

The TXPOST 80 Percent Spotlight

Barrington Neighbors is helping underserved children in San Antonio thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

Classrooms are not the only places that kids learn, and academic learning is only part of the whole child development needed to help youth discover the interests and talents that lead to success in the classroom, career, and beyond. More than 80% of Texas students' time is spent learning outside of school. High-quality out of school time (OST), which includes afterschool, summer, and enrichment programs, provides hands-on learning opportunities that help kids develop critical life skills as well as nurturing mentor and peer relationships that accelerate academic learning and prepare youth for their futures.

OST is a critical component of the functioning ecosystem of support necessary for whole child development and whole communities. Community-based providers are essential, offering in-person care and learning, while also connecting families to critical services and resources, such as food, technology, and healthcare. Strong partnerships between schools and these community-based organizations are vital to our state's successful recovery and future.

[Barrington Neighbors](#), a local non-profit located in one of the most diverse areas of San Antonio, is significantly impacting the communities it serves. With a mission to uplift families through encouragement, education, and empowerment, Barrington Neighbors offers programming focusing on educational support, health and wellness resources, and social and recreational enrichment.

Barrington Neighbors began its journey in 2014 with the belief that every child deserves a chance to thrive. The organization sought to bridge educational gaps in the community, particularly during the summer when low-income students often fall behind in math and reading. Fast forward to today, and the program has flourished, expanding its offerings to include a range of educational and creative activities and support services primarily focused on underserved, at-risk youth.

We focus on at-risk kids; ones who have a hard time, get kicked out of school, are hard for the teachers to deal with," says Kim Youngblood, Executive Director of Barrington Neighbors. Kim and her team recognized the educational, social-emotional, and safety needs were not being met for many at-risk students in the area and have created programming to address them.

Located at the Church of Reconciliation on the Northeast side of San Antonio, Barrington offers a free, safe, and caring afterschool program to more than 70 children in grades Pre-K to 5. High Impact Tutoring, homework assistance, and a strong emphasis on reading are central to their programming. Tutoring in math and reading is done in both group and individual settings. Tutors including certified teachers, paid staff, and volunteers undergo training to identify individual student needs and provide tailored assistance. Beyond academic improvement, the program aims to instill a long-term passion for learning in its students.



While academics are an integral part of their programming, Barrington Neighbors takes a holistic approach to working with students, offering exposure to diverse opportunities and engagement with positive role models to foster the development of skills and mindsets necessary for success in adulthood. Programming includes martial arts, STEM activities, nutrition programs, and even wildlife encounters. Monthly 4-H Club meetings focus on leadership, life skills, and communications. Community leaders, along with the police and fire departments, engage in discussions with young individuals to introduce them to career and educational prospects they may not have previously contemplated. The aim is to emphasize that there are no limits to what they can achieve.

Students in the community face diverse challenges including poverty, food insecurity, gang involvement, and difficult home lives, and Barrington Neighbors provides a safe and caring environment where children can be children. Fun and play—kids being kids—are essential. Through partnerships with organizations like the San Antonio Food Bank, Feeding America, HEB, and Walmart and the aid of passionate volunteers, Barrington Neighbors provides students with healthy meals and even finds ways to send food home with families.



The success of Barrington Neighbors goes beyond statistics or data. It lies in the transformation of young lives, as evidenced by the growth, engagement, and enthusiasm observed in students. Teachers and community leaders attest to the positive impact the program has on students' lives, emphasizing the importance of out of school time programs in shaping well-rounded individuals. As the program continues to grow, Barrington Neighbors remains steadfast in its mission of fostering a supportive environment where children can flourish and develop holistically.



Creative HeARTS!

The Creative HeARTS Program is held five days a week during school breaks throughout the year. It offers high-quality arts and humanities projects at no cost, fostering creativity and a love for the arts. Local musicians and artists expose children to various art forms and create a well-rounded educational experience. The program also ensures that children get nutritious meals during school breaks, and a Nutritionist educates them on healthy eating choices and the preparation of food as a type of art.

“This program is ideal for the local community, providing options for [those] who may have financial limitations in obtaining...high-quality study, a diverse expression of art, and a safe location to send their loved ones during time off from school!”

– Student Grandparent



The Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) is a statewide intermediary whose mission is to convene, educate, and advocate to improve the quality and increase the availability of out of school time (OST) opportunities, like those offered by Barrington Neighbors for Texas youth. TXPOST works in partnership with vital local and regional organizations, which invest deeply in their own communities to offer professional development opportunities, engage in system-building work, advocate for the OST field, and support local programs.



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