

MOSAIC

A PUBLICATION OF **IMHouston.**

Spring 2026

IM the good we do
IM Houston

Welcoming More Neighbors to IM Houston's Meals on Wheels

IM Houston Expands Meals on Wheels to Serve Nearly 1,000 Additional Seniors

A Growing Need, A Greater Reach

Across Greater Houston, thousands of seniors are facing increasing uncertainty - struggling to access nutritious meals, maintain independence, and remain safely in the homes and communities they love. In response to this urgent need, IM Houston has been selected by the Harris County Area Agency on Aging to expand Meals on Wheels services into 17 additional zip codes, including Third Ward, Sunnyside, and Magnolia Park. Through this expansion, IM Houston will serve approximately 950 additional seniors each day. Behind every number is a story, a neighbor who spent a lifetime building our community, a senior choosing between food and medication, an individual whose dignity, safety, and humanity deserve to be protected.

More Than a Meal

For many seniors, a Meals on Wheels delivery represents far more than nourishment. It is reassurance. It is human connection. It is the comfort of knowing someone will knock on the door and care enough to ask, "How are you today?" "Both nutrition and connection are vital," said President & CEO Sheroo Mukhtiar. "We are honored to provide not only meals, but also compassion, dignity, and the reminder that our seniors are valued, seen, and never forgotten."

Caring for the Whole Person

IM Houston's approach extends beyond lunch delivery. The organization also provides breakfast bags, weekend meals, and Animeals - ensuring beloved pets, who are often a senior's closest source of companionship and emotional support, are cared for as well. These services help address isolation, improve stability, and allow seniors to age with dignity and greater peace of mind.

A Community Effort

While county funding supports a significant portion of this expansion, critical gaps remain. IM Houston must raise an additional \$100,000 annually to sustain daily lunch service for these new clients. Additional funding is also needed to provide breakfast bags, weekend meals, and Animeals for seniors with the greatest needs. This expansion represents more than growth - it is a collective commitment to ensuring that no senior in our community is left behind. Together, we can deliver nourishment, compassion, and hope to nearly 1,000 more neighbors each day.

Be Part of the Impact

Help ensure no senior feels alone or unsupported.
Give today at IMHouston.org

Scan the QR code to
give to IM Houston



Letter From IM Houston's President & CEO

Dear Friends,

Because of your generosity and belief in our mission, IM Houston continues to meet this moment with compassion, courage, and an unwavering commitment to our community. Your partnership is not simply supporting programs, it is creating hope, dignity, and opportunity for thousands of individuals and families across Greater Houston and Galveston County.

Together, we are responding to some of our community's most urgent needs while building a stronger, more connected future. I am honored to share several meaningful milestones that reflect the extraordinary impact we are making – together!

This year, IM Houston expanded our Meals on Wheels program into 17 additional zip codes across Harris County, allowing us to serve nearly 1,000 more homebound seniors each day. Beyond nutritious meals, this expansion provides wellness checks, human connection, and the reassurance that our seniors are valued and never forgotten. For many clients, the brief moment when a volunteer or driver arrives at their door is the only human interaction they may experience that day. Your support ensures that nourishment is delivered with dignity, compassion, and care.

We are also proud to celebrate a significant achievement within our Refugee Services program. IM Houston's legal services work recently received formal accreditation from the U.S. Department of Justice; a powerful recognition of the quality, integrity, and impact of our work supporting refugees as they rebuild their lives in Houston. This accreditation strengthens our ability to assist individuals and families navigate the path toward stability, lawful status, and ultimately, U.S. citizenship, offering not just services, but the promise of belonging and opportunity.

In a time when division and misunderstanding too often dominate public discourse, IM Houston remains deeply committed to building bridges across faiths and communities. This year, we were honored to host UN World Interfaith Harmony Week in Houston and to relaunch our signature interfaith dialogue initiatives. These gatherings create sacred spaces for people of diverse faith traditions and backgrounds to listen, learn, and connect through shared humanity. They are powerful reminders that peace begins with relationships, understanding, and the courage to see one another fully.

Through Volunteer Houston, IM also continues to play a critical leadership role in Harris County's Ready to Serve initiative. By mobilizing volunteers, strengthening nonprofit preparedness, and supporting disaster response and recovery efforts, Volunteer Houston helps ensure our region is equipped to respond with resilience and compassion before, during, and after times of crisis. This work strengthens the very fabric of our community and demonstrates what is possible when people come together in service of one another.

None of this happens without you. Your generosity fuels innovation, sustains life-changing services, and allows IM Houston to respond boldly to the evolving needs of our community. Because of you, seniors experience dignity, refugees find hope, neighbors discover connection, and communities grow stronger. Thank you for standing beside us and believing in the power of compassion, collaboration, and service. Together, we are creating lasting impact and a more hopeful future for Houston.

With deepest gratitude,



Sheroo Mukhtiar
President & CEO



Sheroo Mukhtiar

IM Meals On Wheels

Gloria's Story

Gloria spent years caring for others in her neighborhood and for her husband. Today, Meals on Wheels helps her remain in the home where she has cared for so many.

When asked why Meals on Wheels matters, Gloria reflects on the connection it brings. "Just that you could say, 'I spoke to somebody this morning. I wasn't isolated all day.' It felt good," she says. "As old as we are, we can continue to be making friends, even though we are homebound."

Each delivery provides more than nutrition. It brings connection and a meaningful part of her day.

For seniors like Gloria, Meals on Wheels supports independence and connection to the community they love.

With your support, IM Houston serves thousands of homebound seniors across our community.

Answering the Call for Seniors in Our Community

Last fall, hundreds of Meals on Wheels seniors across Houston and Galveston County faced an uncertain future.

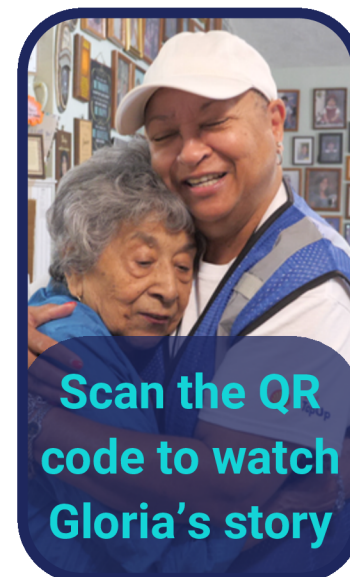
Unexpected government funding cuts placed \$500,000 at risk, threatening daily meal delivery and safety checks for more than 300 seniors who rely on these services to remain healthy, independent, and connected at home.

What followed was a powerful reflection of this community.

Across Greater Houston and Galveston, neighbors, businesses, and partners came together with urgency and compassion. In just three weeks, more than 250 donors closed the funding gap, ensuring services continued without interruption.

Key partners helped anchor this effort, including The Moody Foundation, H-E-B, Elevator Repair Services, Bank of America, and The Permanent Endowment Fund. The Mary Moody Northern Endowment also supported Animeals, helping care for seniors' beloved pets. Together, this community made a clear statement. Seniors in Greater Houston and Galveston will not be left behind.

Because of this generosity, hundreds of older adults continue to receive the nutrition, wellness checks, and connection they depend on every day. When seniors are at risk, this community shows up.



Want to learn more? Scan the QR code or visit IMHouston.org

Advancing Our Mission Through Interfaith Relations

Harmony Begins with Welcome

This February, Greater Houston came together for World Interfaith Harmony Week, hosted by IM Houston. Rooted in a global call to center compassion, dignity, and love of neighbor, this year's theme, *AWE: Art of Welcoming Everyone*, reminded us that harmony is not passive. It is something we choose to practice every day.

The week began with an intimate dinner and dialogue led by artist Marlon Hall, where storytelling and shared experiences helped strangers become neighbors. It continued through Volunteer Houston service projects, as people from diverse backgrounds worked side by side toward a common purpose.

During the Weekend of Welcome, houses of worship across the region opened their doors, inviting the community to step inside, learn, and experience hospitality across traditions.

Harmony grows through simple, intentional acts. This February, our community chose to take those steps together, one conversation, one act of service, and one welcome at a time. Save the date for our next dialogue on September 10th.



Faith Leaders Come Together to Build Understanding

Nearly 50 faith leaders and community partners gathered at Children's Museum Houston for IM Houston's Interfaith Network spring meeting, representing traditions from across Greater Houston. Together, they deepened relationships and advanced a shared commitment to respect, understanding, and connection in a time when it is needed most.

The Interfaith Network provides a dedicated space for dialogue, learning, and partnership. During this quarterly gathering, participants shared updates, exchanged ideas, and connected with fellow leaders working intentionally to bridge divides and strengthen community trust.

A highlight of the meeting was the Faithful Friends exhibit, which explores how cultures and faith traditions express and celebrate their beliefs. Experiencing it together sparked thoughtful conversation around identity, culture, and what it means to truly belong.

Understanding grows through connection. By coming together to listen, learn, and engage, these leaders are helping build a more connected, compassionate Houston for all.

Scan the QR code to
learn more about
the Interfaith
Network



Operation IMpact: Preparing Seniors Before Storm Season

When severe weather threatens Greater Houston, most families prepare in advance. But for thousands of homebound seniors, that is not an option.

Many rely on Meals on Wheels as their primary source of nutrition. When roads flood or power is lost, even a brief disruption can leave them without meals for days.

Preparing Before It Is Needed

Each year, IM Houston addresses this risk through Operation IMpact, delivering emergency, shelf-stable food to more than 3,500 seniors across Greater Houston and Galveston County.

These meals are placed in homes before storm season, ensuring seniors have food if deliveries pause.

Stability When It Matters Most

“Preparedness is essential for the seniors we serve,” said Sheroo, spokesperson for IM Houston. “Operation IMpact ensures our clients have the nutrition and stability they need during severe weather.”

Powered by Community Support

The initiative is made possible through the support of community partners. IM Houston is especially grateful to Energy Transfer for stepping up with a \$10,000 Harris County Sponsorship.

Be Part of the Preparation

Support Operation IMpact at imgh.org/operation-impact-2026/.



Support Operation IMpact
Scan the QR Code
or visit IMHouston.org

Operation IMpact



IM Refugee Services

Upcoming Exhibit for Youth Art Program at Children's Museum Houston

We are thrilled to share that artwork from our **Refugee Services Youth Art Program** will soon be showcased at Children's Museum Houston, an exciting milestone for our young artists. In collaboration with the museum, we are planning a mini exhibition in the Faithful Friends Gallery's Kaleidoscope Room this June, featuring a curated selection of works.



This exhibition represents an important milestone in an ongoing and meaningful journey. The museum has also expressed interest in celebrating the opening with a special gathering for the featured artists—creating a moment of recognition and joy for young people whose voices deserve to be seen and valued.

Our Refugee Services Youth Art Program offers weekly 90-minute virtual art sessions for refugee youth ages 13–18. In a welcoming and supportive online space, participants explore a variety of artistic techniques while building essential life skills such as reflection, problem-solving, and peer connection. Each session centers individuality, creativity, and wellbeing, empowering young people to share their stories through art. Presenting their work at Children's Museum Houston honors their creativity and invites the broader community to witness the resilience, imagination, and hope these young artists bring to Houston.

Refugee Services Receives DOJ Accreditation

We are proud to share that IM Houston's Refugee Services Program has received Department of Justice (DOJ) Recognition and Accreditation, a significant milestone that strengthens our ability to serve clients across the Houston area. Through our Refugee Services program, this designation allows qualified, non-attorney staff, known as DOJ-accredited representatives, to legally provide immigration services, expanding access to high-quality legal support for individuals and families navigating the citizenship process.

DOJ-accredited representatives are authorized to provide a range of immigration legal services, from preparing applications with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to representing clients in certain immigration court proceedings, depending on the level of accreditation. Through this program, IM Houston can expand its capacity to serve individuals pursuing lawful immigration pathways, including those working toward citizenship.

This recognition strengthens our ability to provide timely, culturally responsive, and cost-effective legal services, helping bridge gaps in access to trusted immigration support. It reflects IM Houston's continued commitment to serving our community with integrity, compassion, and professionalism.

Scan QR Code to give to Refugee Services:



2025 Tapestry Gala In Review



Presenting Sponsor:



**Thank you to all who supported the Gala!
The event raised over \$650,000 for IM Houston.**

Honoree

Charlene Chuang

Spirit of Respect Honoree

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Save the Date! 2026 Tapestry Gala

Save the Date! We are delighted to invite our community to mark their calendars for the Annual Tapestry Gala, taking place on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at the Hilton Americas–Houston.

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026

Hilton Americas- Houston

Tapestry Honorees: Linh & Fred G. Marshall

Spirit of Respect Honoree: The William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity (WALIPP)

Event Chairs: Shirin & Saied Alavi

For info contact cjohnson@imggh.org

Presenting Sponsor:



Advancing Our Mission Through Volunteerism



Volunteer Houston Enters A New Chapter

Volunteer Houston (VH) is entering a new chapter focused on making it easier for people to connect with meaningful service opportunities. Over the past year, we've strengthened partnerships, including with the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, and refreshed the VH portal and website. The result is a cleaner, more user-friendly experience that helps volunteers quickly find ways to get involved while enabling agencies to share their most pressing needs.

We've also introduced new initiatives to elevate the organizations and individuals that power our community. Agency Spotlights provide nonprofits with added digital exposure, while our Volunteer Recognition Award honors individuals making a lasting impact across Greater Houston.

To support the next generation of service leaders, VH launched a new Pathways page featuring nonprofit internships for students and early-career professionals. Together, these updates create clearer, more accessible ways for people to engage and serve.

Ready to Serve

In partnership with the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, VH is proud to support the Ready to Serve initiative—an effort to strengthen regional disaster preparedness through volunteer engagement. VH is helping build a network of 5,000 volunteers to support coordinated response efforts during emergencies.

Community members can register through the Volunteer Houston portal to join the Ready to Serve network and help ensure Harris County has a strong base of support when it's needed most. Learn more and register using the QR code.



Agency Spotlight - Hope Impacts

At Hope Impacts in Katy, the power of volunteerism is felt every day, and VH makes it possible. Through the VH portal, Hope Impacts connects with people like Trena Bailey, whose homemade cookies and warm conversations bring comfort and smiles to neighbors experiencing homelessness.

"Those moments of connection mean the world," Trena says. Robert Fuentes, who began as a volunteer and now serves as Volunteer Coordinator, sees that impact firsthand. "Nine out of ten times, our volunteers come through Volunteer Houston, and we love it." Together, they show how volunteering builds community, dignity, and hope. If you have been thinking about getting involved, this is your sign to volunteer, connect, and feel the fulfillment of making a real difference. Visit VolunteerHouston.org to get started today.



"...moments of connection mean the world..."

Support Volunteer Houston

Scan the QR Code



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