



January 2020

Round and Round We Go!

Life can often feel like you are going in circles, feeling lost and confused. Day to day, we make decisions, take a turn, follow road signs, and still we feel like we are getting nowhere.



For LINC Austin Outreach, the work we do often feels like we are spinning our wheels. I am sure you have read Austin news in the last few months. As you know homelessness has been a hot topic in local and national news. LINC Austin Outreach has been smack-dab in the middle of all that has occurred.

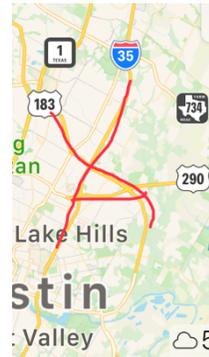
Our staff has attended City Council meetings, advocating for the community we serve; we met with Mayor Adler's Office seeking clarification and passionately advocating for those we serve. During the underpass clean-ups in November and December, LINC Austin Outreach worked directly with Texas Department of Transportation to serve as a liaison between those we serve and city and community partners. When other agencies were not able to get answers, LINC Austin Outreach passionately advocated for those answers, and provided key information to the largest agencies in the city. LINC Austin Outreach is currently the only agency offering case management to the residents of the new State campsite. The bureaucracy has been challenging, answers and communication in our community are difficult to navigate.

But through it all we have kept our eyes fixed on Jesus. We continue to point our clients to the promises of our Savior. We focus on being the hands and feet of Christ, sharing His love, compassion, mercy, and grace. We have gotten our hands dirty and trusted that Jesus would see us down the complicated road.

When the days seemed hopeless, when we wondered how we could possibly continue to provide hope to those we serve, Jesus inevitably, each and every time, offered hope in the form of a miracle.

These miracles occur in many ways. Since November 2019, LINC Austin Outreach staff has assisted in housing eight individuals in 7 weeks. A client facing a cancer diagnosis was cleared by a physician. In this same time period, we were able to successfully take two clients to see a physician for the first time in years. Since the first cold front in October, LINC Austin Outreach was able to provide cold weather gear to more than 100 individuals experiencing homelessness, donated by you, our Network. And we will continue to provide the gear, thanks to your generosity through Keep Austin Warm.

In 2019, LINC Austin was able to successfully transition 25+ individuals from homelessness through aftercare. Though we continue these relationships, most of these clients are now settled and sustainable. Now, in 2020, the city has requested that LINC Austin return to Outreach, due to our ability to compassionately and successfully engage clients. In the past, we have focused our efforts in the downtown area. Today, we have shifted our area of service to the underserved area of the Highway 183, Highway 290, I-35 corridor, please see map.



And, we have committed to one day/week of case management at the State campsite on the south side of the city.

In the uncertainty and challenges of bureaucracy, LINC Austin Outreach has kept our eyes focused, we have stood strong on the foundation of Christ's love. We are unfaltering in our purpose and our mission: to love and care for the hurting, lost and broken with the love of Jesus Christ with hope and integrity. With Christ as our road map, we allow him to navigate and light the way!

LINC Austin Outreach in 2020:

- Re-launch of an updated website.
- Shirt Off Your Back is returning in March
- New Volunteer Opportunities opening in Spring
- Keep Austin Cooler campaign in Summer