



SERVICES THAT WORK

○ WINTER | ○ 2008



SERVICES THAT ARE SAFE



SERVICES THAT LEAVE  
NO ONE BEHIND

# Caring *caring*

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICES OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

## Groundbreaking Kicks Off Daughters' 50th Year

In October 1958, in response to a request from then-Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, the first non-cloistered religious order of women in the world sent four sisters to work at the rural El Carmen Clinic in south Bexar County. Thus the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in Paris in 1633 by St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac, established themselves in San Antonio, where they continue to live and work fifty years later.

On February 22, 2008, Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio, which operates educational, medical, and social services under the sponsorship of the religious order, will break ground on a new Early Childhood Education Center. Daughters of Charity Services began the child care program at DePaul Family Center in 1984 to help low income working-parent families. Today the program is thriving along with its sister program at DePaul-Wesley Children's Center on Lenard. The new DePaul Early Childhood Education Center will be a 22,000 square-foot building replacing the current 20+ year old childhood development area at DePaul Family Center. The new building will allow Daughters of Charity Services to double the number of children served at DePaul Family Center from 100 to 200. Each of the 11 classrooms in the new building will contain age appropriate furniture, display areas, multiple learning centers, sinks, and a bathroom. A central kitchen will serve nutritious meals daily, to include breakfast, lunch, and healthy snacks. The after-school program will offer children areas for study, computer use, play, and relaxation.

### Mabee Foundation Challenges Children First Campaign

The Children First Campaign to raise \$4.3 million to build a new early childhood education center is at 85 percent of goal, thanks to a challenge grant issued by the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Foundation pledged \$460,000 when the campaign raises an additional \$460,000 by January 2009.



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*Message from the President/CEO*

## A Monumental Milestone of 50 Years of Service

On October 2, 1958, a headline in the *San Antonio Evening News* "Oldest Uncloistered Catholic Order Starts S.A. Work" heralded the coming of the Daughters of Charity to far south San Antonio. Archbishop Lucey had approved the building of a rectory and a convent next to El Carmen Church, a historic church founded in 1817 on the site of one of the early battles for Texas Independence. The parish priest, Father Raymond O'Brien, succeeded in persuading the Daughters of Charity in St. Louis to commit to moving a few of the Daughters to El Carmen.

In the late 50's and early 60's, El Carmen was a rugged, rural missionary territory. The sisters struggled to establish El Carmen Clinic, persevering despite the lack of supplies, money, and even doctors. Gas had recently been piped to the area, but the sisters couldn't afford to connect to the main. Their source of water was a well with a pump that frequently broke down. Water was not piped into the convent until 1979. The nearest medical facility, Robert B. Green hospital, was 20 miles away. Even with the cost of gasoline at 19 cents a gallon, the trip was beyond the means of many parish residents. Consequently, the sisters often shuttled people to the hospital. When the clinic was finally built in 1964, the sisters made it clear that it was not going to be a "free clinic." In order to preserve the pride and dignity of their patients, they requested payment based on what the patient could afford.

The sisters envisioned a second clinic inside the city limits, hoping that it would be easier to recruit volunteer physicians to serve there. In November 1968, a one-story building, DePaul Family Center, was erected at 7603 Somerset Road on land donated by the Archdiocese. It is on that site that the Daughters added the early childhood development center in 1984. Now, in 2008, the thriving childhood development program is ready to move into its new building. At \$4.3 million, the cost of our new building is a substantial increase over the cost of building El Carmen Clinic for \$3000 in 1964!

The times have brought many changes, but the mission remains the same today as it was when St. Vincent DePaul and St. Louise de Marillac founded the Daughters of Charity in Paris in 1633: *"to honor Our Lord Jesus Christ, the source and model of all charity, serving Him corporally and spiritually in the person of the poor, whether sick, children, prisoners, or others."*

As we reach a monumental milestone of 50 years of service, I know I speak for others in voicing a deep admiration and appreciation for the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of the Daughters of Charity in San Antonio.



Larry Mejia



*“Team Tesoro” members, identified by their t-shirts, are Tesoro Corporation’s volunteer employee community service organization.*

*Tesoro Corporation employees brought joy to 43 families at DePaul Family Center when they delivered toys, games, food, and gifts in fulfillment of their commitment to Adopt-A-Family for Christmas. The delivery of goodies was accompanied by a check for \$10,000 handed by Natalie Silva, Manager, Media and Community Relations, to Larry Mejia. The funds will replace the 18-year old refrigerator in the kitchen at DePaul Family Center where meals are prepared five days a week for the early childhood education program.*

**Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio, Texas**  
*Caring*  
**Winter 2008**

*Mission Statement*  
 Faithful to the Vincentian tradition, the Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio will establish and maintain neighborhood-based programs to increase accessibility to primary health care and human services on the part of the poor. These programs will have a strong holistic orientation and consider participation and empowerment as an integral dimension of the delivery service. While services will be rendered with preferential option for the poor, it is not to the exclusion of others.

*Service Locations*  
 DePaul Family Center  
 7603 Somerset Road  
 San Antonio, Texas 78211

DePaul-Wesley  
 Children’s Center  
 1201 Lenard  
 San Antonio, Texas 78211

El Carmen Wellness Center  
 18555-1 Leal Road  
 San Antonio, Texas 78221

La Misión Family Health  
 Care  
 19780 US Hwy 281 South  
 San Antonio, Texas 78221

**The main phone number for all service locations and administrative offices is 210-334-2300**

*Daughter of Charity in the old habit, marked by the distinctive white cornet, teaching a catechism class at El Carmen Church circa 1960. Teaching children has always been part of the mission of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent dePaul. This mission continues with the new DePaul Early Childhood Education Center.*



**DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY TIMELINE 1958-2008**

1958- Daughters of Charity come to El Carmen Church to work with the poor.

1960- Sisters set up El Carmen Clinic to respond to health care needs of the rural population.

1968- Daughters of Charity build DePaul Family Center to respond to the medical needs of Hispanic families living in southwest San Antonio.

1984- Daughters of Charity open a child care facility at DePaul Family Center.

1987- Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio is established, consolidating medical, child care, and social services. Licensing obtained for child development program.

2004- Daughters of Charity Services takes over the child development program at Wesley Community Center, renaming it DePaul-Wesley Children’s Center

Daughters of Charity  
Services of  
San Antonio, Texas

*Caring*

Winter 2008

For more information  
about Daughters of  
Charity Services of  
San Antonio, go to:  
[www.dcssa.org](http://www.dcssa.org).



## Memorial and Honor Gifts Received from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007

*We are honored to be the recipient of these loving tributes.*

### Memorial

Maria Lopez Barrera  
Natalia Barrera  
Jennifer Bothe  
Bill Casselman  
Henry Cotton  
Rosenda Fontana  
Victor Leyendecker  
Dorothy Longoria & the Noble family  
Rev. Williams Melea  
Michael Miller

### In Honor of

Anonymous  
Kim and Bill Crews  
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Cec and Greg Daschel  
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Kevin Kritzmire  
Steve and Stacy Kritzmire  
Traci Kritzmire  
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Rosie's For All Kids Foundation  
USAA Real Estate Company

As an expression of regard for the work of Daughters of Charity, your loving support gathers us together as a family of faith. This year the Daughters of Charity celebrate 50 years of ministry to the most impoverished neighborhoods of San Antonio, bringing comfort with medical, dental, and social services, as well as early childhood education.

Please consider the indispensable works of charity and outreach that have been accomplished through the example of these women of faith in our community. Celebrate 50 years of service with a gift to Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio. Continue the legacy of service to those most in need with a gift and continue praying with us and the communities we serve.

### Daughters of Charity Services

7607 Somerset Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78211  
(210) 334-2300

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