

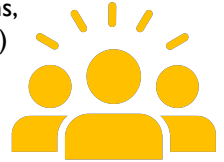
Overview

Living Hope is an independent, non-profit organization serving people with spinal cord injuries as well as with other disabilities so that they may lead full and productive lives. Our group was founded by people with spinal cord injuries, the majority of our members are not entitled to benefits, lack medical insurance, and do not have a stable source of income. We provide services to our members and engage in community advocacy to achieve our goals.

Mission

“The Mission of Living Hope Wheel Chair Association is to improve the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries or disease. For more than nine years we have committed our energy and our talents to improve access to services, promote the inclusion of people with disabilities, foster independence, enhance mobility and demand equality”. –Living Hope Wheelchair Association website

- Youth and adults (between 15-64)
- African American, Latino (Mexicanos, Salvadorans, Hondurans, Guatemalans, Bolivians)
- White
- LGBTQ
- Foster children
- Relative caregivers
- Homeless
- People with disabilities (learning, physical, or mental)
- Immigrant
- Undocumented
- Formerly incarcerated



Constituency

Local Conditions & Critical Issues Impacting 0-5 Childhood Health in Houston, TX

Immigration Laws—From 2000 to 2013 Houston’s immigrant population grew to 59%.¹ As of 2013, there were 1.4 million immigrants in Houston (mostly from Mexico and Central America). Many immigrants in the greater Houston area are unauthorized or temporary residents who are not eligible for citizenship.¹

“Well right now [the primary concerns] are immigration laws. If [ICE] grabs a mom that’s going to work, then [the kids] are going to be left alone. The kids suffer because they won’t have a dad or mom.” – Raymundo Mendoza, Secretary of the Board of Directors

Healthcare needs (including mental health) of parents—As of 2016, 84% of Latino children ages 0-17 in Houston had health insurance coverage.²

“Many of the immigrants who have spinal lesions or wheelchairs suffer from depression and isolation and our organization helps them overcome that. The impact that has on a child, especially a young child (having a parent with severe depression) is also negative for the child. Having a parent that has a better quality of life also improves the quality of life (and emotional wellbeing) of the children.”

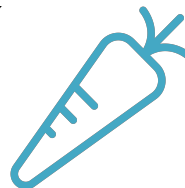
Key Indicators of Childhood Health in Houston, TX



As of 2015, 16.8% of low-income children in Houston were obese.³



The prevalence of diabetes among children aged 2-6 in Harris County, TX is 16.6%.⁴



Latino teens in the Houston Independent School District reported the following: 22% did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity in the last week; 11.6% did not eat vegetables, 22.2% drank sugary drinks daily, and 74% did not eat breakfast in the past week.³



30.4% of teens in the Houston Independent School District reported that they felt sad or hopeless every day for 2+ weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities.³

Current Wellness & Safety Efforts

Medical Supplies and Equipment – Distribute supplies and medical equipment (e.g., wheelchair repair, scooters, hospital beds) for members.

Promotor@s de Calidad de Vida – Provide a support network for individuals with spinal cord injuries and their families (work together to gain access to resources and services, change policies, organize to promote laws that respect the rights of workers, immigrants, persons with disabilities)

LHWA's Accomplishments in Wellness & Safety

- **Fought several anti-immigrant initiatives at the city, county, and state levels**
- **Metro Lift Campaign** – helped stop the privatization of MetroLift services (preserved good jobs for MetroLift workers, protected the quality of service, and stopped fare increases).

“Metro Lift wanted to increase taxes [which would raise the price of] tickets they give for traveling. We went several times to fight MetroLink’s direct roundtable so that they wouldn’t increase the tickets and so that they’d expand some of the regions that buses come to...and we succeeded!”

Allies/Partnerships Working on Children’s Health

- Central American Resource Center – Washington, DC <http://carecendc.org/>
- Fe y Justicia Worker Center – Houston, TX <http://houstonworkers.org/>

Website: <http://www.lhwassociation.org/>

Address: 9500 Westview, Suite 104, Houston Texas, 77055

Telephone: 281-764-6251

Email: livinghope@lhwassociation.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lhwassociation/>

LMU | LA
Psychology Applied
Research Center

Loyola Marymount University

 **the praxis project**

1. Capps, R., Fix, M., and Nwosu, C. (2015). A profile of immigrants in Houston, the nation’s most diverse metropolitan area. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.
2. Children with health insurance (2016). Houston State of Health. Retrieved from <http://www.houstonstateofhealth.com/index.php?module=indicators&controller=index&action=view&indicatorId=200&localeId=133891>
3. Community health needs assessment (2016). Texas Children’s Hospital. Retrieved from https://www.texaschildrens.org/sites/default/files/CHNA_Guide_2016_V10_0.pdf
4. Low-income preschool obesity (2009-2011). Houston State of Health. Retrieved from <http://www.houstonstateofhealth.com/index.php?module=indicators&controller=index&action=view&indicatorId=302&localeId=2675>