

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all of our SpringSpirit friends and supporters,

We are so appreciative for each and every one of you, and we thank you for continuing to help us make an impact in our community. The impact of this pandemic has taken its toll on all of us, including the Spring Branch community. Without your wide range of gifts, including virtually supporting us in our programming, financing, and your consistent prayers, we would not be able to stand here today and report our progress.

In 2020, we are proud to share that we met and exceeded our goals. Despite the additional challenges of the pandemic, we **successfully established our second campus on Campbell Road; found ways to ensure that our community's COVID-related needs were met, using innovative means of communication and providing necessities for families who needed them; and sustained and improved normal program operations, while furthering newer program options.** During some of the toughest times this community, city, state, country, and globe have ever seen, we worked incredibly hard and were able to accomplish all of these great things, all while **not laying off any staff.** As we celebrated recently at our Breakfast for Champions, we are certainly *growing through what we are going through!*

As you examine this annual report, I hope you will experience for yourself the **abundance, hope, and grace** that we at SpringSpirit have witnessed first-hand this year. It has been a remarkable year in so many ways, and we couldn't have done it without you. **Together, we continue to provide the safe pathways for our kids to realize their fullest life opportunities.** Thank you for your continued support, and I pray for your continued health and safety.

God Bless,



Steve Schwarzbach
Chairman, Board of Directors



Second Campus Brings Added Excitement and Huge Plans

Right before the pandemic hit, SpringSpirit began expanding our programs to our second location, our Campbell Road campus. Looking back, the timing couldn't have been more perfect, as the extra space has been a huge blessing, enabling us to continue programming in a socially-distanced way while also creating another access point to reach more kids and families in our community. For example, we were able to host a variety of drive-through events at the Campbell Road campus, which included food drives, one-on-one tutoring sessions, and several holiday events.

Once this campus is fully operational, we will be positioned to serve up to 3,000 kids per week during peak times. Like the Pitner Campus, programming at the Campbell campus will be holistic, serving kids in mind (education), body (sports and recreation), and soul (Bible studies and Christian mentoring). There are 20 classrooms and meeting rooms at the Campbell Campus, which will allow us to expand our literacy, after school tutorials/homework help, post-high school preparations, STEM/Robotics offerings, Christian ministry, small groups, Bible studies, Friday Night Lights, family development, and mentoring programs in a dramatic way. Additionally, there is space to offer art, music, and theatre labs, which will allow students from both campuses who have interests other than sports to explore their unique passions. Programs that support the "whole child," such as family development, social/emotional supports, and mentoring relationships, will continue to be offered at both campuses. Finally, the existing soccer fields at the Campbell Campus allow for us to make the new campus a soccer "center of excellence," while keeping the Pitner Campus a baseball/softball "center of excellence."

We are also excited to announce that Laura Smith has stepped into the role of Director of our Campbell Road campus. She has been instrumental in the continued success and expansion of our programming there, and we are excited for the growth and vision she has developed. With your continued support, we look forward to the late spring and early summer months, when Campbell's grand opening will take place and you can all visit and witness the great things happening here!

Whole Child Mentoring Program Building Positive Relationships

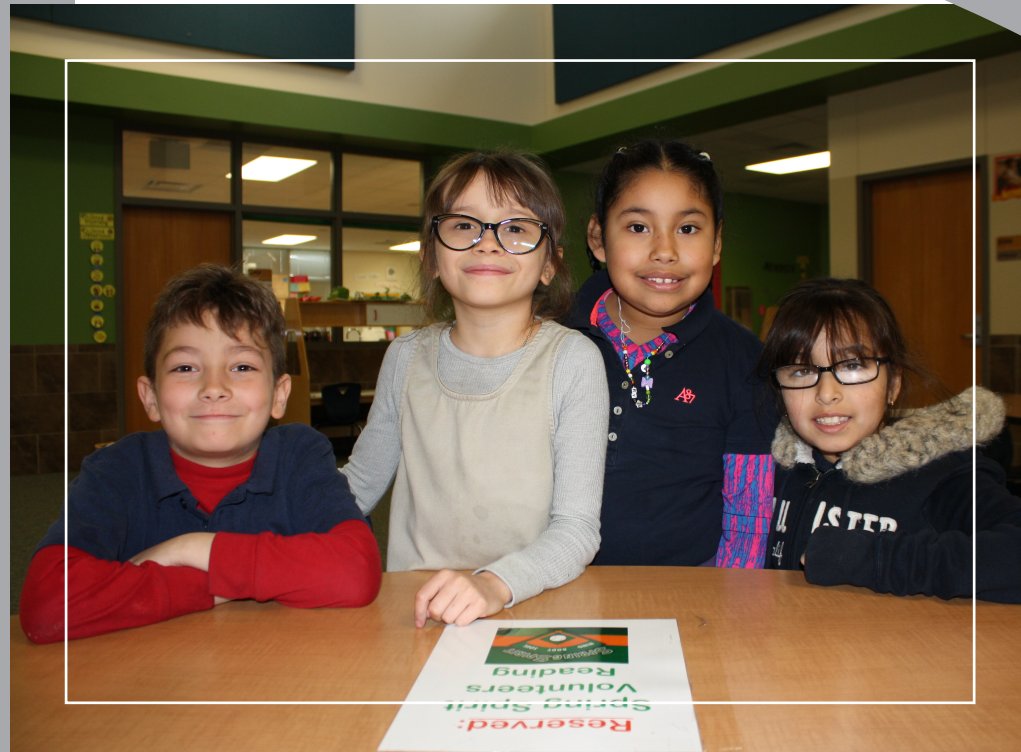
Since inception, God has shown us the importance of deeply connecting with each and every family. If we are to truly provide pathways for the kids in our community to succeed, we must be able to be there with them and for them in the face of any of the challenges they inherit. This has never been more true, nor more challenging, than in the wake of COVID-19. The investment we have made in our Whole Child Mentoring program has paid huge dividends this year, allowing us to not only maintain close relationships with our students and their families, but to also provide for their needs and offer support as they face new challenges.

The Whole Child Mentoring program pairs a child mentee with a caring adult mentor, who pledges to walk with them through a season of life. The whole child mentor develops a holistic relationship with the mentee, checking in and supporting them in all areas of “whole child” growth including health, spirit and soul, education, community involvement, family engagement, safe surroundings, and personal development. Through that relationship, the mentor and mentee help identify relevant goals that the mentee wishes to focus on, and the mentor provides support, love, and accountability as the mentee works towards those goals.

The importance of this program is three-fold: to assist our participants’ growth, to fully utilize the assets of our partnerships for our participants’ best interest, and to do so in a way that allows us to scale our impact. Carmen, who is the mother of one of our participants, Osman, really appreciates the relationships that SpringSpirit and his mentor, Michael, have developed with her son. “I can’t help but notice that after he comes home from spending time with you [Michael], he is smiling more...I thank you for that and for being a big part of his life.”

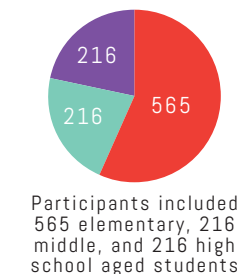
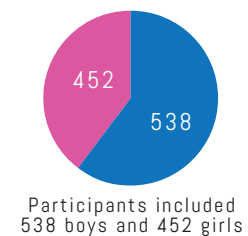
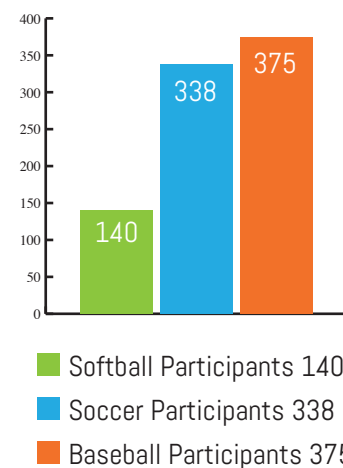
If you are interested in becoming a whole child mentor, please contact Whitney Gowan at whitney.gowan@springspirit.org or (713) 703-9427.

“I can’t help but notice that after he comes home from spending time with you [Michael], he is smiling more...”



PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

Sports by the numbers



227 Education Participants

384 Ministry Participants

155 Mentees

COVID RESPONSE

101,000+ ...meals were distributed by SpringSpirit and our community partners, between SpringSpirit and our community partners, serving 550 families and 1,100 kids

19 ... families received rental assistance

4,000+ ...calls were made from SpringSpirit staff to families to make sure they were safe and that their needs were met

+ ...we partnered with SBISD to host the first ever fully-Spanish information session to help our families understand their school options for this school year

+ ...we now partner with Spring Branch Community Health Center to connect our kids and families with quality mental health care for those who struggle with mental health issues



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Virtual Reading Program Becomes Big Hit

SpringSpirit's L.E.E.R. (Lifting Every Elementary Reader) reading program is one of our most vital – and most popular! – SpringSpirit program offerings. We know that the ability to read, and read effectively, plays such a critical role in truly being able to pave one's own path in life. To that end, L.E.E.R. is a fun way for our elementary-aged kids to improve their reading scores in a more relaxed and individualized environment. The pandemic temporarily halted our ability to deliver this program, but we knew we had to pivot and find a way to continue this important offering.

Starting in early October, our education team began hosting this program online, and once again, it has become an overwhelming success. Volunteers, who were such an important part of being able to host the program in-person at our two locations, have shown the ability to adapt to virtual programming and have effectively continued to help each student without in-person contact. 9-year-old Gelser, who also plays soccer and is an active participant in our Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation-sponsored STEM program, raves about the program whenever asked. "My favorite thing is to read with them [the volunteers] and do the activities; I love it online and in person," he says.

The transition to Zoom has allowed Gelser to actively join in both L.E.E.R. and STEM, all from the safety of his home, which his family appreciates. Volunteers also love the convenience of being able to make an impact, even in these somewhat disconnected times. Carlos Abello, Board Member and one of our most active reading volunteers, says his favorite thing about the program is "the ability to make a tangible and measurable impact on the lives of children by working with them at an early age and giving them the tools to learn and succeed academically."

Even with all of the changes and challenges of the past year, we have been able to expand the size of the program, as there are more students and volunteers participating than ever before! If you have 1-2 hours per week to give and would like to help a young student learn to read, please contact carin.thorn@springspirit.org. It's simple, requires little to no preparation, and will have a huge impact – on both the students you help, and YOU!

“ My favorite thing is to read with them [the volunteers] and do the activities; I love it online and in person. ”



SPRING SPIRIT

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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**In Memoriam*

