



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

August 2015



**The United Way Helping
Fort Bend THRIVE!**

Current research shows, that in Fort Bend County a family of four needs to earn a minimum of \$43k to get by. However, 115,000 working families in Fort Bend are earning between \$20-35k

**AccessHealth's Annual
Community Operation
'Back-To-School' Health Fair
BIG Success!**



a year and are struggling to make ends meet.

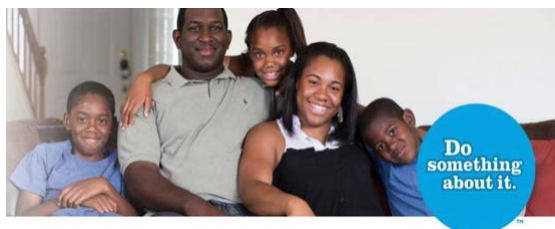
The United Way of Greater Houston Fort Bend is working to educate the community and increase those earnings with the help of their Financial Stability Initiative Program called THRIVE!



THRIVE will offer FREE support services aimed at helping low-income, hardworking Fort Bend residents to improve career opportunities, acquire assets and build savings, help increase income, and manage or eliminate debt. The THRIVE program will consist of four major components that will work together to accomplish these goals.

The four components will consist of:

- **FREE** Financial Counseling and Education
- **FREE** Income Tax Preparation and Earned Income Tax Credit
- **FREE** Job Coaching and Employment Readiness
- **FREE** Job Training Programs with Employment Placement



Family Houston will provide the Financial Education and Counseling with certified financial coaches who will focus on budgeting skills, eliminating debt and more. They will also provide employment coaches to assist with resumes, job leads, guidance and connect job seekers to training programs and potential job opportunities. English and Spanish

On a sunny, triple digit Saturday morning in Fort Bend County, just over a thousand families, volunteers and supporters came out to attend the 'Community Operation' Back-To-School Health Fair at the Fort Bend County Missouri City Annex Complex.

Fort Bend County Precinct 2 Commissioner, Grady Prestage, was able to collaborate with AccessHealth and other community organizations to provide immunizations, dental, vision and scoliosis screenings, wellness information, haircuts and water to about 300 families. This is the fifth year Commissioner Prestage has hosted this event with AccessHealth, and each year the list of providers and supporters continues to grow. "This event serves to enhance the services and activities we are able to provide the community to ensure that our children are prepared for the school year," says Commissioner Prestage. This year 650 children received free backpacks filled with school supplies.



The heat did not seem to phase attendees much as there were lots of refreshments to cool off with and fun activities to enjoy in addition to receiving backpacks, health screenings, and haircuts. AccessHealth and sponsors provided a multitude of activities for the community to enjoy. Children danced along with the DJ, enjoyed face-painting, rock wall climbing,

coaches will be available.

Neighborhood Centers

Incorporated will provide the free tax preparation for families earning less than \$58k a year. The Fort Bend Tax Center provides free ITIN application assistance and free tax preparation yearly and is open January – April.

SER – Jobs for Progress will be offering FREE job readiness, job placement and vocational training for Customer Service and Basic Office Skills which will include a certification from the Retail Federation of America. SER will also provide training for non-commissioned Security officers.

NCCER Construction is offering a Training/Basic Apprentice program that will teach the basic skills necessary for helpers in the construction trade such as carpenters, pipe fitters, electricians, metalworkers, plumbers, drywall/sheetrock specialist and Iron workers.

For more information or to set an appointment, contact the [United Way Fort Bend Center](#) at:

(281) 207-2300.
12300 Parc Crest Dr
Stafford, Texas

Fort Bend Houston: Bridging the Community Divide Meeting

The Fort Bend Houston Bridging the Community Divide meetings, sponsored by Council Member Larry Green with the support of Commissioner Prestage, allow elected officials and their staff to stay connected with the area stakeholders consisting of community leaders, church and school administrators, business owners and other affiliates. The meetings are held

bounce houses and balloon artist. Members of the Precinct 2 Constable's staff and volunteers were also on hand to pass out hotdogs and popsicles to families.

The Community Operation Planning Committee has already begun working with AccessHealth to plan and think of ways to improve the event for next year. Sharonda Debose, Marketing Coordinator for AccessHealth expressed her excitement with the growth of the event and was happy with the support received from the community. "...we plan to have an even bigger event next year!" she stated.

For more information or to set an appointment [click] on [AccessHealth](#) or call:

(281) 342-0529
400 Austin St.
Richmond, TX 77469

Hiram Clarke/Fort Bend TIRZ create Redevelopment Authority

The Hiram Clarke/Fort Bend Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone or TIRZ #25, has officially created the Hiram Clarke/Fort Bend Redevelopment Authority. The Redevelopment Authority will look to aid, assist and act on behalf of the City of Houston to advance the common good and general interest of all areas within the bounds of TIRZ #25. Those areas will include a large section of Fort Bend Houston and Willow Park, along with parts of Cambridge Village stretching out to 288.

The strategy of the Hiram Clarke/Fort Bend Redevelopment Authority will be to enact the Project Plan and Reinvestment Zone Financing Plan for the TIRZ. The Redevelopment Board, which will be lead by the same members of the TIRZ #25 Board will: develop policy for financing

once a month and provide a great platform for each organization to share announcements and discuss concerns that may be affecting the community at large. The meetings are held every third Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Briargate Clubhouse, located at 7002 Laughlin Dr., Missouri City, TX 77489. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2015. **Hope to see you there!**

and construction of public infrastructure improvements for the progress of commercial, residential, retail or other related land uses, and also to develop and enact a development policy for the zone, including procurement of land for developmental purposes.

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