

## HopeFest '23 by the Numbers: A Celebration of Community

HopeFest began in 2006 as a way for local community groups and churches to help Reagan High School during a difficult time. At the first HopeFest, 3,000 people and 60 exhibitors showed up for a day of services, music, food and community celebration.

Today, much has changed and much has stayed the same. Reagan, now named Northeast Early College High School, has doubled in enrollment and is thriving. The St. John and surrounding communities, still facing economic and social challenges, have made headway in improving their schools, making their communities safer, and making sure that more families have access to important services.

In its 18th year, HopeFest again attracted a huge crowd (4,200+) and 152 exhibitors, along with 11 performers/groups on our main stage and courtyard area. As Austin's largest campus-based resource fair, HopeFest maintains its community feel, bringing together schools, community organizations, churches, service providers, businesses and families in a celebration of all that is good about northeast Austin.



### Facts About HopeFest '23

**Sponsors:** HopeFest is sponsored by Austin Voices for Education and Youth, a local educational nonprofit, in partnership with local community organizations, churches and businesses. Superior Healthplan provided financial support, along with Austin Voices, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Young Men's Service League, Genentech and local businesses. Univision provided promotional support.



**Donations:** Children's Clothing (Hope Thrift Store, Young Men's Service League, local churches); Bicycles (Yellow Bike and Young Men's Service League); Food (Amaya's Taco Village); Gift Cards (Young Men's Service League, Austin Voices); Trees (TreeFolks); Fresh Produce and Food (Central

Texas Food Bank); Children's Books (Bookspring); Custodians (Northeast Early College High School and Austin Voices)

**Services Provided:** HopeFest is divided into zones, including a health zone (main gym), health insurance zone (small gym), children's clothing (auxiliary gym), job fair (cafeteria); Blue Santa (cafeteria), children's crafts (cafeteria courtyard) family and youth (outdoor gym area), Finance, safety and education (gym courtyard), outdoor children's activities (old mall parking and practice field), and main stage/food tent. School displays and PTA exhibits were mixed throughout. Least of Saints brought classic motorcycles, Capital of Texas Zoo provided a petting zoo, Takota's Ponies provided pony



and train rides, Young Men's

Service League provided a bike rodeo and outdoor game area, TreeFolks gave away 500 trees near the main entrance, and Central Texas Food Bank provided food for over 700 families.



Performers include the Northeast Raider Band, Northeast Nightline Dance Team, Dobie MS Mariachi and Drumline, Webb MS Band, the Aztec Guadalupe de Austin Dance Team, Samantha

Acosta (student soloist from Walnut Creek ES), Aida Ortiz, Dallas Shreve Band, Rosa Elena Lopez (Hawaiian and Tahitian Dance Team), and Los Fandangeros de Austin. Rayvon Foster and Tr-Coast Management provided stage and sound.

### **A sample of services and activities provided at HopeFest include . . .**

- 1,800 meals were served at lunch
- Fresh fruits and vegetables were provided by Central Texas Food Bank for 700+ families
- Bookspring gave away over 2,000 free children's books
- 259 families received free children's clothing
- 500 mature trees were given away by Treefolks
- 95 families registered for Christmas assistance through Blue Santa
- 170 flu shots and 51 COVID vaccinations were given (flu from Austin Public Health, COVID from and CommUnity Care)
- College of Health Care Professions provided free health screenings.
- Dental information and free toothbrush kits and referrals were provided by dental providers, including the ACC Dental Hygiene Program.
- Immunization referrals were made to the St. John Community Center/Austin Public Health.

- Over 200 vision screenings were provided by the Lion’s Club, and Half Helen Foundation provided 14 students received ophthalmologist examinations and 13 free eyeglasses made on-site.
- 259 families were screened for health insurance, SNAP and a medical home by CommUnity Care and the Austin Voices Promotoras. Follow up appointments were made for CommUnity Care and Austin Voices Family Resource Centers.
- Outdoor children’s activities included a bike rodeo provided by the Young Men’s Service League, climbing wall, orbitron, bouncy houses, ponies, kiddie train and sports/games. Over 300 children took part in the children’s craft area, where children decorated mini-pumpkins, made halloween masks and did other fall-themed crafts.
- Capital of Texas Zoo provided interactive activities with farm animals and reptiles.
- Least of Saints provided classic motorcycles for children and adults to hop on for photos.
- Community Hero awards were presented to Austin Public Health, Central Health, CommUnity Care and Central Texas Food Bank for their partnership with the St. John and Rundberg communities to expand immunizations for children and adults, as well as the continuing support by CTFB for weekly drive-through food pantries that serve more than 350 families weekly in the local community. AISD administrators, Trustees and County Judge Andy Brown were present for the awards.
- Northeast Early College High School, Webb Early College Prep Middle School, Dobie Early College Prep Middle School, and Winn Elementary School provided information on early college and other programs. AISD departments, including enrollment, equity and early college, also had displays. PTAs sold food to fundraise. 216 families provided input about their schools and communities at Austin Voices “Promise Neighborhood” exhibit.
- Thousands of other services were provided by exhibitors, including connections to employment and job training by 20 exhibitors in the job fair, registrations for adult education, voter registrations, referrals for housing and utility support, financial and tax counseling, legal assistance, after school programs and much more.

**Who Attended:** Over 4,200 community members attended this year’s HopeFest, along with 152 exhibitors and 11 performers/groups. **Attendees had children at 88 different schools, including 61 AISD schools.** 63% of attendees came from Northeast Austin (78752, 78753, 78723, 78758, and 78754). 4% came from Manor. 9% came from South Austin (78741, 78704, 78744). 24% came from 33 other zip codes. **Volunteers:** Over 350 volunteers helped in a number of ways, including flyering the community, set up, clean up, serving lunch, helping with children’s activities, children’s crafts, assisting in the health, Blue Santa, children’s clothing and insurance zones, and registration. Special shout out to the Young Men’s Service League, which adopted HopeFest for their annual “Ultimate Gift” grant, providing both service and financial support (187 volunteers and 509 hours of service!), including a clothing, baby gear and bike drive, flyering the St. John community, purchasing bikes, gift cards, craft supplies and food for the event.

#### **Organizations that provided volunteers include:**

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Northeast ECHS National Honor Society
Anderson High School Key Club	Dell Medical Pre-Health and Diversity	Texas Angels (UT Austin)
Austin Chinese Church	Scholars	The Food Lounge Austin
Austin Council of PTAs	GAVA	UT Austin
Austin Community College	Gamma Sigma Girl Scouts	UT Austin-Public Health
Austin Texas Musicians	Hyde Park School	Young Men’s Service League
Austin Voices Community Block Leaders	Literacy First	Westlake High School
Austin Voices Promotoras	Navarro Early College High School	

<p><b>Immunizations (Children and Adults), Flu Shots, COVID Boosters in Large Gym</b></p>	<p><b>HopeFest '23 Guide to Exhibitors</b></p>	<p>Ponies, Moonwalks, Face Painting, Orbitron, Bouncing Balls, Climbing Wall. Bike Rodeo (near the entrance)</p>
<p><b>Health Zone</b> (large gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acara Healthcare</li> <li>• AIDS Healthcare Foundation (Van)</li> <li>• Austin Downtown Founder Lions Club (Vision Screening)</li> <li>• Austin Public Health-Immunization Team</li> <li>• Austin Public Health-Health Equity Unit</li> <li>• Austin Public Health-Diabetes Prevention</li> <li>• Austin Public Health-Maternal Health</li> <li>• Central Health</li> <li>• Central Texas Food Bank</li> <li>• CommUnity Care</li> <li>• Foundation for a Drug-Free World</li> <li>• Half-Helen Foundation (Eyeglass Bus)</li> <li>• Integral Care</li> <li>• Latino Healthcare Forum</li> <li>• Lone Star Circle of Care</li> <li>• People's Community Clinic</li> <li>• Sickle Cell Association of Texas</li> <li>• Travis County Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Travis County Health and Human Services CRCG &amp; System of Care</li> <li>• UT College of Education (asthma study)</li> <li>• Village Medical</li> <li>• Walgreens (Flu Shots)</li> <li>• YMCA (Diabetes Testing)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Youth Education Zone</b> (near gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African-American Youth Harvest Foundation</li> <li>• A Bee Colony LLC</li> <li>• African-American Youth Harvest Foundation</li> <li>• Austin Area Urban League</li> <li>• Austin Community College</li> <li>• Austin Voices for Education and Youth</li> <li>• Austin FC/Verde Leaders</li> <li>• Austin ISD Equity Department</li> <li>• Austin ISD Early College Programs</li> <li>• Autism Society of Texas</li> <li>• Boys and Girls Club (Webb MS)</li> <li>• Carment Kiara Youth Organization</li> <li>• Communities in Schools (Northeast HS)</li> <li>• Generational Arts Collective</li> <li>• Dance Team (Northeast HS)</li> <li>• Dobie Middle School</li> <li>• Genell Enterprise</li> <li>• Grandma Wisdom/</li> <li>• Northeast Early College Program</li> <li>• Northeast ECHS Boys and Girls Track</li> <li>• Northeast Marching Band</li> <li>• Side by Side Kids</li> <li>• University of Texas at Austin Recruiting</li> <li>• UT Austin-Social Research Center</li> <li>• UT Austin-Texas Advanced Computing Ctr.</li> <li>• Webb Early College Prep Academy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Children's Clothing in Aux. Gym</b></p> <p><b>Housing/Financial/Safety/Immigrant Services</b> (across from gym near Old Mall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A+ Federal Credit Union</li> <li>• Austin 3-1-1</li> <li>• Austin Code Department</li> <li>• Austin Community Law Center</li> <li>• Austin Fire Department</li> <li>• Austin Police Department</li> <li>• City of Austin Capital Delivery Services</li> <li>• Connect ATX/211</li> <li>• Frost Bank</li> <li>• Foundation Communities Prosper Centers</li> <li>• ICNA Relief USA Programs</li> <li>• League of Women Voters Austin Area</li> <li>• Sustainable Food Center</li> <li>• Travis County Summer Youth Employment Program</li> </ul>
<p><b>BLUE SANTA IN CAFETERIA LOBBY</b></p>	<p><b>Adult Education Zone</b> (near gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACC Continuing Education</li> <li>• Austin Area Urban League Tech &amp; Career Acad.</li> <li>• Goodwill Career and Technical Academy</li> <li>• Goodwill Excel Center</li> <li>• Huston-Tillotson Adult Degree Program</li> <li>• Literacy Coalition of Central Texas</li> <li>• Travis County (Digital Resources)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Job Fair</b> (cafeteria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amazon</li> <li>• BakerRipley</li> <li>• City of Austin-Aquatic Division</li> <li>• Dwyer Workforce Development</li> <li>• Goodwill Central Texas Workforce Advancement</li> <li>• Goodwill Fatherhood Works</li> <li>• Marine Corps</li> <li>• UPS</li> <li>• US Army &amp; US Army Reserves</li> <li>• Workforce Solutions Capital Area</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dental Zone</b> (large gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access Dental</li> <li>• ACC Dental Hygiene</li> <li>• MCNA Dental</li> <li>• St. David's Foundation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Family/Youth Zone</b> (near gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGE of Central Texas</li> <li>• Any Baby Can</li> <li>• Asian Family Support Services of Austin</li> <li>• Austin Energy</li> <li>• Austin Parks Foundation</li> <li>• Austin Partners in Education</li> <li>• Austin Voices Family Resource Centers</li> <li>• Austin Water (City of Austin)</li> <li>• AVANCE</li> <li>• Blue Santa (in cafeteria lobby)</li> <li>• Central Texas Food Bank</li> <li>• Child Inc.</li> <li>• City of Austin Office of Sustainability</li> <li>• Civic Arts</li> <li>• El Buen Samaritano</li> <li>• Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center</li> <li>• Equity Kids</li> <li>• Explore Austin</li> <li>• Foster Grandparent Program</li> <li>• Islamic Circle of North America</li> <li>• Partners in Parenting</li> <li>• Radical Empathy Education Foundation</li> <li>• Rundberg Alliance</li> <li>• Strong Start Early Childhood/SAFE Alliance</li> <li>• TC Underage Drinking Prevention Program</li> <li>• TreeFolks (near entrance to HopeFest)</li> <li>• United Way for Greater Austin</li> <li>• UT Social Resource Center</li> <li>• Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center</li> <li>• Way to Happiness Foundation</li> <li>• Youth for Human Rights</li> <li>• YWCA of Austin</li> </ul>	<p><b>Church Ministry Zone</b> (by stage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Come and See</li> <li>• Least of Saints (Motorcycles)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health Insurance Zone</b> (small gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas</li> <li>• Central Health</li> <li>• CommUnity Care</li> <li>• Dell Children's Health Plan</li> <li>• Direct Auto Insurance</li> <li>• Latino Healthcare Forum</li> <li>• Maximus/ Texas Health Steps</li> <li>• Sendero Health Plans</li> <li>• Superior Health Plan</li> <li>• United Healthcare</li> </ul>	<p><b>Children's Zone</b> (craft area/outside)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bookspring</li> <li>• Capital of Texas Zoo</li> <li>• St. John Branch Public Library</li> <li>• Young Men's Service League</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Prenatal Zone</b> (large gym)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healing Hands</li> <li>• Heart of Texas Pregnancy Resource Ctr</li> <li>• Mama Sana Vibrant Woman</li> </ul>	<p><b>Music Performances</b> (main stage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aida Ortiz</li> <li>• Dallas Shreve Band</li> <li>• Danza Azteca Guadalupana</li> <li>• Dobie Mariachis, Drumline</li> <li>• Los Fandangueros de Austin</li> <li>• Northeast Nightline Dance Team</li> <li>• Northeast Raider Band</li> <li>• Polynesian Dance Team (Rosa Elena Lopez)</li> <li>• Samantha Acosta</li> <li>• Webb MS Pep Band</li> </ul>	
<p><b>JOB FAIR IN CAFETERIA</b></p>	<p><b>Important Times (main stage)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noon:</b> Lunch and Presentation</li> <li>• <b>2:00:</b> Gift Card Raffle at Main Stage</li> </ul>	

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, INCLUDING SIGNATURE SPONSORS: AUSTIN VOICES, SUPERIOR HEALTH PLAN COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YOUNG MEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE and THE NORTHEAST VERTICAL TEAM OF SCHOOLS (AISD).**



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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023**





Engaged Communities, Empowered Schools. **N** **NORTHEAST** EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



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