

**Clean & Green
2023
Operational Report**

**American
YOUTHWORKS**


AmeriCorps



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A message from Clean & Green Staff

As we look back to 2023, it gives us great pleasure to share with you our updates on our performance and achievements this last year. We started the year full of promising goals that were lined up in the 2022 operational report. As the year progressed, we achieved every challenge in parts. By the end of the year, most if not all of the goals our team proposed were attained. Below is the list of the major accomplishments we achieved during this period:

Increased participation.

During the first six months of 2023, we made it priority number one to increase the supervision staff to three crew supervisors as this would allow us to accept more than 10 participants per day. In June 2023, we hired an additional crew supervisor for the program, allowing us to increase the operational capacity from 40 participants up to 80 participants per week.

Access to All Waste Management Neighborhoods Depositories

In September 2023, with HCDAO assistance, we signed an MOU with City of Houston Waste Management, allowing Clean & Green to utilize free access to any of the six Houston neighborhood Depositories. This accomplishment allowed us to free the budget allotted to dumpster fees and allocate these resources towards better wages for C&G personnel. Thus, alleviating the staff retention challenge we experienced during 2022.

Tire Recycling Challenge

By late September of 2023, after months of searching for a place that takes an environmental approach to tire recycling. Clean & Green in collaboration with HCDAO signed a contract with Genan Inc to recycle more than 500 tires our program had stored but not recycled in our warehouse facility. Genan Inc is now the facility utilized to properly recycle all of the tires picked up by the Clean & Green Program around Harris County.

Illegal Dumping Prevention

In October 2023, HCDAO provided us with the first set of signs to post in the most problematic areas designated as hotspots across the county. These signs have helped in some areas deter illegal dumping while in other areas the placement of cameras may prevent the collection of waste illegally dumped. On the whole, we have noticed these signs have had an impact in the reduction of waste collected in these areas.

Increase public Awareness and Support for the Program.

At the end of 2023, in December. Our office earned a financial grant that will allow our program to reach out to the public community that has shared interest in joining our efforts to clean and keep Houston beautiful.

All things considered, we are excited to continue engaging and reaching out to our participants and the community through our program and our organization as a whole.

Our Commitment

Clean & Green commits to this program by providing the best possible education and community service experience for the participants. Our Crew Supervisors engage in environmental education with the participants throughout the day on topics such as the environmental impacts of illegal dumpsites, watershed health, and the effects that waste has on our environment and waterways. The Crew Supervisors also ensure everyday that the crew is built on a foundation of mutual respect, trust, and teamwork to reach a common goal. Since its inception in 2018, this program has been a real catalyst for change in human behavior and commitment to their communities and environment.



By the Numbers, in 2023

- **1,553** participants picked up more than **194** illegal dumpsites across Harris County.
- More than **9,300** hours of community service were provided to the community.
- Participants picked up and recycled more than **1,097** tires,
- Picked up, bagged, and filled up approximately **3,831** 55 gallon sized trash bags
- Removed, and disposed of **124** mattresses, and **349** furniture items.
- Picked up a total of **1,179** cubic yards of household waste.
- **32,525** linear feet of storm sewer lines and curbs were cleared of muck and debris in collaboration with City of Houston Public Works.
- In addition to this, C&G assisted in the sorting, packaging, and boxing of approximately **183**, **843** meals for after school programs and seniors through the Houston Food Bank.

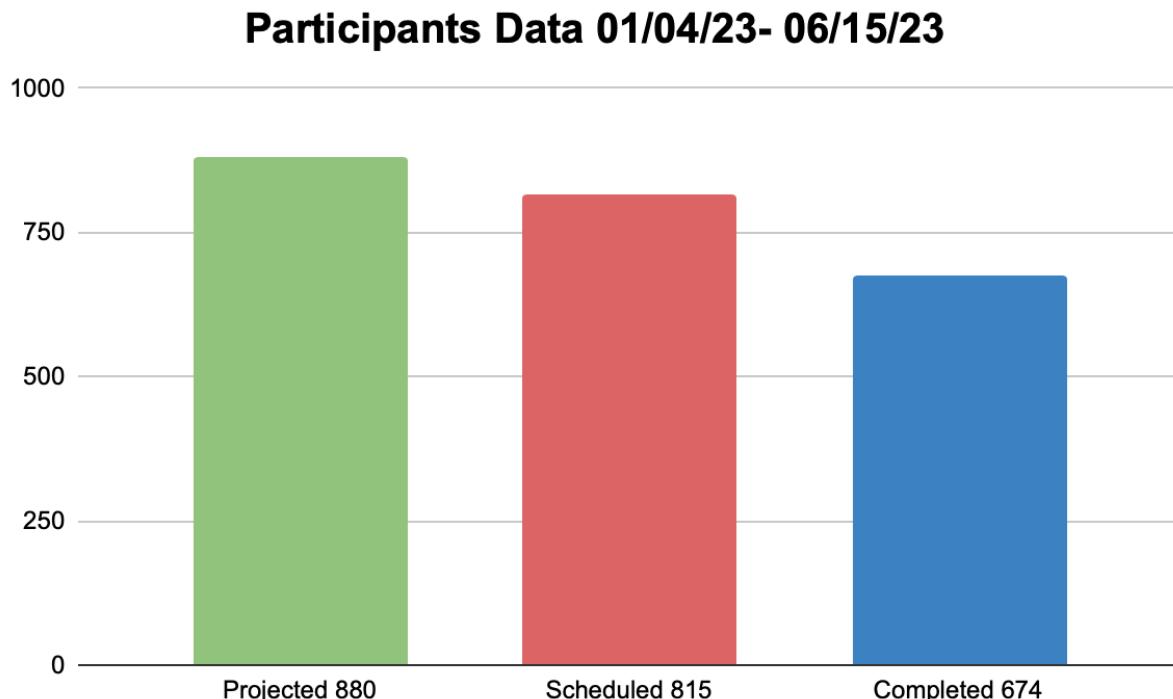


Participants Data

During 2023, Clean & Green checked in 1,553 participants out of 2,048 scheduled during this period. One of our goals for the 2023 period was increasing the participation from 10 participants the program was able to handle during its inception in late March 2022, to 20 participants per day.

Between March and May of 2023, our program made it a priority to find a third crew supervisor who understood the mission, goals, and priorities of the program. Clean & Green hired Katelynn Hernandez during the second semester of operations, this increased our daily participation rate from 10 participants per day up to 20 on any given day of operations.

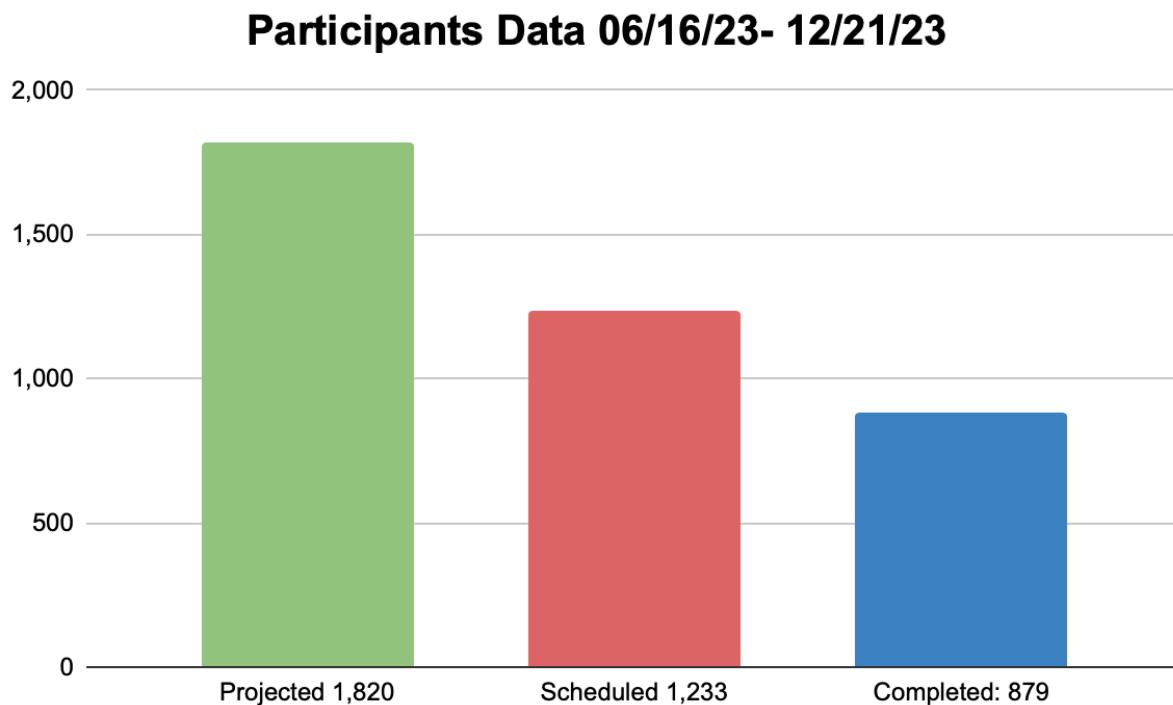
Below, graph (A) shows the projected rate of participants the program was capable of checking in with two crew supervisors during 2023.



During the first six months of 2023, with two crew supervisors, Clean & Green had a capacity to check in and supervise 880 participants. 815 participants were scheduled by HCDAO. 674 participants checked in and completed their community service hours.

The difference between the program's operational capacity and what HCDAO scheduled was 65 participants.

Below, Graph B depicts the new rate of participants Clean & Green was capable of checking in with three crew supervisors during 2023



During the second semester of 2023. With three Crew Supervisors, Clean & Green increased its operation capacity of checking in and supervising up to 1,820 participants. HCDAO scheduled 1,233 participants and only 879 completed their community service hours.

The difference between Clean & Green's operational capacity and what HCDAO scheduled during the last semester of 2023 increased to 857 participants.

Program Metrics Overview

194 Illegal Dumpsites were cleared and picked up during 2023 across Harris County.



[District H](#), 88 illegal dumpsites
[District B](#), 64 illegal dumpsites
[District D](#), 20 illegal dumpsites
[District I](#), 13 illegal dumpsites
[District E](#), 4 illegal dumpsites
[District F](#), 2 illegal dumpsites
[District C](#), 1 illegal dumpsite
[District K](#), 1 illegal dumpsite
[District J](#), 1 illegal dumpsite

3,381 contractor sized waste bags, were filled and disposed.

124 Mattresses and

349 Assorted Furniture pieces disposed.

1,179 cubic yards of waste collected and properly dumped.

That's equivalent to

x29 shipping containers



Tire Recycling



During 2023, Clean & Green participants and staff picked up, and recycled **1,097** tires. This is equivalent to **37,886** lbs. of rubber and steel recycled through Genan Inc.

Illegally dumped tires have been a long issue, especially in low income neighborhoods across Harris County, due to proper lack of funding to collect, dispose and recycle tires.

Since 2022, **The Clean & Green Program**, through the assistance of **East End District, Army Corps of Engineers, and Greater NorthSide District Management** properly disposed of, 981 tires that were collected within the jurisdiction of these organizations.

For 2023, we started the year with 125 tires we could not properly recycle. These tires were stored in the premises of our facility. For the next 6 months we searched for a facility with an environmental approach to recycling, repurposing these tires for reuse in a variety of ways.

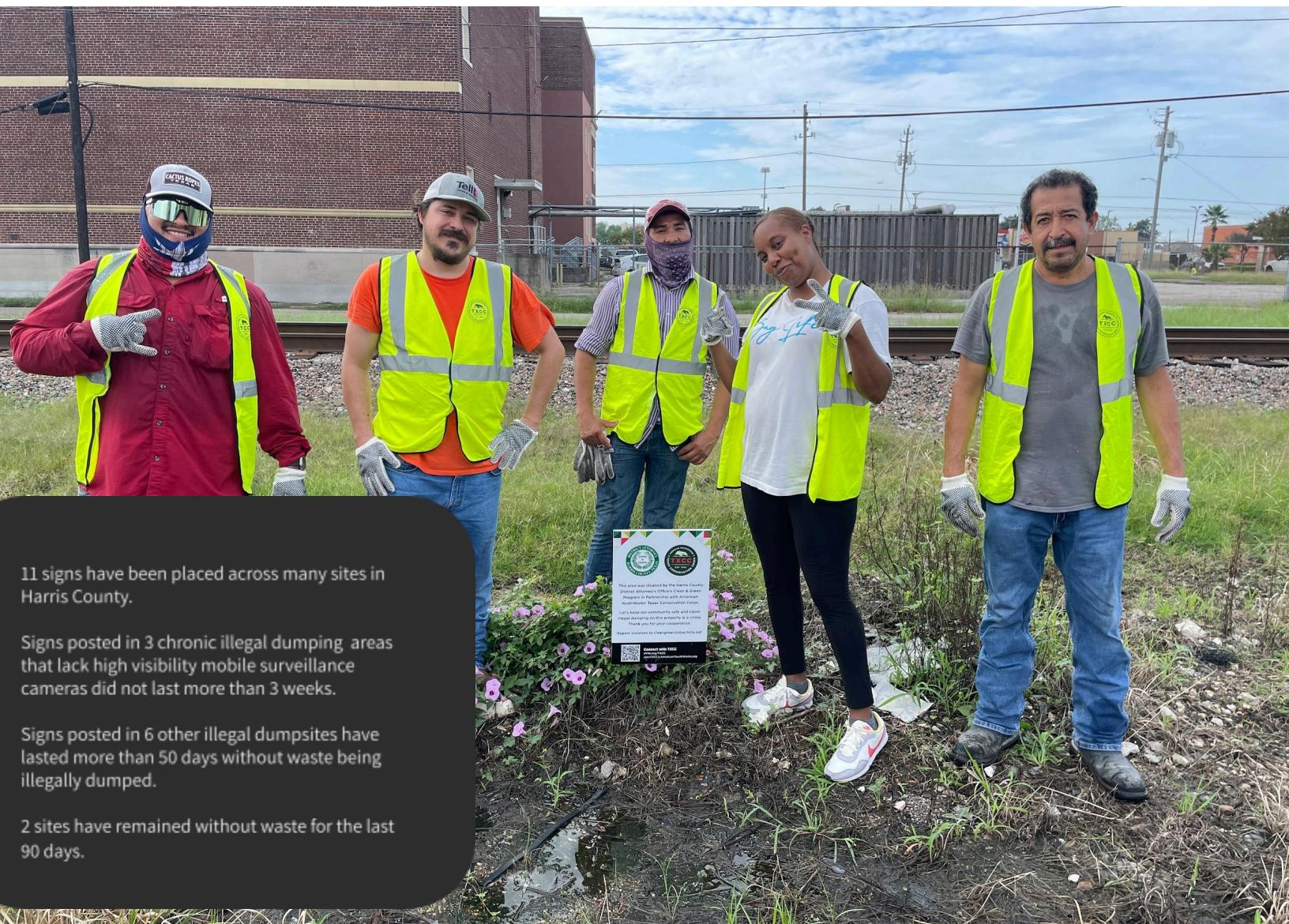
Thanks to **Harris County District's Attorney's Office**, we signed a contract with **Genan Inc.** This facility recycles tires that are later utilized as rubber granulate for football fields with artificial turfs, both granulate and pebbles for bouncy layers for children playgrounds and running tracks.

Illegal Dumping Prevention

As a program with access to the location of illegal dumping sites around the County. One of the patterns that we have noticed is, if an illegal dumpsite remains not picked, the often presence alone of dumped waste leads to more dumping.

Picking up an illegal dumpsite site as soon as it is reported to us is one of the operational priorities in the Clean & Green program; however, we acknowledge and recognize that it is impossible to attend all these sites at once. One of the best ways to stop Illegal dumpsites is to educate the local community on the impact these sites have around their neighborhoods.

Around mid 2023, we requested the District Attorney's Office, their support in purchasing yard signs that we would place in the most chronic dumpsites picked up by Clean & Green. We started in late November of 2023 placing these signs in some of these areas.



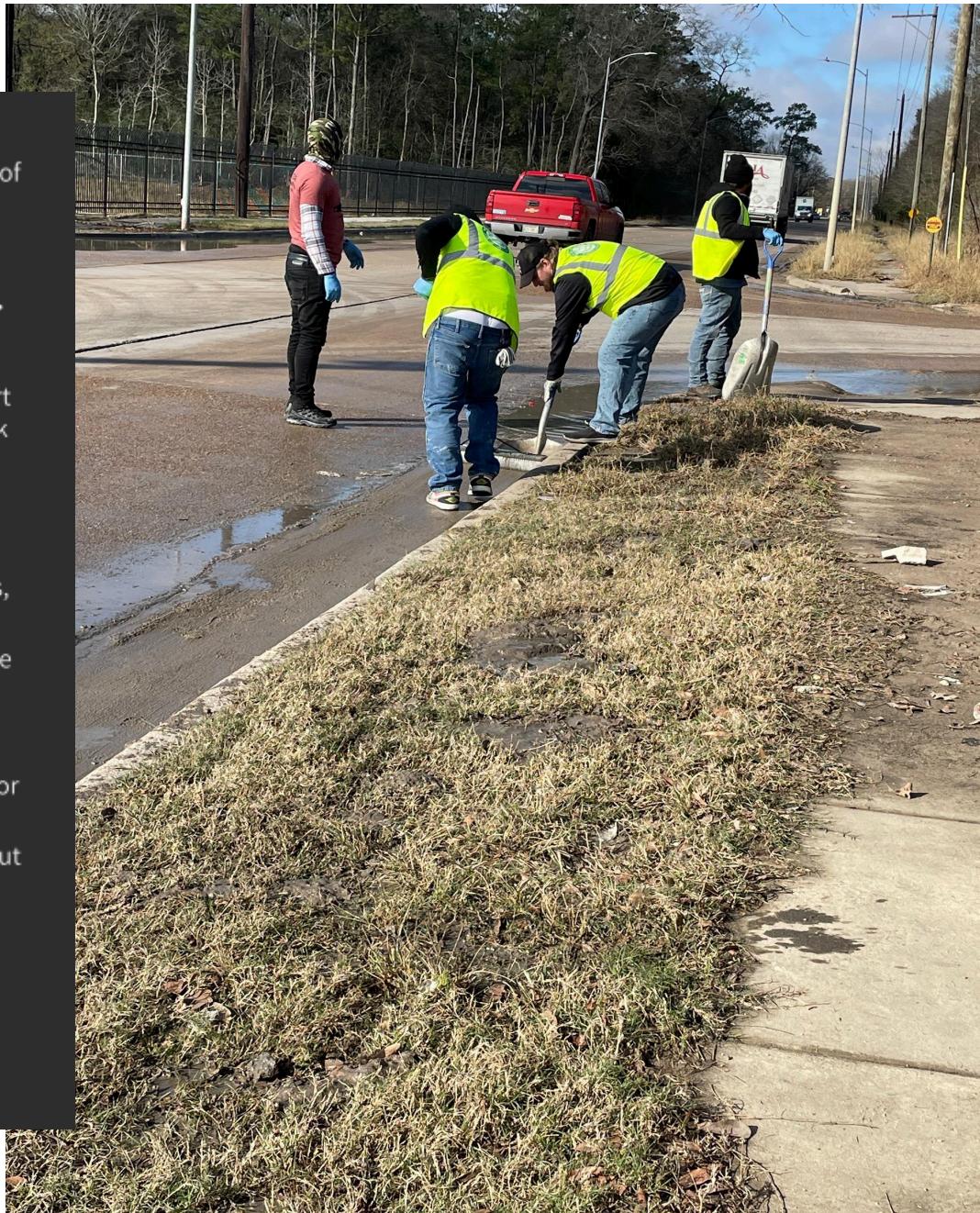
Stormwater Maintenance

Early in 2023, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the **City of Houston Public Works**, Clean & Green participants began supporting the Storm Sewer Section Team of the **City of Houston Public Works**.

Every Friday of every week participants of the Clean & Green Program with the support of the Sewer Section Team, clear from muck and debris the curbs, gutters, and inlets adjacent to stormwater sewer lines.

A total of **32,525** linear feet of curbs, gutters and inlets have been cleared across **Harris County** preventing flood risk in some areas of the city of **Houston**

This is equivalent to **108** football fields or **6** straight miles of curbs cleared throughout 2023.



Houston Food Bank Support and Assistance

Clean & Green as part of the family of American Youthworks, Texas Conservation Corps, takes pride in supporting and collaborating with local organizations that bring benefits and wellbeing to the community in general.

Since January of 2023, if weather conditions are hazardous for crews to operate safely, Clean & Green participants assist in unpackaging, sorting, preparing and boxing, meals that benefit at-risk children in school grades K-12 and meal boxes that benefit low income seniors across Harris County.

For 2023, Clean & Green participants assisted in packaging approximately 183,843 meals.



Participants Quotes

The Clean & Green program's commitment is to foster an environment of mutual respect and trust among all participants while servicing the larger community. The following comments are samples of participants voluntary feedback shared with staff on what the Clean & Green program means to them.

Today was an eye opener for me to see all the trash and pollution that gathers. I hope we come together for the planet to make it easier on our planet.

Elton

"Today was an eye opener for me to see all the trash and pollution that gathers. I hope we come together for the planet to make it easier for our planet."

"I was surprised to see all the trash accumulated out there. I didn't think it would go so far up from being washed up from the water. It's definitely a good environmental eye opener."

I was surprised to see all the trash accumulated out there. I didn't think it would go so far up from being washed up from the water. It's def. a good environmental eye opener.
5/20/23 AG

Fue una bonita experiencia, porque conocí las dos personas encargadas de este programa, nos explicaron lo que iban a hacer, muy amables y aprendí lo que la ciudad hace para limpiar las calles, muchas gracias por todo.

"This was a nice experience, because I met the two people in charge of this program, they were very friendly and explained to us what we were going to do. I learned what the city does to clean the streets. Thank you so much for everything."

Looking Ahead...

For 2024 we are motivated and excited to continue building on the successes of 2023. This year we are excited to have earned Cultivating Environmental Resilience Through Community Engagement Financial Grant through the Texas Water Collaborative. This grant will allow our programs in American Youthworks TXCC-Houston reach out to community volunteers that have expressed interest in joining our efforts when they see Clean & Green crews cleaning up their neighborhoods in their communities.

In addition to this, Clean & Green continues to expand its reach of operations by assisting some of the problematic areas in other Precincts. Starting in February of 2024, Clean & Green has been actively cleaning areas around Precinct 4 with the support of Harris County Sheriff's Department and the Homeless Outreach Unit.



Acknowledgment.

We would like to thank Kristena Glenn from the **Harris County District Attorney's Office** for her continued support for this program. All of Project Partners, the **East End Management, the Greater Northside District Management, City of Houston Public Works, City of Houston Waste Management, Harris Flood Control District, and the Harris County Sheriff's Department** for their assistance.

Additionally, we would like to thank Alison Westphal, **Director of American Youthworks, TXCC-Houston**, Tammy El-Tawil, **Chief Financial Officer of American Youthworks, TXCC** for their attentive support of this program.

Last but not least, thank you to **Clean & Green Crew Supervisors**, Roman Wooten, Maria Arteaga and Katelynn Hernandez, your passion, professionalism, and the attention you each bring every day to this program, continues creating successful stories. This program would not be successful without your input.

Sincerely,

Erick Nino
Clean & Green Program Manager
American Youthworks, TXCC- Houston