



RELATIONSHIPS GROW. LEADERS EMERGE. COMMUNITIES CHANGE.

WHO WE ARE

Project Transformation Rio Texas (PT) is a triple bottom line organization focused on transforming communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships. PT envisions a world that is rooted in love, pursues the equity of all people, and amplifies God's call on every life.

Our team

- 1-part-time permanent staff
- 4-full-time permanent staff
- 6-site churches
- 40+ summer and after-school college interns
- 200+ summer volunteers

Our approach to community transformation

- **College students** invest in the lives of underserved children while living in community, exploring their calling, and developing as servant leaders.
- **Children** from overburdened neighborhoods improve their literacy, social-emotional, and spiritual development through participating in out-of-school time programs.
- **Churches** in underserved communities host our out-of-school time programs, reconnecting and building relationships with their neighbors.

Our programs

PT's community-oriented after-school and summer day camp programming for children and youth is led by young adult interns seeking leadership development and ministry experience. Our programs are designed to target systemic challenges in the children and families served by forming deep relationships that build trust in a restorative process. It is through these relationships that a lasting impact is made, and lives are transformed.

THE ISSUE: Children living in poverty need individualized intervention to improve their chance for academic success

- Students who have lived in poverty are three times more likely to drop out or fail to graduate on time than their more affluent peers. (Study links..., 2017)
- Students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma than proficient readers. (Study links..., 2017)
- 89% of low-income children are behind in grade-level reading. (Project Transformation How it Works video)

THE SOLUTION: A snapshot of our differentiators

- Passionate college interns implement our programs and serve as role models
- Children participate in an 8-week day summer camp
- 1:8 intern to child ratio
- Holistic programming centered around Social Emotional Learning
- Daily one-on-one Reading Buddy time with a trained and compassionate volunteer
- Targeted homework help
- Restorative practices

THE IMPACT: Proof that children succeed, leaders emerge, and communities change

- 90+% of the children served every summer maintain or improve their reading level
- 96% of the children spoke positively about their experience this summer
- 96% of parents felt their site church was safe and nurturing
- 100% of young adult alumni say that PT prepared them for future leadership in the church or community

OUR HISTORY	
2015	Founded in San Antonio Opened summer camps at three sites under the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.
2018	Expanded to the Rio Grande Valley
January 2020	Became a stand-alone 501(c)3
2020	Expanded to Austin
March 2020	COVID-19 pandemic began 200,000 students went home, and PT started working to address the unique needs of the pandemic.
Summer 2020	Pivot to at-home programming Developed new initiatives for children and families staying home: pen pal program, virtual reading buddies, and supply distribution.
THE CURRENT MOMENT: FILLING THE NEED Each year, children come to PT with their academic bucket, and sometimes life buckets, less than full. And now, the pandemic has emptied the children's buckets even further. PT works to fill their buckets by improving literacy levels and providing staples like food and emotional support. Our mission in 2021 is to concentrate our resources into the buckets of children we can reach within the limits of the pandemic.	

January 2021	Year 2 of the pandemic “Mounting evidence documents how the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in substantial learning loss and increased education inequity.” (Kraft & Falken, 2021)
Summer 2021	A summer of unique challenges PT programming will be limited in-person, with the option to go virtual if needed. Although this results in fewer children served, our impact per child and college intern will continue to be profound. Additionally, we will supplement programming with interventions that acknowledge both college students and children have been adversely affected by the pandemic.
THE FUTURE: EMERGING INTO A NEW LANDSCAPE	
Post-pandemic	Positive future impact Through our commitment to restorative justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and trauma-informed care, PT foresees children, families, and college interns will be positively impacted by their communal experience.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CAUSE

A gift to Project Transformation is a gift to children and college students — more than 90% of PT's budget is invested directly in people. Here are some ways your gift will make a difference for our people.

- \$40 Supports summer day camp for one day for a child
- \$120 Supports one child for two weeks of programming
- \$250 Supports an intern living in community
- \$1,200 Support one child for a holistic summer experience
- \$3,500 Allows one intern to experience a life-changing summer of service and ministry

Give today at <https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/get-involved/donate>

References:

- Kraft, M. A. & Falken, G. T. (2021, January). A blueprint for scaling tutoring across public schools. *EdWorkingPaper: 20-335*. Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/dkjh-s987>
- Study links 3rd grade reading, poverty and HS graduation. (2017). *The Campaign for Grade-Level-Reading*. Retrieved from <http://gradelevelreading.net/uncatergorized/study-likes-3rd-grade-reading-poverty-and-hs-graduation>
- Project Transformation How it Works video. Retrieved from <https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/how-it-works>