

# 2026

## Annual Report



# RIVERSTONE CHURCH

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# Riverstone Overview

## Mission

**To help more people find  
and follow Jesus**

**Riverstone 2030:  
Known by Our Love**

By 2030, Riverstone will become a leading and loving gospel presence in our region by maximizing our resources for Kingdom impact, strengthening connections with all people, serving our local, regional, and global communities, and developing ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

# Riverstone Staff



**Benjamin Espinoza**

Lead Pastor



**Dan Blowers**

Assistant Pastor



**Jaime Willistein**

Next Gen Coordinator  
Administrator



**Dan Willistein**

Co Worship Lead



**Grace Britton**

Co Worship Lead



**Pam Taylor**

Facilities

## Local Church Board

Vicky Britton  
*Vice Chair*

Kevin Mattison  
*Secretary*

Joe Yanda  
*Treasurer*

Al Willistein  
*Member at Large*

Christine Falke  
*Member at Large*

Heidi Prentice  
*Member at Large*

Steve Kocher  
*Member at Large*

# Lead Pastor Benjamin Espinoza

“As I look ahead, I do so with tremendous hope for the future of this church. The mission and vision of Riverstone do not change. Jesus remains the head of His church, and I truly believe your best days are still ahead.”

What a year of grace this has been. When I look back at where we began and where we now stand, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for what God has done in and through this congregation. We have seen steady growth in attendance, increased generosity, and, most importantly, lives transformed through Jesus Christ. Again and again, we have celebrated baptisms as men, women, and children publicly declared their faith in Christ. Every one of those moments reminds us why we exist: to help more people find and follow Jesus.

One of the greatest joys of this season has been watching God move among our young adults. This generation is hungry for authentic faith, real community, and a Gospel worth building their lives upon. We have seen young men and women step into leadership, deepen their commitment to Christ, and engage the mission of the church in meaningful ways. Looking ahead, we are excited and prayerful about adding a new pastor for youth and discipleship who can continue investing in the next generation.

This year has also carried real challenges. Walking with my son through surgeries and suffering stretched my faith deeply, and many of you cared for my family with extraordinary kindness during that season. Together, we have also grieved the loss of beloved members of our church family. Through every joy and every hardship, God has remained faithful.

And now, with both joy and sadness in my heart, I share that this will be my final report to you as your pastor, as my family and I will be transitioning to a new ministry assignment later this summer. It is hard because it has been so good. Thank you for loving us, praying for us, and caring for our family so well over these past few years. Serving Riverstone Church has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

As I look ahead, I do so with tremendous hope for the future of this church. The mission and vision of Riverstone do not change. Jesus remains the head of His church, and I truly believe your best days are still ahead. I am deeply grateful for our faithful staff, our leadership, and every person who serves, gives, and loves this church so well. Thank you for allowing me to be part of what God is doing here. To Him be the glory.

# Care and Discipleship

## Dan Blowers

**“Lives have been touched, faith has been strengthened,  
and our church has continued to grow  
in love for God and for one another.”**

It is a privilege to share this annual report as Assistant Pastor. As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded that God has been faithful in every season of our church's life. He has continued to guide us, provide for us, and sustain us through every challenge. Lives have been touched, faith has been strengthened, and our church has continued to grow in love for God and for one another. We have seen people serve faithfully, new faces attending, and renewed enthusiasm surrounding our vision for the future.

Shortly after our last LCC, we were once again impacted by a sudden flood that devastated our children's area. Much of our equipment and belongings were damaged or lost. Our staff, Facilities Team, and many volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the summer to clean out damaged items, paint rooms, install new flooring, and salvage what property we could. We also converted an upstairs room to accommodate our nursery, relocating that ministry into a better and more suitable environment.

Even during difficulty, we saw God's provision through the hands and hearts of His people. What could have been a discouraging setback became another testimony of faithfulness, unity, and perseverance within the Riverstone Church family.

In October, I transitioned to part-time ministry. Jaime Willstein assumed leadership of the children's ministry, while I continued in my remaining responsibilities. I continue to serve as Pastor of Care and Discipleship, which includes selecting materials for our Equip classes, recruiting and scheduling teachers, overseeing small groups and other ministries, providing community care, and helping plan and carry out outreach events.

We are also in the process of seeking and hiring a new Assistant Pastor. I am also serving with our initial Building Committee. This committee is working alongside our District Building Committee to gather important information such as building codes, facility size, and design options that will best accommodate the needs of our future congregation and mission, along with other details required by the District Committee.

It has been a pleasure to serve alongside Pastor Ben and Jaime during this challenging year. I also want to thank our Board for their prayers, encouragement, and leadership. A heartfelt thank you goes to all our volunteers and to each of you for your support in so many ways. I look forward to continuing to serve and being part of what God is doing at Riverstone in the coming year.

Pastor B



# RIVERSTONE

## Local Church Conference Ministry Heads and Ballot

### **Ballot**

*Elected by the LCC*

#### Local Board of Administration

#### Members at large:

Vicky Britton (27)  
Steve Kocher (27)  
Heidi Prentice (27)

#### Nominations:

*Elect Two*

Micah Crist  
Scott Curtis  
Christine Falke  
Al Willistein

#### Treasurer

Joseph Yanda

#### LBA Secretary

Kevin Mattison

#### Assistant Treasurer

Sally Jacobs

#### Conference Delegates

*Elect two:*

Al Willistein  
Debbie Willistein

Alternate\_\_\_\_\_

### Elected by the Local Board of Administration

Women's Ministry Directors  
Jen Nusbickel and Deb Roides

#### Men's Ministry Director

Micah Crist

#### Fellowship Events Director

Stephanie Bartlett

#### Facilities Team Director

Andy Prentice

#### Classics Directors

Linda Penniston  
Audrey Walck

#### Audio Visual Director

Kevin Mattison

#### Interfaith Representative

Geri Brewer

#### Missions Director

Andy Britton

#### Care Team Director

Bonnie Kreutter

#### Communion Steward

Virginia Rogers

#### Tellers

Christine Falke  
Sue Herring  
Rhonda Lefever  
Sandy Merrill  
Carol Nusbickel  
Laurie Wolf  
Elaine Shengulette  
Samantha Phillips

# Ministry Reports

Riverstone is a vibrant community with ministries for every age and stage of life—and in 2025, God moved in incredible ways. Take a look and celebrate all that He has done!

## Classics Ministry

Our Classics ministry was very busy this past year. We had picnics at the 4 Corners property. In September we had a back to school meeting. We had our annual Thanksgiving meal together and Christmas party in December. February was all about love. In March we watched the Movie The Miracle Season. April was our Spring training meeting. We average between 15-20 people a meeting. If you are retired or 55 and older we would love to have you join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11:30 at our main Riverstone Campus.

Linda Penniston and Audrey Walck



## Men's Ministry

This was another solid year for men's ministry, I have found a good rhythm for events and have pushed hard into those events. Attendance numbers continue to remain high and frequent new faces are seen. Going forward I would like to continue the monthly men's breakfast as well as have a handful months with two events. Targets and teamwork continues to be a good success for bringing new people out to fellowship and have fun. I have had many requests for group bowling and will start making that a recurring calendar activity as we get into the summer months. I have a good core group of men that are loyal attendees and are great at facilitating conversation with newcomers and engaging in spiritual discussions as well as plenty of banter to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

Micah Crist

# Live Nativity

We were truly blessed with another wonderful year for our live Nativity hayride. Despite the cold weather once again, we welcomed over 1,400 guests to the event.

This year brought more changes than we've seen in many years. We were able to utilize our large tent for outdoor activities and animals, providing a warm and inviting space for guests to gather while waiting for their ride. In addition, renting a restroom trailer helped ease congestion around the kitchen area and improved the overall experience. We were also blessed by participation of members from Evangelical Presbyterian Stone Church in Caledonia, who were a big help before and during the event.

One of the most exciting additions this year was the new tomb scene. Guests had the opportunity to see the tomb up close and hear Roman soldiers proclaim that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. Our mission has always been to share the story of Jesus in a way that is both engaging and meaningful, and we will continue to seek God's guidance as we share His incredible gift of salvation.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

Bob Reynolds and Team

## Care Team

Since the Fall of 2003, the Care team has been in place to meet the needs of the congregation. There are many volunteers that are serving on this team but we are always open to more. Needs from the congregation go through the Pastors. Money to support this ministry comes from donations from the congregation.

In the past year, the following needs have been taken care of:

37 meals provided to different families (up considerably from the previous year)

6 gift bags given to people experiencing a medical situation.

2 gift cards provided

2 flower/plants for funerals

1 funeral dinner

20 rides for medical appointments (also up from last year)

15 rides for grocery shopping

Assisted in moving a family.

Assisted in a yard work project.

We are thankful for all the volunteers and welcome more people to join the Care team. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let either of the Pastors know or contact Chris Lauffer or Bonnie Kreutter. If you have a need, please contact one of the Pastors to see if the Care team can assist you.

We thank the church for your love, prayers and support to make this ministry possible.

Chris Lauffer and Bonnie Kreutter

# Connections Team

Rob and Kelly would like to give our utmost appreciation to each member of The Connections Team who have diligently arrived early and stayed late to greet and complete the attendance county. It is the willingness and dedication of each team member that means every person who enters the doors on Sunday morning is welcomed with a friendly face. This past year we welcomed Eric and Amanda Millen as greeters and are thankful for their part in this ministry. As always, we covet new members to the team; those willing to commit to either the first or second service for 1 or 2 months per year, or anyone who would be willing to fill in if a scheduled greeter is unable to attend church for any reason. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord could use you as a part of The Connections Team.

Serving with you,  
Rob and Kelly Fromberger



## Young Adult Ministry

Over the past year, the young adult ministry has experienced meaningful growth, both in participation and outreach. We have successfully connected with individuals who previously had no church affiliation, reflecting a broader impact within the community. Attendance has stabilized at 13–15 participants in the weekly young adult gatherings, providing a consistent and engaged core group. Looking ahead, we plan to maintain the weekly co-ed meetings while also launching a dedicated men's group to complement the already thriving women's group. With this foundation in place, our focus is shifting toward expanding events and activities, particularly as the warmer months create new opportunities for connection and engagement.

Malachi Crist

# Facilities Team

It has once again been a pleasure to serve on the Facilities Team here at Riverstone Wesleyan. We have been truly blessed by God with our two properties and seeing how they are used by our church's many ministries. Elaine Shengulette, Al Willistein, Jake Morgan, Rich Falke, and Bruce Burdick again served on the team this year. I appreciated them for their dedicated service and hard work in the care and maintenance of Riverstone's facilities on the main campus and at the 4-Corners property.

As all of you know, flooding has been a significant concern again this year. So much of what we have to report is repair and maintenance related, not major renovations.

Some of the projects that we have worked on this year include:

- Fighting back the flood-waters last June in the church basement and pumping out the water.
- Initial clean-up after the flood with several volunteers from the church: Sarah R., Mark R., Joe Y., Al W., Eric N., Heidi P., Chuck F., Mason N., Pastor B., Scott R., and Tom L. Thank you all so much for your awesome work!
- Professional finish cleaning with a local contractor.
- Replacement and re-grading of crushed stone in the back parking lot that was washed away in the flood. Thanks to Chuck Faisst, Jake M. and Al W. for that.
- Repair of floor tiles and installation of carpeting with Pastor B.
- Summer worship tent set up and taken down. Thanks to all the volunteer help on this for the past several years.
- Password keypads added to entrance doors of 4-Corners building- thanks, Jake M.
- Ceiling tiles replace in the downstairs children's room- Thanks, Al W.
- New hydraulic pump installed in 4-Corners commercial mower- Thanks, Jake M.
- 4-Corners parking lot excavation to expand parking- Thanks, Jake.
- Annual spring and fall clean-up/project days—Thanks to all the volunteers to come and roll up their sleeves!

Finally, we would like to ask all who are new to the church and/or those who would be interested in trying a new ministry--- please talk to any member of the Facilities Team or any of the staff about how to get involved. If you are handy or if you just have hands, we could use your help for various 2-3 hour projects.

Andy Prentice

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

# Youth Ministry

## Celebrating a Year of Growth, Connection, and Faith

This year has been an exciting and meaningful season for our youth ministry. Through retreats, discipleship opportunities, fellowship events, and the faithful investment of volunteers, we have seen students grow in community, deepen their faith, and invite others into the life of the church.

## Retreats & Spiritual Growth

One of the highlights of the year was our Youth Retreat, where 15 students attended, including 2 students who were not connected to a church community. It was an encouraging opportunity for students to step away from everyday distractions, build friendships, and grow spiritually together.

We also hosted an engaging apologetics series featuring guest speakers who challenged and encouraged our students to think deeply about their faith, ask important questions, and grow in confidence in defending what they believe.

## Fellowship & Community

Building strong relationships remained a central part of our ministry this year. Throughout the year, students connected through a variety of fun and welcoming events, including:

- Lock-In events
- Trips to Dave & Buster's
- Game nights
- Movie nights

These gatherings created opportunities for laughter, friendship, and meaningful conversations, helping students feel connected and valued within the ministry.

## Serving & Leadership

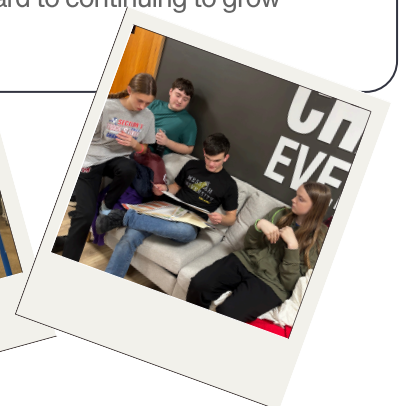
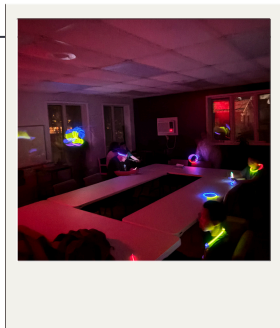
We are especially grateful for the many volunteers who stepped up throughout the year to help teach Sunday School classes. Their willingness to serve and lead has been a tremendous blessing. This has set a great example for the students as we begin to encourage them to find a ministry that they can serve in.

## Supporting Our Students

An important part of youth ministry is showing students that the church cares about their lives beyond church walls. This year, leaders and volunteers attended various games, performances, and school plays to support our youth in their activities and celebrate their accomplishments.

## Looking Ahead

As we reflect on this year, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and for every student, parent, volunteer, and leader who made this ministry possible. We are excited for the opportunities ahead and look forward to continuing to grow together in faith, friendship, and service in the coming year.



# Worship Team

As we come to the close of another year in worship ministry, it's a meaningful moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished and to celebrate the people who make it possible week after week. Our team of musicians continues to serve with remarkable dedication, generosity, and heart. Whether arriving early for rehearsal, learning new arrangements, or stepping in when needs arise, each volunteer plays an essential role in creating an environment where our congregation can encounter God through worship.

This year, we were especially blessed to welcome Grace Britton into a co-worship leader role. Grace has brought a fresh presence, new energy, and a unique musical perspective that has enriched our services in tangible ways. Her willingness to serve and lead has strengthened the team and expanded what we're able to offer as a ministry.

We also want to recognize the ongoing commitment of every vocalist, instrumentalist, and behind-the-scenes contributor. The consistency and excellence you bring are not unnoticed. Worship ministry requires both skill and humility, and this team continues to embody both.

Looking ahead, we remain eager to grow. We are always on the lookout for new songs that help communicate truth in meaningful ways, as well as new ideas that can improve how we serve each week. Growth doesn't happen automatically—it comes through openness, creativity, and a shared desire to keep getting better together.

If you've ever considered joining the worship team, this is a great time to step in. Whether you sing, play an instrument, or have a heart to learn, there is space for you. More than talent, we value willingness and a desire to serve. New voices and perspectives only make the ministry stronger.

Finally, we want to thank the congregation for the opportunity to serve in this way. It is a privilege to lead you in worship each week, and we do not take that responsibility lightly. Your participation, encouragement, and support make this ministry what it is.

We're grateful for all that God has done this year and look forward with anticipation to what's ahead.

Dan Willistein



# Children's Ministry

## Celebrating God's Faithfulness in Children's Ministry

Stepping into the leadership of Children's Ministry after Pastor Blowers faithfully led it for so many years was both exciting and intimidating. Yet from the very beginning, God showed His faithfulness in incredible ways. Even after navigating our second "lifetime flood," our church family came together with overwhelming generosity, hard work, and servant-hearted dedication to help revamp the children's area before returning to the main campus from 4 Corners. One of the biggest — and certainly most popular — additions to the space was the new ball pit! Pastor Blowers poured so much love and effort into creating it, and it has quickly become a favorite among the children.

## Growing Programs & Faithful Volunteers

Despite challenges in staffing programming throughout the year, God has continued to bless the ministry with growth and wonderful volunteers.

A special thank you goes to Lynnae Loring and Susan Crist for faithfully leading our preschool program. Their dedication and consistency have had such a positive impact that children who once struggled leaving their parents for nursery are now excitedly heading into preschool class each week with smiles on their faces. Watching that transformation has been a tremendous joy.

We are also deeply grateful for Eric Nusbickel and Tammy Cox, who have faithfully taught several times each month since September. Their willingness to serve has been an incredible blessing to our families and children.

Pastor Blowers continued to play a vital role by leading our midweek group and graciously filling in during illnesses and times away. We are also thankful for Jaidyn Mattison, who stepped in at the last minute on several occasions to help wherever needed.

## New Opportunities for Growth

This year brought several exciting additions to our ministry aimed at helping children and families grow in faith together. Each child received a pack of memory verses to work through at home, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. We are thrilled to celebrate the three children who completed the entire pack!

In an effort to better equip families spiritually, we also sent home a family Advent devotional complete with reusable paper ornaments. This devotional has long been a cherished tradition in the Willistein family, and it was wonderful to share that experience with other families in our church.

Additionally, we introduced a weekly catechism review as part of each lesson. Through simple theological questions such as "What does baptism represent?" and "What did God do about our sin?" children are learning foundational truths of the faith in a fun and engaging way — complete with small candy rewards that they absolutely love. Our prayer is that these truths will continue to shape and strengthen them as they grow into the youth ministry and beyond.

## Looking Ahead

We are especially excited about our newest outreach opportunity: Vacation Bible School! "Rainforest Falls" launches on June 29th, and anticipation is already building. We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help make this outreach a success, and a decoration-making day will be announced soon.

As we reflect on this past year, we are incredibly thankful for every volunteer, teacher, parent, and child who has been part of this ministry. God has been so faithful, and we are excited to see how He continues to grow and shape the hearts of our children in the year ahead.

# Missions Team

## 2025-2026 Church Year Highlights



### Faithful Long-Term Missionary Support

Chris & Melissa George - Western Australia  
Jim & Karen Pickett - Mozambique  
IMPACTO Ministries - Guatemala  
Hope Beyond Today (Pushpyar Lakra) - India  
Inspire Wesleyan - Local & Regional

### Special Offerings: Making a Difference Together

#### Local

Community Food  
Pantries  
  
Inspire Wesleyan

#### Regional

Caring Choices  
Pregnancy Help  
  
The Father's Heart

#### Global

IMPACTO Christmas  
Project  
  
Xai Xai Bible College  
(Mozambique)



### Board Growth, Vision & Engagement

- Full support of Riverstone-IMPACTO sister ministry
- Reviewed G-Team rules of engagement
- Exploring new mission team locations
- New members, renewed vision & strong fellowship

### Looking Ahead

- Regular Mission's Minute updates
- New Missionary Support Poster
- Pastor Luis & Dinora Martinez visiting in October
  - Missionary partner visit (in person or virtual)
  - Continuing to live out our mission at home

A heartfelt thank you to the Missions Board members for your sacrifice, commitment, and faithful service. And thank you to our Riverstone congregation for your generous giving, faithful prayers, and heart for missions. Together, we are living out the Great Commission.

-Andy Britton

# Financial Highlights

2025-2026 Church Year

## 10.8%

Growth in  
Unrestricted Giving



## ~\$80K

Surplus Achieved

Increased giving  
Decreased costs  
Restricted giving

### Surplus Allocation

Building  
Fund

Missions

Other  
Ministries

✨ Praise God! ✨

### 2026-2027 Financial Plan

- ▶ Staff restructuring (including hiring of assistant pastor)
- ▶ Increased support for pastoral staff
- ▶ Bringing on more part-time staff
- ▶ Increased support for ministry experience

Specific details available upon request.

# Financial Review

2025-2026

## Giving + Income

General Offerings Received - \$368,013

Budgeted - \$345,000

Easter + Christmas Offerings - \$18,236

Budgeted - \$13,000

Missions Offerings - \$2,465

Budgeted - \$5,000

Other Offerings - \$25,603

Interest Income - \$22,756

**Giving + Income Total - \$437,058**

Budget - \$365,229 (Including \$2,229 released from restriction)

**Expenses - Actual : \$351,728 / Budgeted: \$365,229**

Expenditures include funds released from Board  
Restricted Funds to cover the cost of  
depreciation/upgrades

# Financial Plan

	25/26 Budget	26/27 Proposed Budget
Giving and Income Assumptions	\$365,229	\$386,062
Campus Care and Utilities	\$24,650	\$27,150
Church Office	\$6,900	\$6,900
Wesleyan Denomination Support	\$34,200	\$36,500
Operating Insurances	\$7,438	\$8,353
Payroll, Salaries, FICA/Pension	\$215,103	\$211,571
Missions	\$36,500	\$45,500
Community Life and Hospitality	\$7,978.75	\$7,978.75
Worship and Creative Arts	\$5,500	\$5,550
Student Ministry	\$5,500	\$8,000
Live Nativity	\$5,000	\$7,000
Kids Ministry	\$4,500	\$6,500
Small Group and Adult Sunday School	\$3,500	\$2,500
Local Outreach	\$3729	\$3729

**2026-27 Total Budget - \$386,062**

# Riverstone by the Numbers

Average Weekly  
Attendance:

 **216**

**5** Known  
Conversions

Small Groups:  
 **9**

**13**   
Baptisms

11 Missions Supported!



Songs Sung:

**115** 

Most popular:  
Holy Forever

Meals Provided by  
the Care Team:

*more than* **37**

Outreach Event Attendance

Trunk or Treat:

**450**  




Live Nativity:  
**1450**

4 Corners Reservations:

**18**  




# RIVERSTONE CHURCH

## Membership List - 2026

Adams, Sean	Kilpatrick, Sim	Vanderworker, Susan
Bartlett, Jerome	Kocher, Steve	Walck, Audrey
Bartlett, Stephanie	Kocher, Tammy	Weaver, Mary
Blowers, Dan	Mattison, Jennifer	Weaver, Wendy
Brandes, Laura (Offen)	Mattison, Kevin	Willistein, Allen
Brewer, Geraldine	McNeil, Dale	Willistein, Daniel
Britton, Andy	McNeil, Patricia	Willistein, Debbie
Britton, Vicky	Merrill, Sandy	Willistein, Jaime
Burdick, Bruce	Murphy, Belinda	Wolf, Ed
Burdick, Gail	Murphy, John	Wolf, Laurie
Clements, Carol	Nusbickel, Carol	Yanda, Dorothy Ann
Crist, Ethan	Nusbickel, Dave	Yanda, Joseph
Crist, Micah	Nusbickel, Eric	Young, Matthew
Curtis, Laura	Nusbickel, Jennifer	
Curtis, Scott	Parker, Patricia	
Davis, Reva	Penniston, Linda	
Espinoza, Benjamin	Phillips, Samantha	
Espinoza, Hannah	Prentice, Andrew	
Faisst, Charles, Jr	Prentice, Caroline	
Faisst, Margaret	Prentice, Heidi	
Faisst, Shirley	Reiman, D. Mark	
Falke, Richard	Reiman, Sarah	
Falke, Christine	Reynolds, Daniel	
Farrell, Jake	Reynolds, Denice	
Hawkins, Heather	Reynolds, Gloria	
Hawkins, Nathaniel	Reynolds, Robert	
Hawkins, Sebastian	Roides, Debbie	
Hazelton, Beverly	Roides, Scott	
Hazelton, H. Charles	Roloson, Darlene	
Hoff, Sam	Roman, Ted	
Hopper, Allan	Schunk, Chrissy	
Hopper, Aneita	Schunk, Gracie	
Horr, Barb	Schunk, Stephan	
Houseman, Mary	Schlinger, Brendan	
Howard, Charles	Schlinger, Sarah	
Howard, Diane	Shengulette, Elaine	
Jacobs, Sally	Stoddard, Heather	
Kerchoff, Jane	Stroud, Travis	
Kilpatrick, Cynthia	Tucci, Chris	