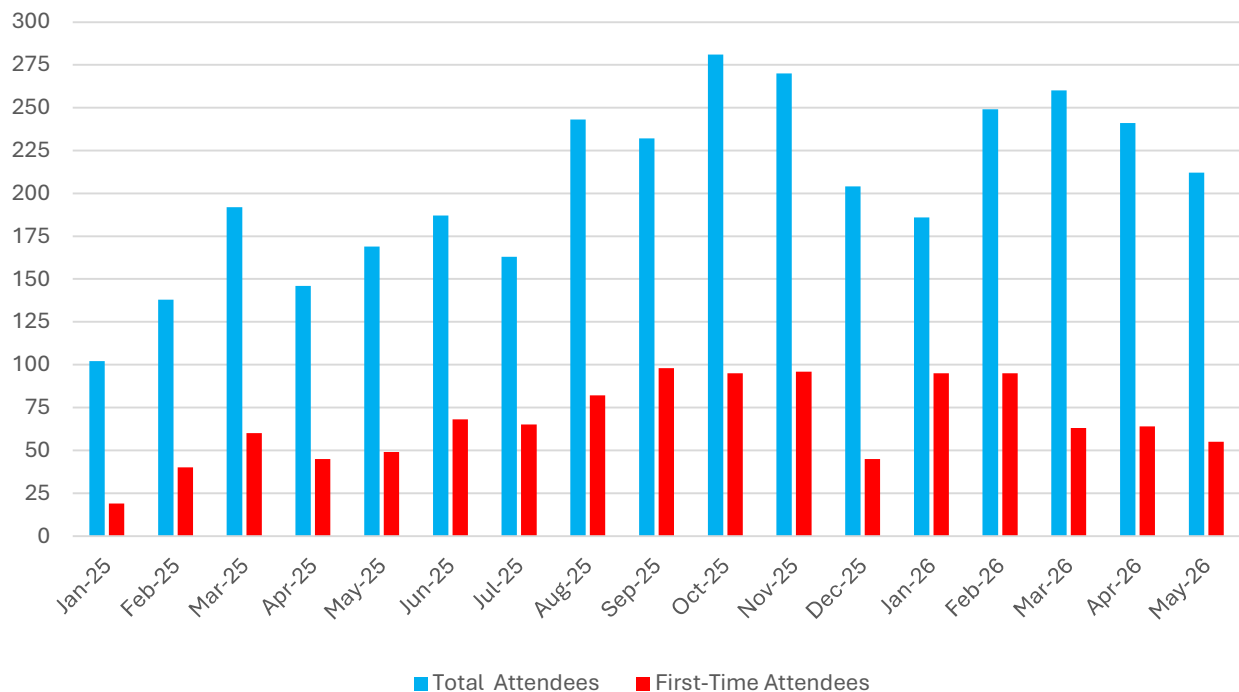
2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT



PARTICIPANTS

2025	2026 (YTD MAY)
874 Unduplicated participants	580 Unduplicated participants
79 Average weekly participants	83 Average weekly participants

Monthly Attendance, 2025-2026 (YTD May)

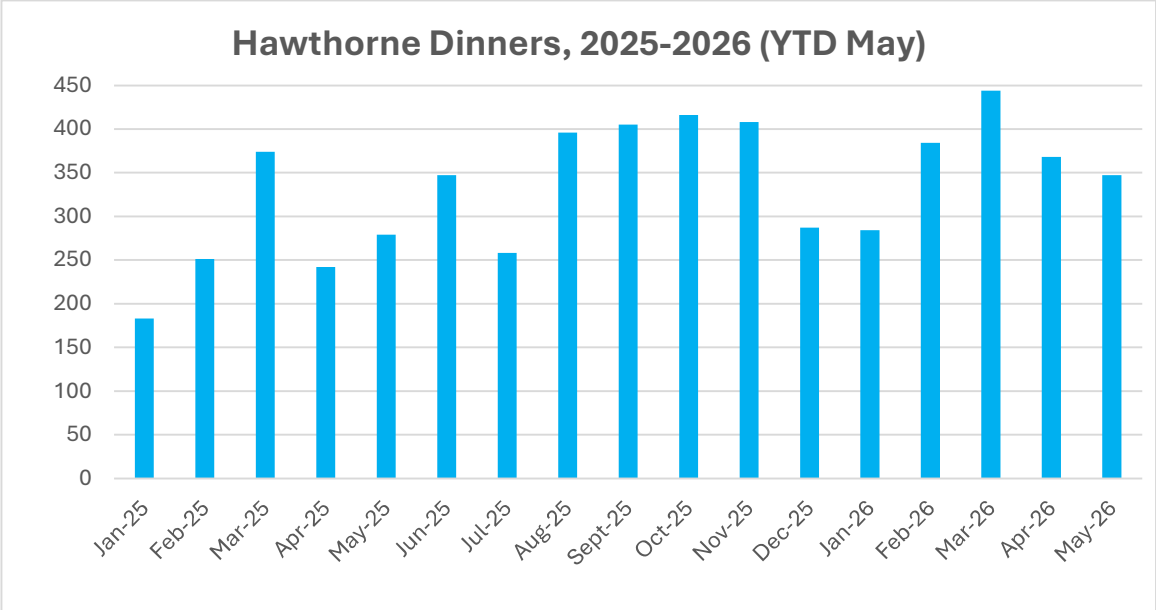


VOLUNTEERS

2025	2026 (YTD MAY)
273 Unduplicated volunteers	156 Unduplicated volunteers
3,871 Volunteer hours	1,897 Volunteer hours

SERVICES

	Dinners	Clothes	Hygiene	Bus Cards	Diapers	Infant Formula	Special Assistance	Food Pantries
2025	3,776	3,825	3,730	1,402	280	112	111	912
2026 (YTD May)	1,827	1,822	1,814	831	137	65	42	522



FINANCES

