

An aerial photograph of Dallas, Texas, showing a dense grid of streets and highways. Overlaid on the map are numerous orange teardrop-shaped icons, each containing a white silhouette of a church building with a cross on top. The icons are scattered across the city, with a higher concentration in the central and eastern parts. In the top right corner, the logo for 'UNITE GREATER DALLAS' is displayed. The logo consists of a stylized cross symbol to the left of the word 'UNITE' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'GREATER DALLAS' in a smaller font below it. The overall color palette is dominated by the blue and grey tones of the city map and the orange of the church icons.

UNITE
GREATER DALLAS

2017
**Church Impact
Report**

2017

Church Impact Report



Greetings to the Church

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is such a blessing for our team to be able to wake up every day knowing we're serving the Body of Christ and have the privilege to do that through our local churches. God has blessed Greater Dallas with wonderful, diverse Christian leaders — many with a heart for Church unity and city transformation, passionate about the *whole Church* taking the *whole Gospel* to the *whole city*.

We also have the unique privilege of being able to see the community and the activity of the collective Church from a high vantage point giving Unite a broad view of issues, resources, and strategies. It's because of this that we know how much progress we've made together over the last 8 years in building Church unity and increasing focus on the things that are going to make a difference in our community. Praise God!

We do have some bad news — or as we see it, a tremendous opportunity. The Barna Group and American Bible Society recently collaborated on a "Cities" Study which revealed an interesting local dichotomy: More Dallas-area residents say they are Christians than in the average American city and faithfully attend church, read their Bible, and pray. No surprise there. But FEWER of our Christians volunteer at a nonprofit than in other cities.

This supports the hypothesis that our social issues would not be at crisis level if Christians were more fully supporting the world-class nonprofits we've been blessed with.

That's why we're here. We're connecting church and Christian leaders to one another and to the resources that will help them make the biggest impact on the daunting issues facing our communities. That includes a vast array of nonprofits — experts in addressing such issues. Some even have models churches can replicate to allow us to be an even bigger part of the solution.

Thank you for all you do. We look back at 2017 with gratitude for what God has done and look forward to a wonderful 2018.

Serving alongside,
Rebecca Walls and
the Unite Team

The Church Impact Report

The 2017 Church Impact Report is the third annual report of its kind by the Church and for the Church. Our hope is to measure and celebrate, year after year, the collective impact made by the Church of Greater Dallas.

This report is also intended to be a strategic tool in the hands of Church leaders. It may inform and focus strategic collaborative efforts to decrease our city's poverty rates and increase our children's educational outcomes.

The pages that follow have a four-fold purpose:

- 1.** to keep us aware of how to measure our impact versus our effort;
- 2.** to share metrics and progress of the Church's collective impact to alleviate illiteracy and poverty;
- 3.** to offer a Call to Action to improve the city's scorecard;
- 4.** to help equip leaders with strategic resources and relevant information to move others to action.

We hope you find the 2017 Church Impact Report resourceful, enlightening, and empowering to unite and collaborate for greater impact in the coming year to the glory of God.

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What is Impact?



IMPACT

The Church's collective impact has been calculated using a methodology recommended by Southern Methodist University's Center for Research & Evaluation: the estimated number of Christian volunteers and money donated towards a proven intervention¹ and the estimated number of people benefiting. The following pages detail the estimated Christian impact via proven interventions that positively affect literacy and poverty.

¹ Proven interventions are actions that have been shown to have substantial positive results on a given problem and that are being applied by organizations shown to be implementing said interventions with a high degree of quality.

Impact Dashboard



24,208

or 86% of students graduating in Dallas County are not ready for higher education



479,605

individuals or 19.3% of the population in Dallas County is living in poverty

WHAT IS THE CHURCH DOING?

LITERACY

Tutoring
+ Mentoring



Volunteers: **2,284**

Money Given: **\$1.2 Million**

People Impacted: **3,160**

POVERTY

Living Wage Jobs & Training
+ Financial Coaching



Volunteers: **559**

Money Given: **\$2.5 Million**

People Impacted: **6,678**

2017 CHURCH IMPACT TOTALS

Volunteers: **2,883** Money Given: **\$3.7 Million**

People Impacted: **9,838**

Sources:

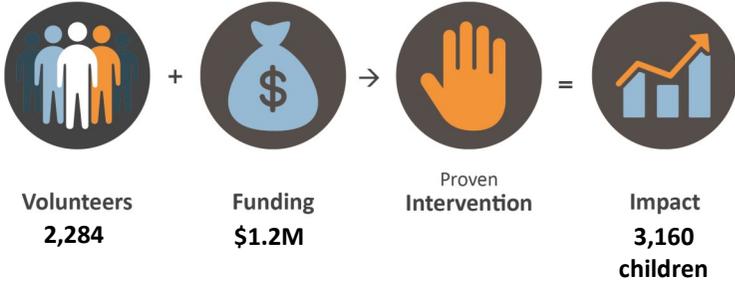
- **Literacy:** Post-secondary indicators at scorecard.commit2dallas.org. Intervention numbers from Beacon Hill, Champions of Hope, Mercy Street, Readers 2 Leaders, and Reading Partners.
- **Poverty:** Distressed Communities Index Map. Intervention numbers from CitySquare, HIS Bridge Builders, and Transformance

Literacy

Church Impact

Our education partners have recommended that the Church focus on the following to help address the literacy crisis:

Tutoring & Mentoring



One-on-one relationships are proven to impact social acceptance, grade retention, school engagement, and perceived scholastic competence in addition to educational expectations, academic performance, attitudes towards risky behaviors, and parental trust.

Staff Support & Parent Engagement

Many of the church-school partnerships across the Metroplex also have a focus on staff support and/or parent engagement. In fact, the education community sees parent engagement, specifically, as an area in which pastors could have tremendous positive influence. We hope to have concrete numbers in next year's Church Impact Report.

IMPACT

Church Progress

Church-School Partnerships

Following is a geographic break-down of the 233 public schools known to have at least one church caring for them:

- Cedar Hill: 13
- Dallas: 92
- Duncanville: 18
- Irving: 13
- Lancaster: 10
- McKinney: 14
- Richardson: 12
- Wylie: 19
- Other Collin County (Allen, Frisco, Plano): 11
- Other Districts: 28

Call to Action

Refer to the Resources Section (pages 18-20) for details on the following ways you can make the biggest impact possible:



LEARN

- Commit Partnership's group, Data Dashboard, or Spring Scorecard event.**
- Reading Matters personal and group Bible materials.**
- An education-themed **Cost of Poverty Experience.**



PRAY

- A Prayed 4 City Guide** on "Education."



SERVE

- Tutoring & mentoring opportunities** at vomo.org/campaign/readingmatters for these best-practice organizations:



Let us know about high-quality programs we need to include in future Reports.

- Love in Motion's** staff support model.
- HelpFinder** for your school's families and staff.



UNITE

- The **Learning Community** for churches working in schools.
- The **Church Engagement Map.**
- Effective efforts to impact schools across a given community e.g. **The School Zone** in West Dallas and **SchoolWorks** in Irving.



GIVE

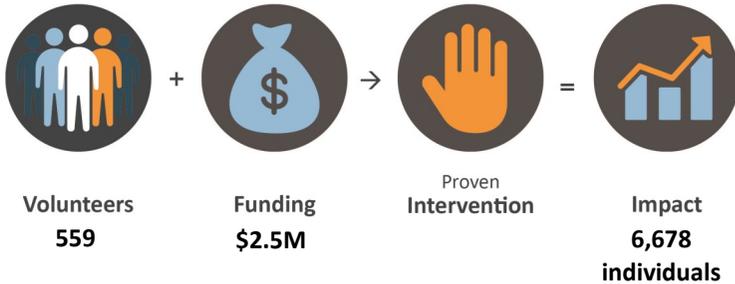
Go to unitethechurch/donate to support the 2018 **Church-School Partner Survey** which will allow us to better equip churches to make the most positive impact possible on schools we care so much about.

Poverty

Church Impact

Poverty alleviation experts agree that a holistic approach is the only answer and have recommended that the Church focus on (1) financial education with coaching, (2) living wage jobs with training, and (3) wrap-around services operating according to *When Helping Hurts* principles.

**Financial Education with Coaching plus
Living Wage Jobs with Training**



IMPACT

Church Progress

The Cost of Poverty Experience

In 2017, COPE's inaugural year in Greater Dallas:

- **COPE's facilitated:** 6
- **Participants:** 437

HelpFinder

Launched July, 2017 with the following baseline numbers:

- **Total searches:** 6,735
- **Programs claimed:** 301
- **Total Programs Available:**
 - Collin: 2,080
 - Dallas: 2,797
 - Ellis: 1,673
 - Tarrant: 2138

Call to Action

Refer to the Resources Section (pages 18-20) for details on the following ways you can make the biggest impact possible:



LEARN

- Customized **Cost of Poverty Experience**.
- Chalmers Center's Bible-based materials and NEW online training**.
- MyMoneyDFW**.
- Informative events** hosted by community partners.



PRAY

- A Prayed 4 City Guide** on "Poverty."



SERVE

- Find opportunities to serve as a financial coach for or build capacity of one of these best-practice organizations at **vomo.org/campaign/atcpoverty**:



- HelpFinder**.
- Financial wellness program criteria**.
- Faith & Finances**.



UNITE

- The **Church Engagement Map**.
- Anti-Poverty Coalition of Greater Dallas** (unitethechurch.org/events).
- Other coalitions** on the following pages focused on poverty-related issues.



GIVE

Go to **unitethechurch/donate** to support an assessment of wrap-around services offered locally that incorporate the **When Helping Hurts** principles and use the proven methods that empower people out of poverty.

Other Issues

IMPACT

<h3>Homelessness</h3> <p>Homeless numbers as of 2017 Q3. *Reflects number of individuals in 90 households</p>	
<h3>Hunger</h3> <p>25 CONGREGATIONS implemented at least one "Hunger Solution" (e.g. emergency food programs, nutrition education and cooking classes, and Meals on Wheels).</p>	<h3>Mental Health</h3> <p>Available on HelpFinder.org:</p> <p>48 addiction and recovery programs 178 counseling programs</p>
<h3>Care for Refugees</h3> <p>Number of refugees arriving in our city over the last three years and needing care</p> <p>2015: 2,647 2016: 3,131 2017: 1,656</p>	
<h3>Racial Reconciliation</h3> <p>16 small groups established through Be the Bridge and Threaded</p>	<h3>Additional Issues</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence • Foster Care and Adoption • Families • Health • Human Trafficking • Re-entry • Veterans • Care for the Elderly

Sources:

Homelessness: MDHA Homeless Response System Community Dashboard 3Q July-September 2017

Hunger: Dallas Coalition For Hunger Solutions

Refugees: United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees

Call to Action

Refer to the Resources Section (pages 18-20) for details on the following ways you can make the biggest impact possible:



LEARN

- Host or attend a **Cost of Poverty Experience** customized to give participants specific ways to get involved in almost any social issue.
- See the current landscape of programs available to address these needs at **HelpFinder.org**.



PRAY

- A Prayed 4 City Guides** on each of these issues.



SERVE

- Volunteer opportunities** at vomo.org. Partners are continually adding new ways to make an impact.
- Promote **HelpFinder** so people can find the programs they need for themselves and their neighbors.



UNITE

- Access the **Church Engagement Map** to connect with other churches with similar interests and activities.
- Engage one of these coalitions:
 - ⇒ **The Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance** (mdhadallas.org)
 - ⇒ **Collin County Homeless Coalition** (facebook.com/collinhomeless)
 - ⇒ **Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions** (dallashungersolutions.org)
 - ⇒ **Dallas Clergy** (dallasclergy.org) or **Threaded** (wearethreaded.org)



GIVE

Go to **unitethechurch/donate** to support a project to identify mental health related programs (e.g. addiction recovery, support groups, counseling, and trauma healing) available in churches in order to meet a citywide need expressed by the Dallas Police Department.

Engagement & Collaboration

IMPACT



To make it easy for churches to connect, Unite is releasing an interactive Church Engagement Map reflecting churches' external focus as LEARN, PRAY, SERVE, or UNITE.

Church leaders engaged with Unite can find information about local church programs, issues engaged, ministry partners, and more.

Church staff and representatives: Go to unitethechurch.org/engage to start connecting!

Many externally-focused churches have come together with nonprofits, local government, schools, and others in nearly 20 coalitions across Greater Dallas including:

- Frisco
- Garland
- Irving
- Lake Highlands
- Plano
- Pleasant Grove
- Roosevelt HS Zone
- TJ + White HS Zones
- Vickery Meadow
- Waxahachie
- West Dallas

Visit unitethechurch.org/communities to find the coalition near you.

Increasing Church Impact

A few vital tools transcend the individual issues while dramatically increasing the Church's impact on them:

The Cost of Poverty Experience can be customized to simulate or highlight elements including racial discrimination, the impact of poverty on a child's ability to learn, disaster situations, and more. The host church, nonprofit, or business can then direct participants to specific next steps.

Visit unitethechurch.org/cope for details and a calendar of upcoming dates.



HelpFinder is a user interface to the most comprehensive database of "help" programs available. The back-end data is also used by major healthcare systems, Dallas County Community College District, and local coalitions.

In addition to placing this much-needed information at church and nonprofit's fingertips, HelpFinder features church-based programs (most not known by the public until now), a user group giving churches the ability to trade insights, quality standards, and search results based on those standards.



See **page 18** for a general description, visit unitethechurch.org/helpfinder for more details, or go straight to the portal at helpfinder.org.



Highlighted on the Call to Action pages throughout this report, this new platform allows issue-based and geographic coalitions to highlight volunteer opportunities proven to make an impact. With this capability, a collaboration of diverse,

knowledgeable partners are creating a system pastors can feel comfortable releasing their people into—one where individuals, families, and small groups can find service opportunities that match their passions, gifts, and schedules.

See **page 20** for more information.

Increasing Church Impact

Resource List

Following are resources that will help us increase impact referred to throughout this Report:

1. **A Prayed 4 City:** Ongoing citywide initiative allowing groups to adopt a day each month to pray through guides written by local experts. unitethechurch.org/ap4c
2. **Barna Group’s “Cities” Study:** In partnership with American Bible Society, Barna Group compiled various theologicraphic characteristics for 132 cities and metro areas. unitethechurch.org/resources
3. **Bible Resources:** American Bible Society is working with local partners to develop Bible resources addressing Christians’ thinking and actions related to racial reconciliation, literacy, poverty, and other critical issues. unitethechurch.org/bible
4. **Church Engagement Map:** This interactive map will make it easier for church leaders to connect with one another based on the geography, issues, and externally-focused activity. unitethechurch.org/engage
5. **Commit Partnership, Sub-groups, Data Dashboard & Scorecard Launch:** The largest “collective impact backbone” organization in the country and a long-time partner helping to continually increase the Church’s collective impact on literacy. sub-groups include early childhood, 4-12 education, college access & success, and educator quality. commit2dallas.org
6. **Cost of Poverty Experience:** 2.5-hour role-playing experience to help participants better understand the numerous daily decisions, roadblocks to success, and unintended consequences. It can be customized to highlight any issue (literacy, racial reconciliation, disaster recovery, etc.) and to point to next steps pre-determined by the host organization. unitethechurch.org/cope
7. **DFW Prays:** A local movement of churches covering the DFW Metroplex in 24/7 prayer (chapter of America Prays). DFWprays.org
8. **Faith & Finances:** A church-based financial education curriculum written for people in material poverty produced by Chalmers Center (authors of *When Helping Hurts*). chalmers.org

9. **Financial Wellness Program Criteria:** Developed by the Asset Funders Network's Financial Coaching Working Group as a resource for practitioners and funders looking to provide, assess, and support financial coaching training. unitethechurch.org/poverty
10. **HelpFinder:** Database of free and reduced-cost programs that empowers churches, Christians, and community members to find what they need. unitethechurch.org/helpfinder
11. **Learning Community:** A monthly church-led group for churches serving schools. [email education@unitethechurch.org](mailto:education@unitethechurch.org)
12. **Love In Motion:** A beautiful model of staff support that can be replicated by a church of any size. unitethechurch.org/education
13. **Movement Day:** Large annual event to cast the powerful "Church unity for city transformation" vision and give attendees next steps to make a difference. movementdaygreaterdallas.com
14. **MyMoneyDFW:** Developed by United Way and partners to help connect North Texans with free financial tools and information so they can become more financially stable. mymoneydfw.com
15. **Poverty Simulation Board Game:** "Can You See Me Now?" is a resource developed by CitySquare. Based on real Dallas neighbors, it gives participants a new perspective on poverty and understanding of CitySquare's work. citysquare.org
16. **Q Commons:** 2-hour evening event to educate Christians on how they can bring hope and leadership to their communities in a critical cultural moment. Includes national speakers simulcast from Q and interactive discussion designed by local leaders. qideas.com/commons
17. **Social Impact Architects:** Works with social changemakers to create transformative solutions to social issues using weekly blog and consulting to accelerate community impact. socialimpactarchitects.com
18. **Transform Dallas:** Annual community service event jointly organized by multiple diverse churches and partners such as Dallas Leadership Foundation giving hundreds of Christians a place to serve side-by-side with people from other communities.

Increasing Church Impact

19. **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA):** The IRS provides free tax prep for low-income families to save them hundreds in unnecessary fees. Offered at 75 sites across DFW, this is an incredible opportunity for Christians to help spread the word, volunteer to help people with their taxes, and to direct them to needed services via HelpFinder. **mymoneydfw.org**
20. **Voly:** Widely adopted across North Texas, this is a simple platform where nonprofits can post volunteer opportunities and volunteers can easily find them. **voly.org**
21. **Vomo:** A platform specifically designed to help churches help their members love their neighbors. Because collaborative partners are leading vetted organizations proven to address the city’s most critical needs, pastors will feel confident releasing their members to search for opportunities that match their individual passions and giftings. Churches and service providers have access to training resources, promotional materials, and reporting that will tell them how and where their congregation is making an impact. Churches in the Unite and partner networks receive major discounts to those and other advanced features. Go to **unitethechurch.org/serve** to request the Unite coupon codes or directly to **vomo.org**.
22. **When Helping Hurts:** This book is greatly influencing the way churches do local and global “missions” work with principles of recognizing the dignity in all people and not doing things for people that they can do for themselves. The material, applied to church benevolence and short term missions, is available in book form as well as small group studies and online training. **chalmers.org**
23. **Work Life:** A program designed by Chalmers Center equips your church to empower low-income people with the skills and attitudes to find work—and to flourish in it. **chalmers.org**

2018 Calendar

JAN

15 MLK Day
25 City Conven
25 Homeless Count

FEB

24 Movement Day

MAR

1 Commit Event
18 Pulpit Swap

APR

4 MLK 50th
10 Transform Dallas
Interchange

JUN

10 Harvest America

SEP

N. TX Giving Day
Good Neighbor Day
School Kick-Off

OCT

20 Together 2018
Q Commons
Hunger Summit

- Subscribe to Unite's email list to find out about these and other events that are uniting the Church and transforming the city.
- Connect with a regional or issue-based coalition to find out about their opportunities as well.

Get Involved

Unite’s mission is to connect Christian leaders to each other and to the resources that will help us make the biggest collective impact on the needs of the community possible.

The Church Impact Report is a tangible resource offered by Unite itself, but we take great pains to make sure the Report is as neutral as possible and is not Unite-centric. However, the other resource we offer is our website—a one-stop-shop for many of the other resources we highlight.

Our main focus is to direct volunteers and funding to best-practice non-profits, but here are some ways you can get involved with Unite:

- Find our volunteer needs at unitethechurch.org/serve
- Support us financially at unitethechurch.org/donate



Learn



Serve



Pray



Unite

Special Thanks

The Church Impact Report is a strong resource that provides an effective mechanism for leaders to recognize and understand the power of the collective Church and their impact on critical community issues. While we are blessed with a strong overall economy, too many of our neighbors are challenged by poverty, limited educational opportunities, and poor health. Unite has the capacity to harness and deploy the power of caring of thousands to make transformational change across North Texas.

Susan Hoff
Chief Strategy, Impact & Operations Officer
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas



In order to take on North Texas' most pressing issues, we need to move from feel-good to results-driven efforts. We must work on productive collaborations – like Unite – that address the root causes of these issues and give everyone hope that we can co-create real solutions for a brighter future for all.

Suzanne Smith, Founder & CEO
Social Impact Architects



I'm grateful to work on the Church Impact Report along with Unite and other partners so none of us are duplicating efforts to gather information about the social needs in our city and what kind of impact we're having.

Mark Alexander, Executive Director
Movement Day Greater Dallas



Everyday, the Spirit of God is at work in Greater Dallas and God is using those who align themselves with this work to meet the real and felt needs of people in their homes, workplaces, and points of service. Unite shines a bright light on Kingdom work by providing opportunities where together we can do what no single congregation could do on its own.

Glenn Barth, President
GoodCities



The work to unite churches and focus their attention on actual impact rather than activity is a big and important task. Christians in the Dallas area have so much potential to be part of the solution to some major social issues that feel out of control. I'm excited to lock arms with all of you in 2018.

Gary Brandenburg, Lead Pastor
Fellowship Bible Church Dallas



Uniting the Church. Transforming the City.

Unite's mission is to connect
Christian leaders to each
other and to resources needed
to address the urgent social
challenges facing our city.

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 **UNITE**
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