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# CERV IT UP

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*Dearest iCERV Family,*

So here we are, half way through the year and presenting our second newsletter!

It has been a year of tremendous opportunities, achievements, and challenges for the entire team. Across all the SW iCERV chapters, we have made an impact in our local communities, and this is something we continue to deliver as part of iCERV's objectives.

As some of you may know, the Southwest iCERV coordinators have also come together for the first time, to work together to improve what is done from a leadership and planning perspective. Needless to say this has been a challenging endeavor, but an endeavor worth pursuing. To come together, to work together, and to ultimately collaborate on individual and organizational challenges is critical for any volunteer organization to improve its efficiency and maturity. As the year progresses, and the more we work together as a single iCERV family, I am certain that we are continuing to lay the groundwork for iCERV to only get better and better at its principal goal of making a difference in the lives of others.

I am truly excited to see what is in store for all the iCERV coordinators and board members in the future, and I hope that the volunteering aspect of your lives will always be there, no matter what capacity it is in.

As always, a special thank you to Anna Ali and Reema Dhuka for going the extra mile and taking time to put together this newsletter.

Lastly, I hope and pray that every single iCERV member, has a moment that serves as a spark, to light up the flame of giving back to your fellow human beings and recognizing the importance of it.

*With lots of love,*

*Naveed Dattu*



## Austin iCERV

Austin iCERV's event of the month goes to Trail of Lights. Our members were guides that helped people answer questions and helped them in any way needed. This was an evening/night program that everyone enjoyed! We are excited to go back again this year and have another fun filled day. Austin iCERV's past events were...the Special Needs, Trail of Lights and Brown Santa Gift Wrapping. This month has been going fantastic thanks to the hard work of all the members coming to serve

at the events! Austin iCERV's upcoming events are Gorilla Run, Special Needs and Austin Marathon and Half Marathon. Members sign up for these events and make a difference!



## Sweet Happenings In SugarLand iCERV

Alief Homeless Outreach Program (AHOP): SLA ICERV helped with a local community garden that provides fresh veggies to needy families in the Houston area. Sugar Land Area ICERV assisted with planting, weeding, and watering plants!

Houston Humane Society: One of our favorite events was volunteering at The Houston Humane Society! We got to care

for animals by walking them and playing with them! We had a blast and Houston Humane Society asked us to come by at least once a month!

Upcoming Event: Sugar Land Area is having our Second General Body Meeting in the month of February!



*“From Compassion To Action”*

## North Houston iCERV

In the month of December, North ICERV decided to try something new—we hosted a football and Frisbee tournament for all of our members. Members had to pay a fee of \$5 and they would be put into teams. When the games were finished, the winning team would get to decide which charity/organization they want the collected \$5 fees to be donated to. In January, North ICERV was able to participate in the Houston Chevron Marathon by keeping the area clean and recycling recyclable materials (see collage for pictures). We look forward to volunteering for the Run for Wellness 5K or the Darling Dash in February.



## Beaumont iCERV



The picture to the left shows the members preparing to play the Human Knot which is one of the many fun games they participated in for the Leadership Building Event. This event helped the members help challenge their skills necessary for becoming our future leaders. We also had a Movie Night with tons of food to reward our members for their hard work and dedication!

*“From Compassion to Action”*



## Clear Lake iCERV

Clear Lake during the month of December decided to take part in the season of giving by becoming “blanketeers”. Our blanketeers took part in Project Linus by creating fleece blankets for children that are receiving treatments in hospitals, seeking shelters, and also those under the Social Service.

Lake’s Blanketeers made warm blankets with love, care, and kindness for the children along with beautifully crafted Holiday cards to show their love and care for any child that just needed a smile on their face!



## San Antonio iCERV ignites the spark within our volunteers heart’s!



San Antonio iCERV loves every event we do, however McCuollough Hall Nursing Center is very close to our hearts. We try to visit our senior residents every month, and when we went in December some of the residents remembered our names and faces. We were astonished, but you know you’ve made a difference when they remember you. We loved singing christmas carols and decorating little snowmen with them. They’re so adorable and we love spending time with them. Another one of our previous events which was a hit was the Raul Jiminez Thanksgiving Dinner. We had a great time passing out food to hundreds of homeless people. It gave us a chance to think

about our lives and be thankful for what we have instead of complaining for more. We love events which teach us a lesson because then not only are we helping them but they’re helping us.

*“From Compassion to Action”*

## College Station iCERV

This past holiday season, College Station iCERV was able to give back to the community by serving food to the less fortunate on Thanksgiving Day, helping out at annual Christmas at the Creek Festival, and also making holiday cards for an assisted living community.



## Civic Leadership Corner



The Sugar Land Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (SL MYAC) has been a life changing opportunity for Alina Sonesra, Afreen Madhani, Zibaa Pirani and Kamil Ali. The SL MYAC empowers the youth to become active members in their community by providing them with an overview of the complexity and variety of opportunities for an everlasting effect on the future of their city through local government public service.

Our 4 Ismaili youth members are amongst the 25 others on the board selected through a competitive application process. They

hope to be role models for the upcoming batch of students applying for the MYAC. Through this experience, they hope to develop leadership skills to eventually make a difference by helping and transforming the city for a better future. We hope that their experience will inspire the youth to go and explore different fields and engage in various organizations.

*"From Compassion to Action"*

## Shoutouts....

North Houston iCERV: Shout-out to all of the members who were able to come out and make the football and Frisbee tournament a success! It was a lot of fun and we hope we can do the same thing during Spring Break!

Austin iCERV: Shout out to Mezbine Maknojia for driving the members to the Trail of Lights! Keep it up Austin iCERV! #austincervon

San Antonio iCERV: A huge shout out to Aftab Zindani, Akbar Ajani, and Subish Niar for always being there. And a thank you to Sabiya Nizar, Amina Dhanani, and Shamim Mohamed for their continuous support and passion for iCERV. You guys are great chaperones and we would like to thank you for helping us out even if it is back to back events! You guys are great role models, we hope you keep on serving and we hope to see you at our future events! #cervonSA

ACCT Team: Thank you for always having positive attitudes, communicating efficiently, and showing your dedication to iCERV through all work you put in. Special thanks to Anna, Zeba, and Sana for always being on top of everything and spreading their passion towards iCERV to their board members and members. Keep up the great work ACCT!

## “Of The Months”

North Houston iCERV: Board Members of the Month: Nabil Maknojia & Serena Inayatali—Thank you so much for coordinating the Houston Chevron Marathon event! You guys did a great job and I know that I can rely on you guys! Keep it up!

Austin iCERV: Board member of the month goes to Niha Ali for taking on the responsibility for the Special Needs events and always being there for members and everyone whenever needed! Keep it up!

Sugar Land iCERV: Board Member of the Month: Zukhruf Ali

San Antonio iCERV: Congratulations to our Board Member of the month, Rabia Rehman. You do a great job as Admin and you're always punctual with your reports and emails. You make us so proud. We love that you're on our team, we don't know what we would do without you. You're truly an asset to our team. We hope you keep up the good work.

## Jokes/Riddles

Q: What do you call a camel with no humps?

A: HUMPHREY!

Q: How does NASA plan a party?

A: THEY PLANET

## Check it out

SugarLand ICERV now has a website! Visit us at <http://icervsla.weebly.com> for more information on upcoming events!

