

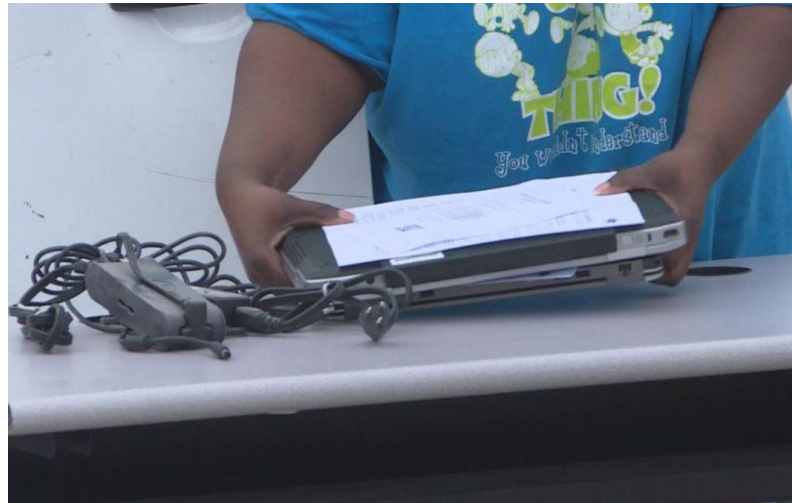
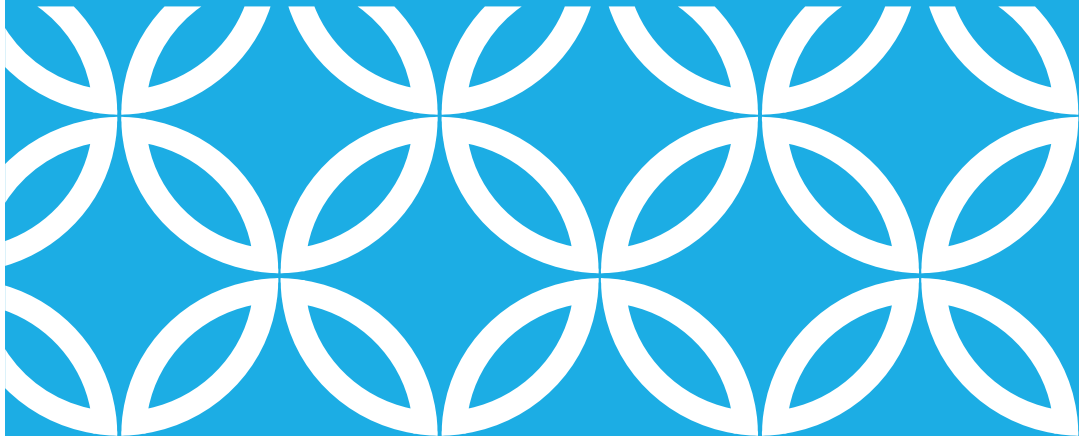


**BEYOND BACKPACKS AND  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES:  
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS LEARNED IN THE  
MIDST OF A PANDEMIC**

Dr. Kathy Wigtil, Ms. Cecilia Padgett,  
Ms. Kat Strasburger  
Waco ISD Homeless Outreach  
Waco, Texas

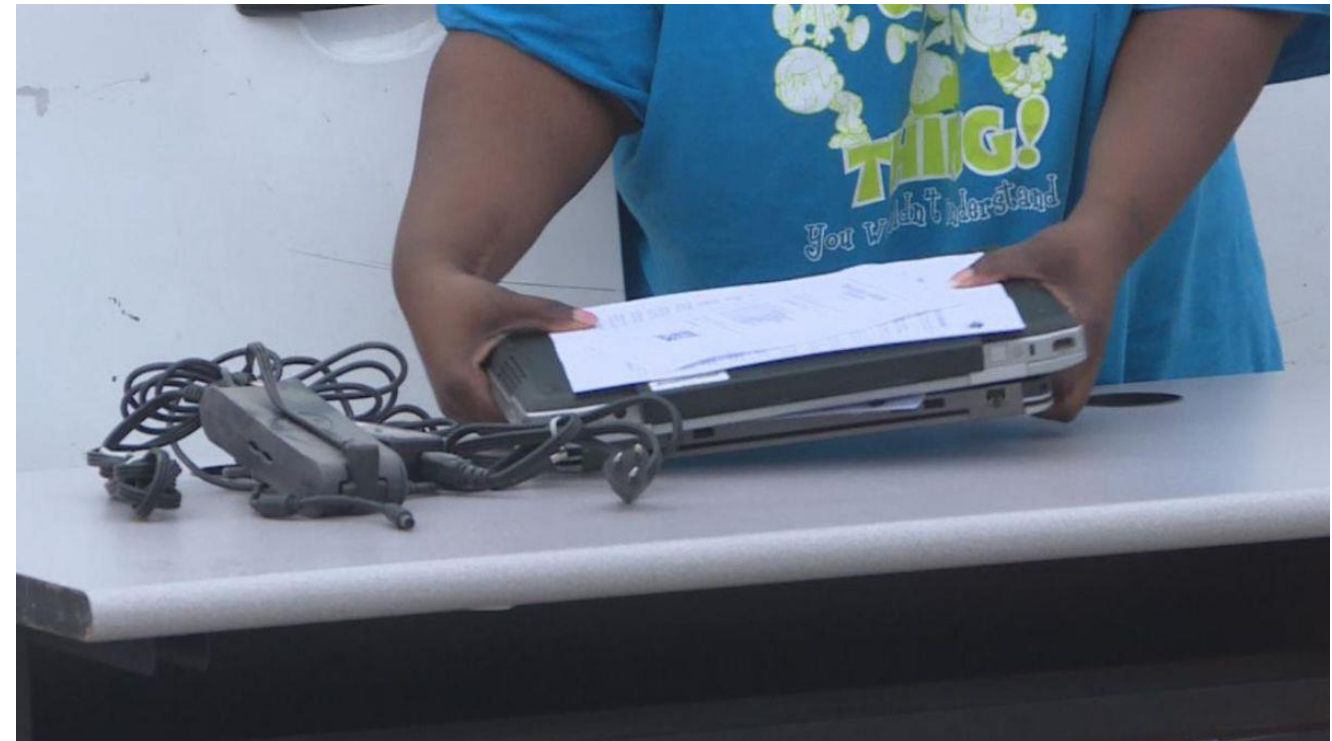
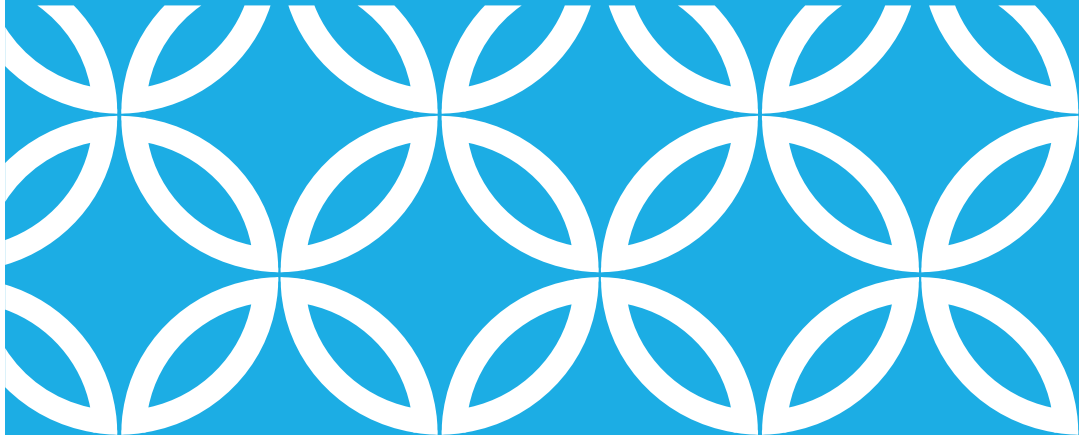
# “NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION”

Here is what happened in Waco, Texas...



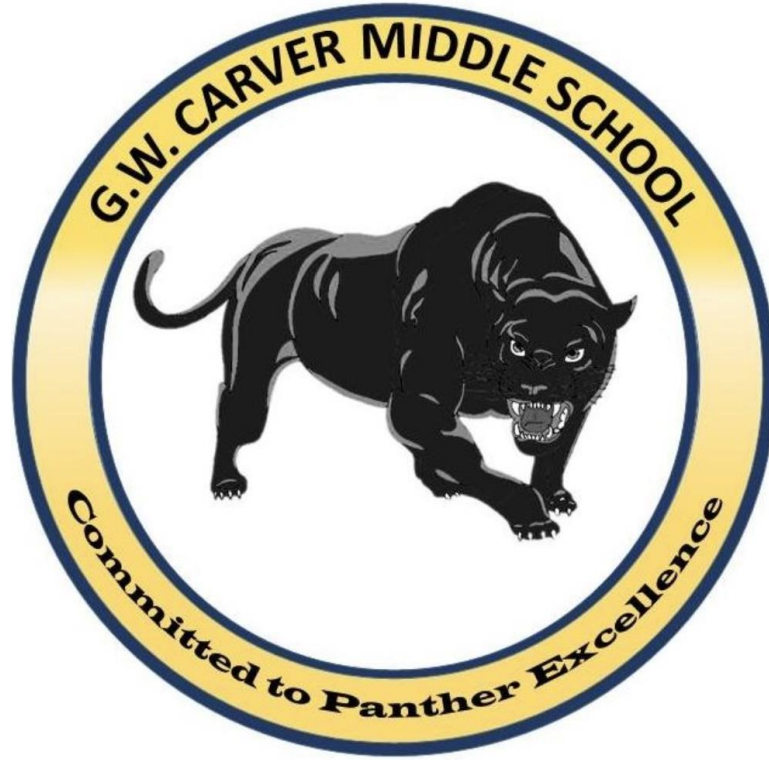
# ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?!?

**IN THE CHAT BOX: WHEN  
THE PANDEMIC BEGAN, WHAT  
WERE YOUR STUDENTS'  
IMMEDIATE NEEDS?**



# HOW IT STARTED...

Mr. Phillip Perry

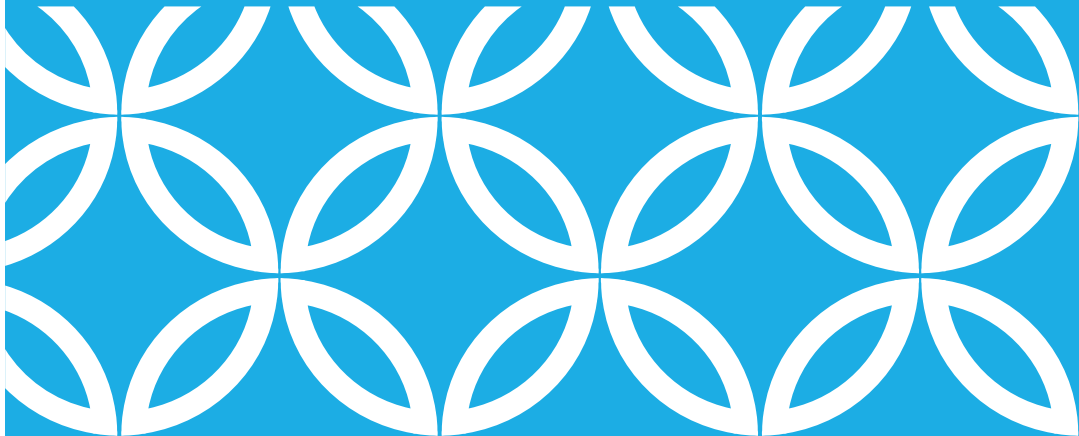


# TEXAS' "SNOWPOCALYPSE"



# HERE'S WHAT WE DID INITIALLY...

Finding help with food  
distribution, transportation  
and contacting families  
from our homes



*Empower All. Value All.*

"...no individual and no organization  
can thrive and accomplish their  
goals or mission alone."



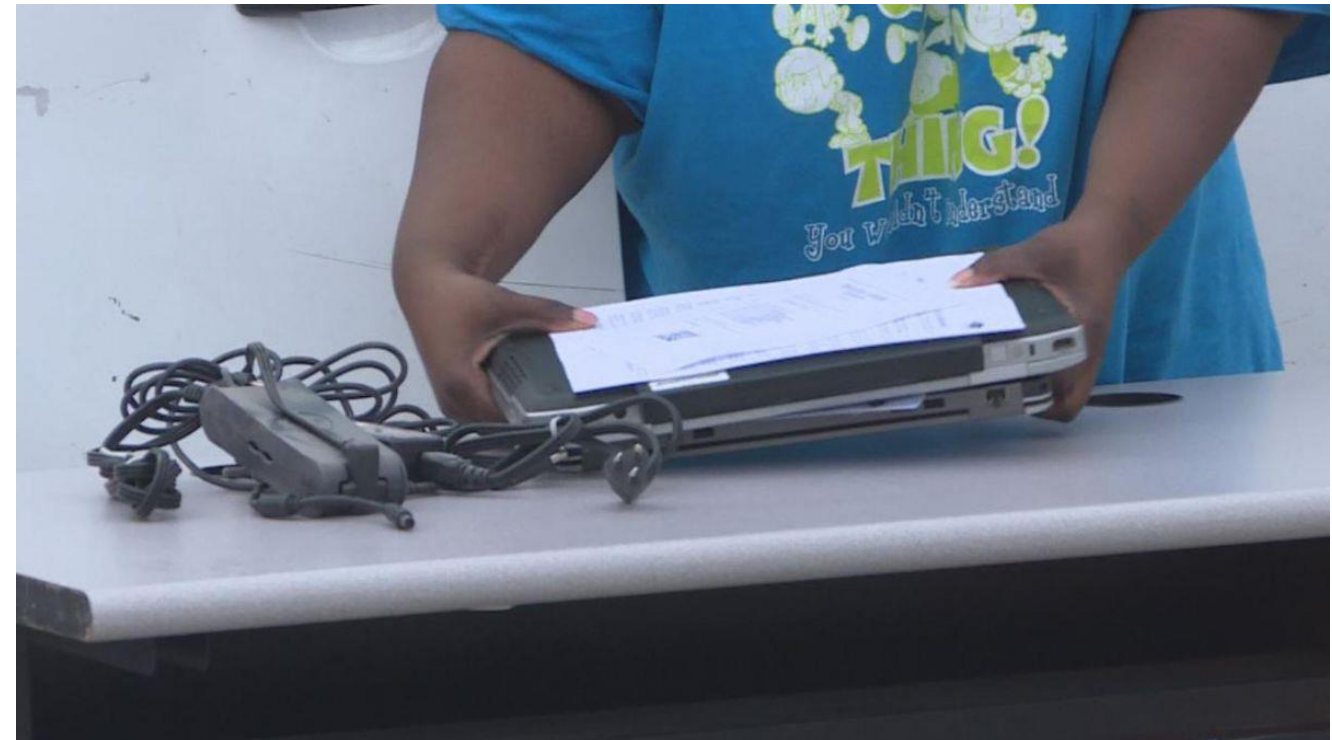
## HOMELESS OUTREACH SERVICES

- Overview
- Information for Parents
- Community Resources
- Resource Contacts
- WISD COVID-19 Updates



# HYBRID LEARNING?

**IN THE CHAT BOX: HOW  
DID YOUR DISTRICT PROVIDE  
INSTRUCTION FOR THE 2021  
SCHOOL YEAR? REMOTE, IN-  
PERSON LEARNING OR  
HYBRID?**



# “SNOWPOCALYPSE”

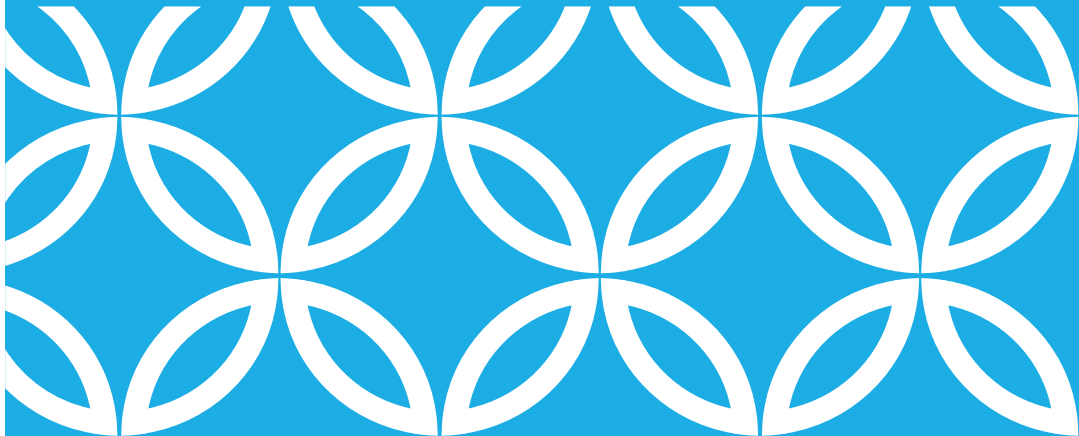
## WACO WINTER STORM





# HERE'S WHAT WE DID...

Reached out to Campus Community Partners to provide extra-ordinary help to our families and students.



*Empower All. Value All.*

"...no individual and no organization can thrive and accomplish their goals or mission alone."



## HOMELESS OUTREACH SERVICES

- Overview
- Information for Parents
- Community Resources
- Resource Contacts
- WISD COVID-19 Updates



UNTAPPED  
RESOURCES:  
CAMPUS  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS



# COHORT MEETINGS

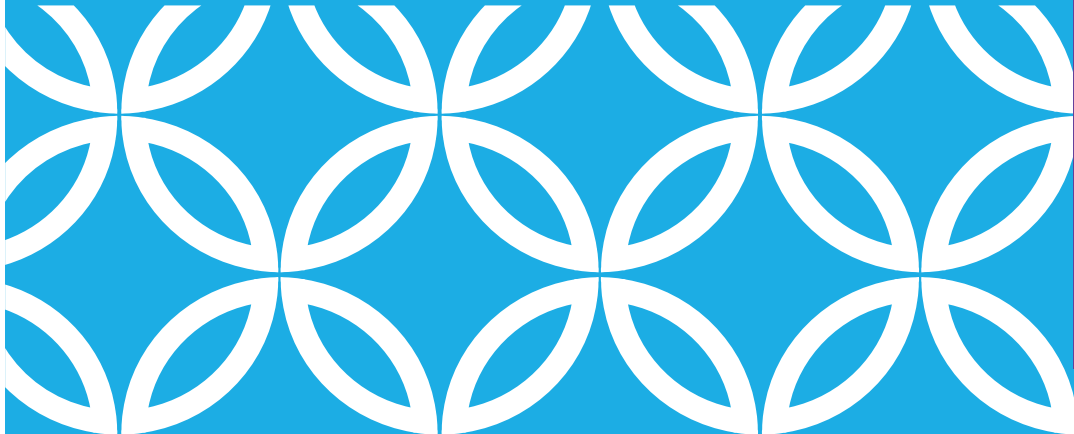
Monthly meetings with campus counselors, principals, SPED and Bilingual staff and district staff to review students who are at-risk of dropping out due to attendance, grade and/or discipline issues.

Developing a collaborative plan to reach out and support these students.



**ALMA MATER**  
University high School, we hail thee, our Alma Mater true. With voices ringing, hearts singing, we proudly stand by you. Waive your colors with honor and courage, unconquered we will soar. So come on, you Trojans, purple and white forever more!

**FIGHT SONG**  
For we are Trojans. The Waco Trojan's and we've got that good ole fight to the end. Quit never, stand by them ever, purple and white that we defend. If you think that we can understand about a losing team, you'll have to trot your buddies out and show us what you mean. For we are Trojans, The Waco Trojans and we've got that good ole fight to the end.



# IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



Students had to work full-time to support their families

Reliance on technology for instruction

The housing crisis and evictions

COVID surges and ongoing loss

To mask or not to mask?

Learning loss and loss of school routine

# SHARING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS/IDEAS

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE CHAT BOX:

1. What is one creative solution your district/office/staff has employed to meet the extraordinary needs of students experiencing homelessness?

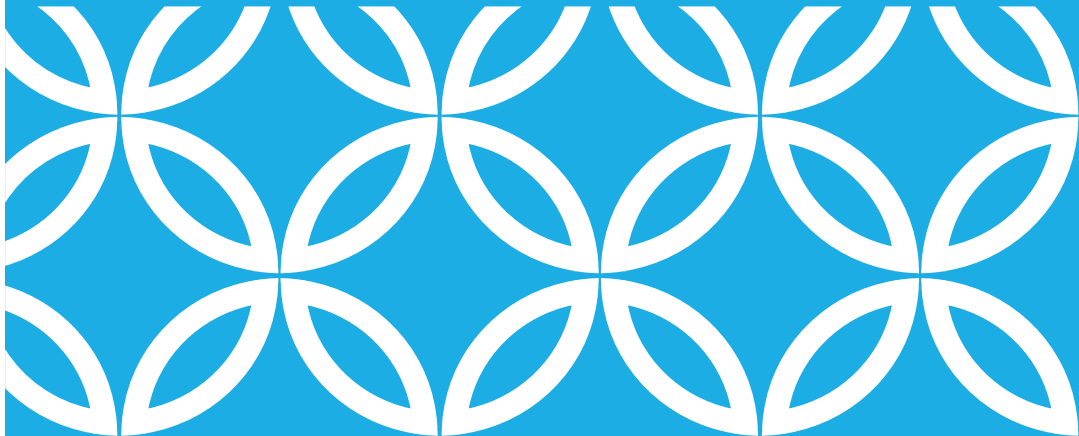


# SHARING IDEAS: WHAT IS ONE CREATIVE SOLUTION YOU HAVE USED TO MEET EXTRAORDINARY NEEDS?

1. Community Partners
2. Night School
3. Bus drivers deliver food
4. Food pantry coordination
5. Come in person if parents worked
6. PM option 3-6
7. Community partners
8. Holiday gift cards, clothes, hygiene items
9. Student support – 24/7 support
10. Volunteers driving meals to families
11. ARP funds – credit card to use for hotel stays
12. Chairs for sidewalk visits
13. Buses with hot spots
14. COVID survival kit – LED boxes for keys, pencils
15. SE therapist
16. Temporary retired counselor help
17. Chronic absenteeism case manager

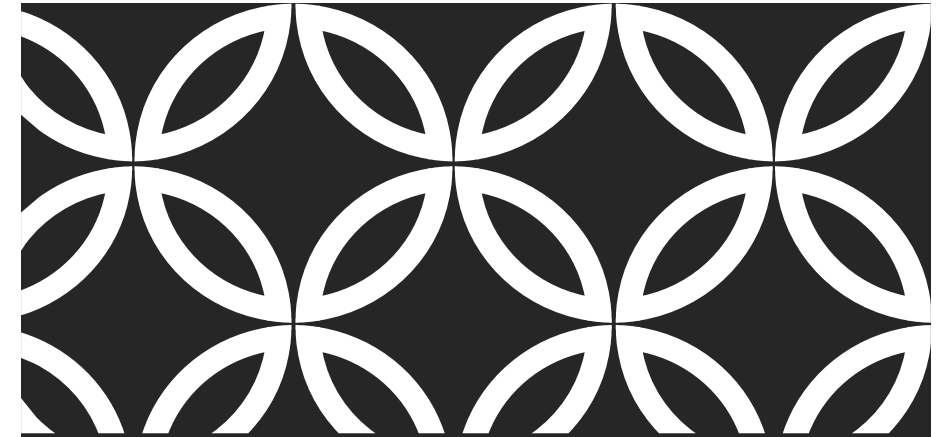
# ACKNOWLEDGING OUR STUDENTS' RESILIENCY

Stratford High School,  
Houston, Texas





Thanks for all you do to serve  
students experiencing  
homelessness!



Dr. Kathy Wigtil,

[kathy.wigtil@wacoisd.org](mailto:kathy.wigtil@wacoisd.org)

Cecilia Padgett

[cecilia.padgett@wacoisd.org](mailto:cecilia.padgett@wacoisd.org)

Kat Strasburger

[kat.strasburger@wacoisd.org](mailto:kat.strasburger@wacoisd.org)