



Where We Thrive
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Where We Thrive Receives Grant for COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence & Equitable Access

(Lockhart, TX) – *Where We Thrive, Inc.* has partnered with the Austin Community Foundation, St. David's Foundation, and United Way for Greater Austin to promote equitable vaccination efforts across central Texas. These grants will support COVID-19 vaccine confidence and equitable access among Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), as well as other groups that have disproportionately suffered the adverse health and economic impacts from the pandemic. Organizations receiving grants have deep connections in the community and a plan for increasing vaccination rates for underserved, unserved, disconnected, and rural populations in Central Texas counties (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson). Where We Thrive's partners in this effort are: Vaccine Administration Mobile Operations (VAMOS) and VaxNow, a partnership with the University of Texas at Austin's School of Nursing and College of Pharmacy, Bastrop County Cares, League of United Latin American Citizens Council 22390, local clergy at Ebbon Missionary Baptist Church and Alive on Purpose Ministries, Retired Nurses Group of Caldwell County (RNGCC), and Council Member Sonja Gonzales Villalobos of the City of Martindale.

This partnership is critical to the mission and service work of non-profit *Where We Thrive, Inc.*, who believes in meeting the community where they are to intentionally address systemic inequities. Since its inception in 2019, *Where We Thrive* has conducted a variety of community programs, co-sponsored art exhibits, facilitated educational activities for youth, established an essential needs pantry, organized home repairs at no cost to the elderly and aging community members of Lockhart, fed food insecure families, and sponsored toy drives for families and their children- all at NO COST to the participants, and for Where We Thrive, that's how it should be.

"Our goal is to contribute to positive change in our community however we can. I was born and raised in Lockhart, so Caldwell County is home. Resources for families shouldn't feel out of reach. I believe that anyone can make a difference, but we can do it better together." – Margaret Carter, Executive Director

"Community members hold the sacred trust of their neighbors. We learn together, live together, and experience challenges together. So, to support the growth and uplift of one another is a collective responsibility. Simply, it's UBUNTU- 'I am, because you are.' This grant was written in the spirit of compassion for the collective health and well-being of our beloved community." - Skyller Walkes, Ph.D., Chief of Staff

About Where We Thrive

Where We Thrive's mission is to *rebuild, restore, mentor, and develop* community resources to improve the lives of our citizens living in poverty with emphasis on high-potential youth and the elderly. We work to empower the youth of our community by facilitating direct mentorship programs, providing access to technology, and supporting career and higher education goals. We strive to support community elders through meal and wellness programs, as well as assistance with minor home repairs and maintenance.