

Mission Grant spotlight

Hope for a new beginning

LINC Austin Outreach

is a very active mobile outreach and navigation agency in the Austin/Travis County area. In the last two years, LINC has partnered with city and county agencies to house more than 150 individuals. LINC's model of relationship, care and compassion — in the name of Jesus — has proven so effective that agencies all over Austin have requested LINC's help in training their staff in homeless outreach.

LINC Austin Outreach has a unique and thoughtful way of serving the individuals experiencing homelessness. LINC focuses on each individual, considering the client's pain and the road they have walked, and does their best to provide hope and love and point them to Jesus. The first and foremost goal is to build a relationship with those they serve, to offer empathy and care.

The LWML Texas District mission grant of \$10,000 will provide funding to continue mobile street outreach. LINC Austin Outreach offers hope for a new beginning by helping clients overcome major obstacles to housing and employment by attaining identification, and walking with



Welcome home! LINC stood by this client's side as he now has an apartment to call home.

clients as they prepare for housing. Upon housing, LINC provides basic housewarming items and stocks the pantry. This mission grant will allow LINC to do the work Jesus has called them to do.

LINC Austin Outreach advocates for their clients in a deep and meaningful way, creating an impact not just in their ministry, but also for other outreach services dedi-

cated to helping those experiencing homelessness. They have created partnerships and networks with local businesses, other outreach centers, churches, policy makers, nonprofits, hospitals and the Austin Police Department (APD), specifically the mental health unit. They have partnered with APD in hosting pop-up clinics that provide whole-patient care, which includes meeting basic needs, case work and medical assistance as needed.

Homelessness is a complicated topic. Despite the challenges, LINC Austin Outreach and its dedicated leaders wake up every morning with a tender and compassionate heart toward those who are unsheltered in Austin. Their mission is to build a strong community in the Austin area by developing authentic relationships and providing holistic care for those who are hurting and need the healing love and hope of Jesus Christ.

In a recent thank-you note for their first mission payment, Haleh Kersten, LINC executive director, shared that the mission grant had already helped LINC to house a young woman who has been homeless for more than 10 years. The mission grant allowed LINC to purchase household items and provide rental assistance for Angel. LWML mites have given Angel hope for the future and a place to call home.