

A very special group of leaders came together in Dallas, and we think the story will inspire you.

Special VIP Event Inspires Dallas Leaders to Work Together

A small, fast-paced event was ideal for these high-level leaders including Dallas County Commissioner Judge Clay Jenkins, Dallas City Council Member Gay Willis, the Director of Faith-Based & Community Engagement with the Texas Dept of Family & Protective Services Anna Blake, and leaders from schools, churches, nonprofits, and businesses. The gathering was meant to help us see what families are facing through the eyes of our public schools and to reveal Unite's plan to see every community in DFW cared for. Every organization and every individual has a part to play.

According to Feeding America, 27% of DFW children live in a household that's been worried about food this year. Our December challenge to churches and Christians is to make sure every family has food on their table starting now. We have tools that make it easy for everyone to do their part. Nonprofits, churches, and businesses are letting Unite know what community they're serving using this [short form](#). Distinguishing each community by its public school makes it easy to keep track of which ones are covered and which aren't.

Because schools and healthcare providers are using COPE for professional development, we're able to help them see what's really going on in the families they serve and how to help them stay stable when times are tough. Since July, nearly 4,500 DFW families have been intercepted online and connected to someone at a nearby church for prayer, hope, or help with navigating a life challenge. An additional 1,200 have used [Unite's public-facing platforms](#) to find help for themselves just since Thanksgiving!

Unite's role is to inform, connect, and equip churches and other organizations to care for their people and community. We have connected with over 600 churches and hundreds of other organizations already, and we're actively engaging them in this December food challenge. Over 100 DFW churches are responding to the families reaching out online, and our goal is to enroll another 50 in December. Another 100+ DFW churches are responding to requests from caseworkers and school counselors identifying urgent needs of families trying to stay afloat. When you complete this [form](#), we'll loop you in at a pace that's right for you.

Please help us spread the word to churches who are or want to inspire and equip their members for ministry. If we each care for the people in front of us, there will be a lot fewer looking for hope on Google, falling into society's safety nets, or suffering in silence during this Christmas season. This is the time of year when people are most eager to make a difference, and Unite and our partners can make that easy. DFW is a wonderful place to live for those who are blessed enough to be able to make things work. We've been blessed to be a blessing, so let's do our part. Merry Christmas from the Unite team.