

## ANNUAL REPORT



Thank you, Steve Jackobs for more than 23 years!









P.O. BOX 1784 AUSTIN, TX 78767 WWW.CAPITALIDEA.ORG 512-457-8610

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## **STEVE JACKOBS** LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERS



"We have tested and proven the theory that if you give people the tools and the support, enormous change is possible."

or more than 23 years, I was honored to lead Capital IDEA in its mission to lift our neighbors out of poverty and into living-wage careers through education and career advancement. Since its founding, more than 2,000 previously low-income adults have joined the middle-class workforce in healthcare, technology, and trades. By focusing our energy on living-wage, in-demand careers available in Central Texas, we have tested and proven the theory that if you give people the tools and the support, enormous change is possible.

The road we've traveled with our students has not been easy. Many barriers threatening to keep Central Texans living in poverty had to be addressed, such as poor academic preparation, an inability to pay for childcare, and a lack of funds for tuition, books, and fees. Many were living on thin margins, and even a financial shortfall of a few hundred dollars could spiral into a missed semester or more. Our support had to be sufficient for the challenges our students faced.

To meet the need, we relied on partnerships and collaborations, first between Central Texas Interfaith and business leaders, then with regional employers, community colleges, partner organizations, and ultimately with our students and graduates. Working alongside these community stakeholders, we paved the way for Capital IDEA students and widened the road to financial freedom.

In my last letter as Executive Director, I want to say I am immensely proud to have had a hand in creating an organization that values equity in mission, culture, and practice. For over two decades, we've stood committed to building a more equitable Central Texas through equal access to higher education and employment and advocating for substantial and meaningful change within higher education and workforce development. Since our founding in 1998, we have acted on the principle of "all people, all together."

Today, the need for Capital IDEA remains strong. I am confident that, with the continued support of our stakeholders and the unyielding grit and perseverance of our now and future students, Capital IDEA will continue connecting the need for a skilled, diverse talent pool for local businesses to the critical need for our underemployed and unemployed neighbors to change the financial future for themselves and their families.

#### **Steve Jackobs**

Founding Executive Director

## PAUL SKEITH LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERS



ince its founding, the road to opportunity and success has been paved by the vision and dedication of Capital IDEA's founding **Executive Director, Steve Jackobs.** Some of the organization's most proud accomplishments during his tenure were Steve's successful efforts to widen the road of opportunity for low-income adults in Central Texas in general and Capital IDEA students in particular. Wherever roadblocks narrowed the path, slowing some down and leaving others behind, Steve dug in. He worked tirelessly and relentlessly to draw attention, resources, and community support to these areas. He was a collaborator when collaboration was the way forward and an agitator when the status quo needed a shakeup. And through these efforts, he brought awareness to numerous opportunities for improving workforce outcomes for bright futures. See a highlight of celebrated milestones at right.

Under Steve's leadership, in 2021, Capital IDEA students continued to prove that with support, they can navigate the roadblocks that life sets forth. Their tenacity and ability to stay the course have been remarkable.

**Rev. Paul Skeith** Board Chair

#### CELEBRATED MILESTONES DURING STEVE JACKOBS' TENURE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 1998-2022

#### 2003

Through the partnership and commitment of Ascension Seton and St. David's HealthCare, Capital IDEA added Registered Nursing to its list of sponsored careers. We have helped more than 550 RNs launch their careers.

#### 2005

The Geneva and Bunky Whitlow Fund was established to support Williamson County residents. More than 300 Williamson County residents have graduated to date and about 160 students are currently in training.

#### 2012

Capital IDEA celebrated its 1,000th program completer, Elizabeth Soltero Carroll. Ten years later, Elizabeth continues growing her IT career, and recently completed her MBA with an emphasis in Computer Science. She now works at Dell and is actively involved in Capital IDEA's Alumni Network.

#### 2015

Capital IDEA launched the IT Career Expressway in partnership with ACC by combining financial assistance from Capital IDEA with accelerated instruction for in-demand tech careers from ACC and guaranteed paid internships. To date, nearly 200 students have graduated through this program.

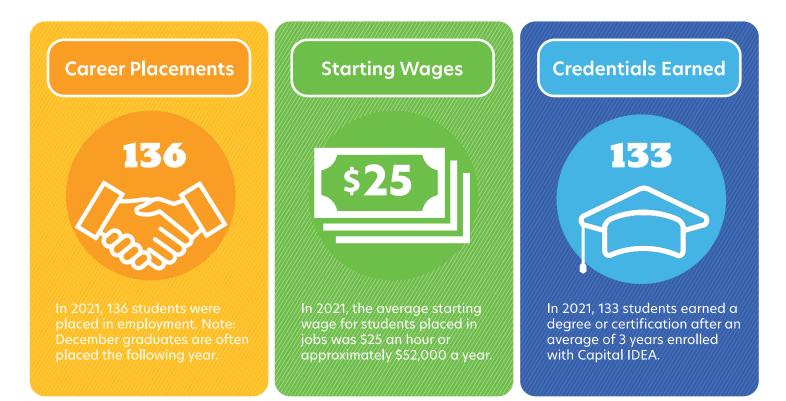
#### 2019

Thanks to the efforts of Central Texas Interfaith, Capital IDEA received its first public grant from Hays County. Expansion into Hays County was first catalyzed in 2016 through the support of the St. David's Foundation.

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2021 AT-A-GLANCE

# 1,107

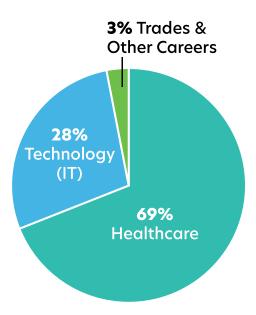
In 2021, Capital IDEA served 1,107 Central Texas adults. They received direct support to match their needs such as: financial support (tuition and textbooks), childcare, career guidance, and job placement.



## **2021 STUDENT BODY DEMOGRAPHICS**

GENDER ·····		
<b>79%</b> Women	21%	Men
AGE ·····		
<b>34%</b> 18 to 24	19%	35 to 44
<b>41%</b> 25 to 34	6%	45 and older
RACE / ETHNICITY		
<b>54%</b> Hispanic	4%	Asian
21% African American/Black	3%	More than one
<b>18%</b> White		race or other

## **GRADUATES BY FIELD**



## TERESA GARZA 2021 LEADERSHIP AWARD



y name is Teresa Garza, and I am extremely honored to receive the Mark Melliar-Smith Leadership Award.

My story begins back in 1999 when I was a full-time retail worker making \$7.85 an hour, picking up clothes off the floor, and knowing that I could be doing more with my life. A classmate told me about how Capital IDEA could assist me with tuition, books, support, and guidance. I was skeptical that such a program existed, but I attended an orientation session, applied, and received the "yes" that would change the trajectory of my life.

Capital IDEA supported me through the Associate of Applied Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Imaging-Radiology offered at Austin Community College. I graduated in 2001, and I worked for eleven years at a local hospital in San Marcos, Texas, and enjoyed serving my hometown community.

In 2009, I took a leap of faith and accepted a full-time faculty position in the same radiology program where I "I advocate for Capital IDEA and the importance of education, because I am living proof that the combination works."

was once a student. I discovered that I enjoy teaching the next generation of imaging professionals, some of which are Capital IDEA students. I also decided to continue my education by earning my bachelor's degree in radiology and my master's degree in education.

Capital IDEA is part of the foundation to which I owe my success. Over the years, I have continued to assist in the Capital IDEA mission by serving on the Capital IDEA board, in the Alumni Network, and sharing my story to those who will listen. I advocate for Capital IDEA and the importance of education, because I am living proof that the

#### ABOUT THE MARK MELLIAR-SMITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Mark Melliar-Smith Leadership Award was created to honor and cultivate the tradition of leadership among Capital IDEA's students and graduates. It is named for former Board member, Mark Melliar-Smith, whose level of involvement and dedication over his twelve years on the board serves as our example of excellence in leadership. combination works. I understand the feeling of being stuck and having dreams of living a better life.

One of the best things about being an educator is when I see my former students working out in hospitals and clinics. They are not only working, but thriving financially, professionally, and personally. It is the best feeling in the world that I had a part in their success. Simply put, I want those coming behind me to succeed. That drives my passion to continue to advocate for all current and future students. So, when they begin their own journey for a better life, Capital IDEA will continue to be able to offer support, guidance, and provide the foundation for their own success story.

## GABRIELLE MICHELLE SHEPHERD 2021 SPIRIT AWARD



abrielle Michelle Shepherd is a registered nurse and this year's Aurora Alworth Spirit Award recipient. As a child, Michelle experienced many forms of abuse and says, "all of this led to a lack of selfrespect or any sort of hope for a happy life." It was only "by the Grace of God, I overcame abuse and addiction to drugs and alcohol."

At age 15, Michelle became pregnant, and the father disappeared. "It was time for me to grow up," she says. Her mother enrolled her in Austin Can Academy where Michelle struggled with old habits. She dropped out but came back more determined than



ever when she realized "I wanted more for myself and my daughter." This time, she succeeded and earned her high school diploma at age 19.

Two years later, her sister invited her to a church-based recovery program. She was pregnant with her second child and determined to kick her old habits for good. It was there she learned about Capital IDEA. It sounded too good to be true, and she recalls thinking, "how am I going to go back to school after all these years, and now I have three kids?"

Her moment of inspiration came at a women's conference when the presenter talked about fear. Michelle was struggling with thoughts like "What if I fail? What if I don't make it? What if I'm not good enough?" She realized she had to overcome these fears in order to reach her goal, her "land of milk and honey."

She applied to Capital IDEA, but to her dismay, there wasn't enough childcare funding. "I was discouraged, but I didn't lose hope! I had a relationship with the Lord and a support system that continued to spur me on."

In 2016, Michelle tried again and was accepted. "I lived in my mom's house with my husband, our three kids, my sister, her husband, and their four kids. It was crazy and chaotic." But her husband and mom encouraged her to give it a go.

"College wasn't easy. I didn't pass every semester, and I didn't get straight A's. I had many setbacks: I lost my beloved dog, Cha Cha, I had another child, and I was diagnosed with PTSD from all of my childhood trauma." But Michelle didn't give up. "I had to be intentional every single day about making the right decisions for myself and my future. I attended church and my Celebrate Recovery groups, focused on

### ABOUT THE AURORA ALWORTH SPIRIT AWARD

The Aurora Alworth Spirit Award remembers one of Capital IDEA's earliest students whose commitment to her education could not be stopped, even by cancer. Aurora maintained her studies during treatment and inspired her fellow students. She passed away in 2002, and we honor her by recognizing a graduate who shows this same spirit of perseverance and inspiring others.

> my studies, stayed true to my sobriety, and built up my support system. And it paid off."

On December 13, 2021, Michelle graduated with her associate degree from Austin Community College. On February 7th, she started as a medical surgical nurse at Ascension Seton Main. "My dream had come true! I used to be a troubled teen who couldn't seem to get it together, and my parents were far from proud. And now, my entire family is proud of me."

What's next for Michelle? "I was recently invited to speak at my old school, Austin Can Academy, where I shared my story with other students, hopefully inspiring them to pursue their dreams. I want to use everything I have learned, and will learn, in the nursing field to help others, just like so many have helped me." Her spirit of perseverance has brought her to this point, and now, "I'd like to be a part of a program or help create programs for individuals who need assistance with affording healthcare and also programs for behavioral health issues like recovering from addiction."

Michelle's full acceptance speech is available at www.capitalidea.org/category/stories

## **NEW CAREERS** 2021 EMPLOYERS & GRADUATES













#### TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYERS HIRING PARTNERS

**Cirrus Logic** City of Austin **Dell Computer** Infineon iTech Express: Cell Phone and Computer Repair Luna Data Solutions Modis Inc. **MyltPros Populus Group** Q2 **Skyworks Solutions** Spectrum Synack, Inc. **US Tech Solutions Inc** Visa Wipro Workforce Solutions **Capital Area** 





Abbas Arkawazi Bryanna Cabrera **Dylan Calderon** Erica Capps Alexander Carr Zachariah Cavin Leo Coakley Liliana Espinoza Javier Galaviz Cynthia Gauna M Eshaq Haidari Kamri Hardeman Jonathan Harris Amy Hartmann Dustin Kaltman Marco Lopez Andrea Lujan Raz Muhammad Nizami **Daniel Olivares Michael Perron** Mahboob Rahman Alexander Riley **Ramon Rivera** Valerie Robateau Levi Shaw Andrew Vanvoorhees Nyaradzai Zhou



#### **TRADES & OTHER EMPLOYERS** HIRING PARTNERS

Agave LD AutoNation Chevrolet West Austin Bleyl Engineering Dashiell Corp Randstand RideNow Sterling Acura of Austin Tom Green & Company Engineers, Inc

#### TRADES & OTHER CAREERS HIRED GRADUATES

Victor Camarena Marcos Flores John Menna Phillip Monreal Thinh Nguyen Stephen Onuokwu Khaibar Rahimy Elysia Silver

#### HEALTHCARE EMPLOYERS HIRING PARTNERS

**Ageless Living Home** Health A-List Staffing **ARA Diagnostic Imaging** Ascension Seton Austin Community College Austin Diagnostic Clinic Austin Regional Clinic Austin State Hospital **Baylor Scott & White Carus Dental Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital Ciox Health Clinical Pathology Labs** Davita Kidney Care **Daybreak Dental Encompass Health Experity Health** Focus Care at Stonebriar **Forest Family Dentistry** From the Heart Therapy Services **Georgetown Orthopedics Guadalupe Regional Medical Center Hospice** Austin ICU Medical **KAD Dental Staffing** Lone Star Circle of Care **Piazza Center for Plastic** Surgery and Advanced Skin Care **Pomphrey Consulting** PPD **Rose Dental Group** Silverado Memory Care SOAL Home Health Services St. David's HealthCare Surgical Care Affiliates Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia The Center at Parmer **Thrive Skilled Pediatric** Home Health Universal Health Services

#### HEALTHCARE CAREERS HIRED GRADUATES

**Christina Agundiz** Doni Alexander Mary Allen Alex Alvarado Amy Alvarado Amarachi Amaikwu Jennifer Angulo Catalina Arellano Maryame Baaddi Mungu Barrett Keara Becerra Lizabeth Benitez Jaramillo Lamanda Bonnet Esmeralda Bueno **Aaron Calderon** Rosario Casanova-Marrufo Sandra Castillon Valdes Elizabeth Cole Molly Cox Natalie Crouch Jomar Daus Ashley Davidson Monica Escobar Jeanette Estrada Lopez Kala Faulkner Marissa Fonseca Jamie Freeman Natalia Garcia Jo Ann Garza Nardos Ghebregiorgis Mebrhit Ghebregiorgis Luwam Ghebregiorgis Josefina Gonzalez Stephanie Gonzalez Shalisa Granados **Cindy Gutierrez** Lee-Ann Guzman-Cortes Karizma Harrison **Elizabeth Harvey** Tremisha Henderson **Casey Hensen** Martha Hernandez Anavelky Hernandez Yasmine Herrera Mistilyn Holmstrom Jenee Holycross **Precious Hopes** Tien Huynh

Sonia Jaramillo **Emily Johnson** Ali Kassab Laura Kelley **Brittany Krizin** Jenna Leifeste Taiaiiraie Lewis Andrea Leyva Sharon LoGiudice Charlotte Mack **Yissel Martinez** Howaneigua McCreary Monica Mercer Jordan Minister Victoria Montova Tina Moore Beatrice Mugabezaki Brittany Oliva Leandra Paine Jessica Paul Iris Perez **Jasmine Perkins** Heather Pham Mavra Pineda **Rachel Reed** Elvia Reyes Emma Riegle Amanda Rodgers Alicia Rodriguez Beunca Roque Tanilia Rosario Ashley Rosas Estrella Saldana Juan Salinas Angelo Sanchez Allyson Serrano Zablon Sibwori Ashley Silva Kathleen Simpson **Michelle Smith** Natalie Smith Trevor Tomlin Maria Toribio Thao Tran Nardos Tsegaye **Kristal Tyus** Candice Ulbrich **Kyleigh Varvel** Kassandra Vazquez Dania Villafranca Vanesa Woolf Leah Wright **Betelhem Zeyede** 

## **ALUMNI NETWORK GIVING BACK IN 2021**



**2021 SPECIAL PROJECT** | In 2021, Capital IDEA's Alumni Network collaborated with the Eastern Crescent Healthy Now Advisory Council to implement surveys to advance planning efforts for healthy living in the Eastern Crescent region of Central Texas. Capital IDEA received a grant through the University of Texas at Austin for its participation in this project.

#### **2021 FUNDRAISING**

\$3,635 Donated \$6,500 Alumni-Leveraged Funds Raised

#### **2021 ALUMNI PROJECTS**



**320** HOURS **Block walks in Dove Springs** Eastern Crescent Health community survey **160** HOURS **132** HOURS Outreach with personal networks **115** HOURS **Capital IDEA flyer distribution** Civic Engagements - assemblies, voting, voter registration, speaking 80 HOURS with candidates and elected officials **Guest panels for College Prep Academy** 72 HOURS 72 HOURS A Dream Come True Foundation activities 60 HOURS Creating tutorial videos for current students 50 HOURS **Meeting with Capital IDEA supporters 48** HOURS Hays County meetings Conference panel, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management 12 HOURS **Outreach strategy brainstorming 10** HOURS High school outreach presentations **10** HOURS

#### 1,141 TOTAL HOURS DONATED IN 2021

## FUNDERS & DONORS SUPPORTERS IN 2021

#### **Public Funders**

**\$1,000,000+** City of Austin

**\$500,000+** Travis County

**\$100,000+** State of Texas (ACE Fund)

**\$25,000+** Hays County

#### **Employer Investors**

Ascension | Seton St. David's HealthCare

#### **Philanthropic Funders**

Champions \$1,000,000+ St. David's Foundation

#### Benefactors \$25,000+

Austin Community Foundation Campbell Foundation Education and Careers for America (EC4A) JPMorgan Chase Sooch Foundation Topfer Family Foundation

#### Leaders \$10,000+

Beth Avery First United Methodist Church of Georgetown Samir Hanna Long Foundation Gwen May Montandon Foundation Nowlin Family Trust Fellows \$2,500+ BBVA BancorpSouth Paul and Jane Dietche\* Rhonda and John Dirvin Steve Goode Atchyuth Gorti Eric Hehman Insperity John Jackobs Nyle Maxwell Family of Dealerships R Bank

Scholars \$1.000+ Malcom Davis Patricia and Gregory Donica Janet Freidberg Frost Bank Teresa Garza Gray & Becker, P.C. Mona Munson Jesse Navarrete Round Rock Woman's Club Minerva Camarena-Skeith and Paul Skeith Mark Melliar-Smith Paul and Katherine Solon Kathleen Tulle VeraBank Amy Webberman Samuel and Luz Yontz Jeanie Youngblood

#### Friends \$999 and Under

Jacob Adams Tim Anderson Falan Austin Bob Batlan Janet Beinke Ericka Bereuter Julie Bosshart Lammers\* Stacy Britton Paul Bryan Cynthia Bryant\* Darlene Byrne\* Joe Canales Suzanne Cantu\* Judith Carlson

#### **Alumni Donors**

Mario Beltran Peter Chau Dinh Teresa Garza Ramon Gonzalez Michael Holman Koreena Malone Felicia Reed Thinh Vu

William Carrington\* Marian and Armando Castroverde \* Tania Castroverde Moskalenko\* Laura Colwell\* Sarah Cook Linda Copenhaver Susan Crews Colleen Cunningham Brandon Dallorso\* Geraldine Dalton Leslie Davis\* Kim Davis Callaway\* **Dickson Delahave** Gloria DeVere Saba Dilawari\* Jeffrey Dooley Debbie Dunn\* Kristin Ellis Suzy Estes\* Cathy Eubank April and Michael Floyd Pascal Forgione Maria Frank\* Gabrielle Frasier\* Jared Frost Sarah Fugelsang \* Martha Furst Diego Gaytan Lora Ann Gerson\* Ariel Godwin\* Bonnie Gossels\* Florence Gould Ann Graham\* Emily Hagins\* Megan Hagins\* Mona Hale\* continued ...

\*In Memory of Diego Dietche

## FUNDERS & DONORS CONTINUED

#### Friends \$999 and Under

Continued... Sammy Hall Edwin Donald Hanson, Jr. Rebecca Harris Adrian Haynes\* **Diane Hebner\*** Rebekah Henderson Trenton Henrichson Ann and David Hillis \* Lon Holder\* **Michelle Hotchkiss** Tina Huckabee\* Steven Jackobs Cornel & Delores Jones\* Gilbert Keith-Agaran\* Dales Kent Marsha Kessler & David Golden\* **Richard Kilmer** Dana Kiper\* Robert Knaus Marcel & Cyril Kuhns\* Emma Linn Lauren Love\* Peg Liedtke\* Steven Lin Jennifer Loehlin Mark Lyon Ruth Mallory Tela Mange\* Helen Manno

Robert Manzer Carrie Matherly\* **Elizabeth McCombs** Ann McGinley Dazzie McKelvy Judy Mcleod Ana Mejia-Dietche Wanda and Jim Mills Lori & Felix Munson Tom Murphree Sona Nast **Daniel Nicholson** Lisa Nicolaou\* Sarah Oldmixon Alyssia Palacios-Woods Penny Paul\* Joy Penticuff **Kimberly Perkins** Timothy Perry Virginia Philippy Tony Pitts Nora Predey\* Jennifer Purcell Liz Ramon Gilbert Rappaport **Deborah Rippstein** Blair Robbins\* Amie Rodnick\* Kate Rush Sheehy\* **Enrique Saenz** Henry Savage

Candace Schmidt\* Mary Schumann Mireille Seewan Maria Smith Sidney South Paula Spears\* David Sullivan Nancy Sutherland Brenda Thompson\* John Thornborrow Kim Thrower Joe Tiago Enrique & Hedda Trapp\* Anna Trask Veronica Trott Kathryn Tullos\* University Federal Credit Union Tona Vasquez Shevawn Walzel James Webb Barbara Wiederaenders **Bruce Williams** Anne and Jim Witwer Ran Woodfin\* Curt Wyman Jennifer Yantes Catherine Zarker\* Erin Zehr

\*In Memory of Diego Dietche

#### FY2021 FINANCIALS

This financial information is an excerpt from the financial statements and independent auditors report prepared by Montemayor Britton Bender PC, certified public accountants.

#### Revenue: \$4,805,265

City of Austin: \$2,396,032 Foundation Grants: \$289,077 Travis County: \$858,718 State ACE Fund: \$407,108 Individual & Corporate: \$311,469 Other Revenue: \$512,861

#### Expenses: \$5,282,136

Program: \$4,499,018 Administration: \$701,439 Fundraising: \$81,679

#### Change in Assets: (\$476,871)

Net assets start of year: \$3,608,191 Net assets end of year: \$3,131,320

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** SERVING IN 2021



Rev. Paul Skeith Board Chair

CTI Leader, SoCo Episcopal Community



Alyssia Palacios-Woods Vice Chair

President & CEO, Austin Young Chamber of Commerce



Jesse Navarrete Secretary

Director of Financial Reporting & Planning, Continental Insurance



Joy Penticuff Treasurer

CTI Leader, Abiding Love Lutheran Church



T. Carlos "Tim" Anderson CTI Leader, Abiding Love Lutheran Church



Joe Canales\*\* Retired, Vice President of Human Resources Ascension



Teresa Garza Alumni Rep. Associate Professor of Radiology, Austin Community College



Sammy Hall Sr. CTI Leader, Hidden Valley and High Meadows Residents' Association



Trenton Henrichson \* CTI Leader, St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church



Koreena Malone\*\* Principal, KM Business Solutions



Enrique J. Saenz CTI Leader, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church



Robert Williams CTI Leader, Mt. Olive Baptist Church



Curtis Wyman CTI Leader, University United Methodist Church

eaders of Central Texas Interfaith and representatives from healthcare and technology employers founded our board in 1998. Today, the board has 16 director seats: eight for Central Texas Interfaith (CTI) leaders, seven for business community leaders, and one for a representative of Capital IDEA's Alumni.

> \* Began Board Service in 2021 \*\* Completed Board Service in 2021



**AUSTIN, TX** P.O. Box 1784 Austin, TX 78767

## ROUND ROCK, TX

P.O. Box 2522 Round Rock, TX 78680











www.capitalidea.org 512-457-8610