

Just Serve

JUSTSERVE.ORG

BRIDGING CHARITIES
IN TEXAS AND ACROSS
THE WORLD

Photography by Robert Boyd

"I WANT TO THANK JUSTSERVE FOR THE WORK IT HAS DONE TO HELP MAKE HOUSTON ONE OF THE BEST CITIES IN THE WORLD. EACH DAY JUSTSERVE VOLUNTEERS GIVE OF THEIR TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED AND MAKE OUR CITY AND THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE."

-MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER

By Melissa Orsak

In the vast state of Texas alone, an impressive 1,284 charitable organizations harness the power of JustServe to reach out to eager volunteers. On a larger scale, 16,922 charities around the globe are benefiting from the support JustServe provides, touching the lives of people in 17 countries and accommodating diverse needs in 14 languages. The positive impact of JustServe also extends to individuals and groups searching for service opportunities. With over 892,949 users and groups engaged worldwide, including 45,919 in Texas alone, the platform continues to grow, fostering a spirit of community service and connection.

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JustServe's mission is to "instill a desire for good" by bridging gaps in service and providing a completely free, user-friendly online platform and in-person assistance for all 501(c)(3) charities and anyone searching for meaningful volunteer opportunities.

JustServe organizes many impactful service events. One commemorative event takes place annually in Houston, Texas, known as September 11, National Day of Service and Remembrance, and 9/11 Day. In tribute to the lives lost and the countless First Responders and members of the U.S. Armed Forces who serve our country every day, JustServe organizes a remarkable

service event at the Houston National Cemetery.

JustServe is a symbol of generosity and community, fully funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a heartfelt humanitarian gift. The Church's leaders oversee the organization globally, collaborating with dedicated local JustServe specialists. Notably, to foster better connections locally and internationally, JustServe is guided by a diverse advisory board that includes esteemed leaders from various prominent organizations, such as the Vice President of the American Red Cross, the CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the CEO of America's Service Commission, the CEO of Rotary International, the President of National VOA, the Commissioner and National Commander

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of The Salvation Army, leaders from the Post News Group and Doblin Group, the President of Med Global, and the Humanitarian Division Director of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Colette McCullough, North America Southwest Area JustServe Director, shared a powerful story of unity and compassion. In the aftermath of the October 2023 attack by Palestine, Israel faced immense grief and loss. Amid the turmoil, Yotam Polizer, Global CEO of IsraAID and a JustServe National Advisory Council member, met with the Global CEO of Palestine Humanitarian Aid at JustServe's November council meeting. Seeing leaders from both nations' aid organizations sit side by side, united in their mission to help those in need, left a lasting impact on all who witnessed it.

Andi Cook, Greater Houston Metro Communication Director, shared, "There is no greater way that we can unite mankind than through serving each other. This was probably, to me, the most poignant example of overlooking differences, seeing needs, and then finding ways to address them. This story is the epitome of service and the sole reason JustServe was established."

JustServe collaborates with a diverse array of individuals and organizations around the globe, ranging from middle school youth groups to colleges, fostering community engagement



Mayor Sylvester Turner
Receiving the JustServe City



Helping Hands Madisonville, Texas tornado cleanup

and volunteerism across various initiatives. As a parent of five children, I understand firsthand the vital role community service plays in their development. JustServe not only provides opportunities for youth to complete essential community service projects required for school but also empowers them to embrace leadership roles and become compassionate and responsible leaders of tomorrow.

Many cities are involved in JustServe. “The JustServe City Award is a recognition designed to honor cities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to volunteering and have made a significant impact in their community through these efforts,” shares McCullough. Houston was among the first cities to receive this prestigious award, joining other esteemed cities like Los Angeles, CA; Mesa, AZ; and Louisville, KY.

Houston earned the JustServe City Award for multiple impactful service endeavors. In 2021, the United States government contacted JustServe to create a help center in Houston, Texas. The Family Transfer Center, aimed to connect immigrants from South/Central American and Cuba with legal documents and a court date to their family members in the United States. Collaborating with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Galveston Houston, Houston Responds, The National Association of Christian Churches (NACC), Houston Food Bank, and other local charities, the Family Transfer Center served over 8,500 immigrants in the first nine months, providing them with new clothes, backpacks, food, and basic supplies.

JustServe's impact extended beyond the Family Transfer Center. The organization works with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston and Meals on Wheels to provide meals for vulnerable areas on the south side of Houston. During Hurricane Harvey, JustServe and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also contributed over one million man-hours in service and recovery cleanup efforts.

Houston's receipt of the JustServe City Award coincided with the leadership of the mayor of Houston at the time, Sylvester Turner. Mayor Turner demonstrated a strong commitment to service and maintained a close relationship with JustServe. Cook highlighted Mayor Turner as "a true example of service" in the community.

Through the collaborative platform of JustServe.org, our combined efforts drive us towards a future illuminated with hope, generosity, and a shared humanity. Visit JustServe.org today and become part of the transformative change. Let's unite in service and make a meaningful impact, one act of service at a time, as we JustServe.

“JUSTSERVE HAS BEEN A STRONG PARTNER WITH VOLUNTEER HOUSTON IN CONNECTING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. THERE ARE COUNTLESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY, THE SIZE OF HOUSTON, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR JUSTSERVE AND ALL THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO SO MUCH TO HELP. THANK YOU AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU FOR GIVING OF YOUR PRECIOUS TIME TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HOUSTON. YOU ARE ONE OF THE REASONS WE ARE HOUSTON PROUD AND HAPPY TO CALL THIS CITY OUR HOME.”

-MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER



School Supplies for Jasper evacuees through Islamic Relief Canada



Henry's Home Sanctuary