



Community Sites for Schweitzer Scholars

Montrose Grace Place
YES Prep Schools
Tony's Place
Legacy Community Health Clinic
FAM Houston
San Jose Clinic
Bering Omega – Open Gate
Covenant House

Montrose Grace Place (<https://www.montrosegraceplace.org>)

Every Monday and Thursday at 6:00pm, Montrose Grace Place opens its doors to homeless youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities who are between the ages of 13 and 24 years old. Youth night is an evening of food, mentorship, and skills building. The youth and volunteers share a seated, family-style meal followed by an interactive lesson, craft, or other activity. Grace Place is looking for a Scholar to lead youth nights every week or every other week focusing on health, mental health, coping strategies or other areas of need. This year, Scholar Michael-Petrus Jones has created an interactive mental health class, and last year, Junior Fellow Daniela Ruiz from Prairie View A&M led a sexual health class 2021-2022 so either one or something totally different are all options. Please contact current Scholar, Michael Petrus Jones at michael.petrus-jones@bcm.edu to discuss options.

YES Prep Public Schools (www.yesprep.org)

Since 1998, YES Prep Public Schools has redefined what is possible in public education. With over 17,000 college-bound students across 20+ campuses, we are a system of high-performing public charter schools proving that students from underserved communities can achieve at the highest academic levels. Our **mission** is to empower all Houston students to succeed in college and to pursue lives of opportunity.

Option One: Social Emotional Learning: In addition to meeting the academic needs of our students, we intentionally provide for their holistic wellness through a range of supports and services including Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Central to Social Emotional Learning is the competency of emotional regulation. Recent SEL student assessments indicate a need for targeted programming in emotional regulation. This year, Scholar Kelsi Morgan is reviewing

current SEL survey data and supplemental discipline data for the development and facilitation of programming to improve students' coping strategies and emotional regulation. Her project is being supported by campus Student Support Counselors, licensed counselors and social workers who support the emotional wellness and mental health of students. Please contact current Scholar, Kelsi Morgan at kelsi.morgan@bcm.edu to discuss options.

Option Two: Addressing relational aggression at YES Prep Southside: Southside is a 6th-12th grade school that draws students from Sunnyside and Acres Homes neighborhoods. The school is receiving significant investment from YES Prep in form of mental health supports, teacher instruction and community involvement. Part of the strategy is to address relational aggression, in particular focusing efforts on 6th-8th boys. According to Sheporah Johnson, Director of Student Support, a weekly interactive class that may help these young men learn how to navigate the waters of broken relationships would be extremely beneficial. Please contact Sheporah Johnson at sheporah.johnson@yesprep.org

Option Three: Preparation for college life at Southside: Another project needed at Southside is a weekly interactive class aimed at college-bound seniors who will be first generation college students. While YES Prep's excellent college-readiness program and outstanding college counselors can ready them academically, there are many other areas that first gen students need support in including self-advocacy, information about healthcare and self-care resources, strategies for homesickness, feelings of loneliness and ongoing financial stress. Please contact Sheporah Johnson at sheporah.johnson@yesprep.org if interested.

Tony's Place (<https://tonysplace.org/>)

Tony's Place promotes respect, physical safety, security and development for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies up to age 25 who are unstably housed, couch-surfing, or experiencing homelessness. In our center, we help the youth survive on a day-to-day basis by providing services to meet their immediate, basic needs such as showers, laundry, hot food, hygiene, clothing and safe sex items. In addition to basic needs services, we offer creative, therapeutic, and educational programming as well as opportunities for HIV testing, and counseling through relationships with community partners. When needed or desired, we also provide connections to employment, educational, and housing opportunities that will help the youth develop and thrive in the long term. By accomplishing our mission, we want to help equip our members with skills to manage and avoid the challenges and barriers they face. These include exposure to drugs and alcohol, victimization, involvement in the criminal justice system, being sexually trafficked or engaging in survival sex.

1. Creating art and/or music programs to function as a means of self-expression for members while also creating a therapeutic outlet.
2. Developing a mentor program to offer support and guidance for members identifying and navigating educational and employment goals and opportunities.
3. Building resource and referral packets/guides to send to members virtually who are unable to come into the center, as well as to offer to "non-eligible" members (outside of our age range).

For more information, please contact Alyssa Kelly at Alyssa.Kelly@tonysplace.org.

Legacy Community Health Clinic (www.legacycommunityhealth.org)

Legacy Community Health is a full-service health care system comprised of over 50 locations in the Texas Gulf Coast region offering primary and specialty care, as well as pharmacy services. For over 40 years, Legacy has been innovating the ways we provide comprehensive, quality health care services to underserved communities. As the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas and a United Way affiliated agency since 1990, Legacy ensures its services and programs are open to all, regardless of the ability to pay—without judgment or exception.

Pediatric/Adolescent Medicine projects

Legacy has recently introduced a teen health ambassador program (like a youth advisory council - YAC). Prior YAC collaborations have created the teen health webpage (legacycommunityhealth.org/teenwell/), which offer teens and young adults information, resources and opportunities to take an active role in their own health care in a way that's comfortable and nonjudgmental.

1. Projects would be collaborating with the YAC around ongoing initiatives including:
 - Utilizing both clinic data and the YAC consultation, understand the perception of and utilization of annual well visits with the aim to increase utilization of these appointments.
 - Aid in the launch of a survey to explore how teens and young adults view their health, wellness and healthcare.
2. Data driven clinic interventions to aid in curbing the childhood obesity epidemic. Bilingual (Spanish/English) preferred given clinic site population. Applicant to propose scope and type of project.

If interested in working with Legacy, please contact Dr. Jennifer Feldmann at feldmann@legacycommunityhealth.org

FAM Houston (<https://www.famhoustontx.org>)

FAM Houston works for justice by building empowered community among refugees, immigrants, and local Houstonians through practices of hospitality, mutuality, storytelling & inclusivity. Some project ideas include:

1. Shamba Ya Amani (The Farm of Peace): Attend Saturday Shamba Days at our farm in Alief to get to know the community and create a project that is responsive to the intersection of needs encountered there. This is perfect for a Fellow who is interested in holistic health for women and families of all physical abilities. The intersection of needs includes mental and emotional health, food access, and nutrition. For more

information, please contact Dr. Kim Meyer, Shamba Ya Amani Manager at kim@famhouston.org.

2. Pamoja: Create and maintain a health resource list for our Pamoja Program which will aid in case management for newly arrived refugee families as well as educate American companion families on how to navigate health care systems in Houston with their partner newcomer families. For more information, please contact N. Francine Murhebwa, Pamoja Program Director at francine@famhouston.org.
3. Capacity building project to increase community engagement and participation of youth and young adults in FAM's current programs of Shamba Ya Amani and Pamoja. For more information, please contact Rev. Hannah Terry, FAM Houston Executive Director at hannah@famhouston.org.

San Jose Clinic (<https://www.sanjoseclinic.org>)

The mission of the San Jose Clinic is to provide healing through quality healthcare and education with respect and compassion for those with limited access to care. San Jose is beginning a clinic in Fort Bend County, specifically in Rosenberg, and is looking for a Scholar to help create an outreach program to bring in children who are below the Federal Poverty Level. Interested applicants should reach out to CEO Maureen Sanders at maureensanders@sanjoseclinic.org

Bering Omega – Open Gate (<https://beringopengate.org>)

Open Gate was born March 4, 2007, as a non-religious outreach of [Bering Memorial United Methodist Church](#), the program focuses on 18-30-year-old homeless young adults of any sexual orientation or gender identity, but with a fundamental commitment to provide a safe and welcoming place for LGBTQ young adults who generally have a very difficult time at shelters and agencies. "Safety" means not only no weapons, drugs, or alcohol, but also no violent speech or action. Each week, we provide a made from scratch, family-style dinner for our participants. This gives them an opportunity to relax in a safe, supportive, environment while ensuring they have a full meal. They are looking for a Scholar to teach Life Skills classes, possibly a parenting class, after the dinner. Interested applicants should reach out to Damien Kelly ABD, MS-HRM, SHRM-CP, PHR, SBR Program Director, Bering Open Gate P 713.526.1017 | C 832.588.8593 opengate@beringchurch.org

Covenant House (<https://www.covenanthousetx.org>)

Covenant House Texas (CHT) is a support center and shelter in the Montrose area dedicated to assisting homeless, abused, and abandoned youth ages 18-24. This support includes mental health and substance abuse counseling, transitional and permanent living programs, and educational and vocational training in addition to providing the basic necessities of food, clothing, medical care, and shelter. This project was begun in 2020 by TCH Adolescent Medicine Fellow Sarah Heathcote, MD and was taken over in 2021 by Baylor College of Medicine medical students and Schweitzer Fellows Muktha Nair and Nat Moss. The goals of this project are to

establish and develop community resources for LGBTQIA+ individuals at CHT to further advocacy efforts, nurture an environment of affirmation, and fulfill the resource needs of this population. This past year, the Fellows have held multiple on-site events including regular office hours, collaboration game and paint nights with BCM Pride and the UH Creative Arts Club, and held an ongoing fundraiser to distribute resources to LGBTQIA+ youth. Throughout the events the youth have expressed multiple times that they feel happy that they are receiving support, affirmation, and representation through the Pride Coalition, as LGBTQIA+ representation in CHT staff is limited. Interested applicants can reach out to CEO Leslie Bourne at lkbourne@covenanthouse.org