



SERVICES THAT WORK

○ SUMMER | ○ 2008



SERVICES THAT ARE SAFE



SERVICES THAT LEAVE
NO ONE BEHIND

Caring *caring*

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICES OF SAN ANTONIO,

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Celebrate Daughters of Charity 1958-2008: 50 Years of Service to San Antonio

On October 12, the local community of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul will commemorate the 50th anniversary of their arrival in San Antonio. The weekend celebration will begin with a Thanksgiving Mass offered by Father Dan Borlik of Dallas at 3:00 pm in St. Clare Catholic Church next door to DePaul Family Center. Dinner will follow at St. Bonaventure Activity Center. One of the best parts of the weekend will be a “family reunion” for the sisters who have served in San Antonio at some time during the past five decades at El Carmen Center, DePaul Family Center, La Misión Family Health Care, past programs at St. Philip of Jesus and St. Leo’s, as well as other programs in the community. The local community of Daughters and Daughters of Charity Services are hosting these special guests.



Welcoming sisters who have served in San Antonio over the past 50 years along with other congregation members will be the sisters currently stationed here. Back row from left, Ellen McRedmond, Constance Hummel, Bonnie McHugh. Front row, Mary Jo Swift, Lucretia Burns.

“Serve the poor with joy, courage, constancy and love. Be very careful of the goods of the poor and the interests of the house (the work). Be faithful to prayer, even while coming and going, even if you don’t have time at home to make your meditation in the chapel.”

St. Vincent de Paul



50th Anniversary Prayer

God, we praise and thank you for the people of San Antonio and for the Daughters of Charity who have gone before us.

We humbly ask You to call many more followers, so that those who are poor will experience Your love in a tangible way.

Amen.

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Adopt-a-Child Back to School Outfits 400 Children with Supplies

Event wraps up 14th year of service to children

Shiny new pens and pencils, notebooks, folders, new clothes and shoes—that can only mean one thing: it’s time for school to start again!

Thanks to the hundreds of generous individuals who participate in the Adopt-a-Child Back to School program, over 400 children went off to school—from kindergarten through high school—not only with new supplies, but with basic school clothes (including shoes and underwear), as well as personal items like shampoo and kleenex.

Volunteer Adele Dufilho and Director of Social Services Debra Colorado coordinate the massive recruitment, storage, and assembly operation over a year’s time, culminating in a distribution effort that delivers to each child a big box of goodies with his or her name on it. Inside, the children find the specific school supplies required at their school, along with clothing and shoes in their sizes. The project has grown so much that we now receive many monetary donations, and Adele works shopping into her already busy schedule. Mae Chauvin, sister of Ruby Davis, our 2006 Volunteer of the Year, lives in Baldwin Park, California, shops for her adopted child there, and ships the supplies to Ruby.

This year we had several corporate participants. A team from Valero Energy adopted 83 children, Nordstrom adopted 20, and Banana Republic (four San Antonio stores) adopted seven children. Holy Spirit Church gave gift certificates for school supplies. McMillin Homes conducted a drive for supplies among their employees.

Adele and Debra are already off and running with plans for next year’s event—number 15.



Sister Constance helps students and parents write thank you notes during the Adopt-a-Child Back to school program at DePaul Family Center. About 30 volunteers assisted on Saturday, August 16, when school supplies were distributed to about 400 children.

Message from the President/CEO

In 1970, Robert Greenleaf wrote a pivotal essay entitled, “The Servant as Leader.” Since then many individuals and institutions, including our parent organization, Ascension Health, have adopted Greenleaf’s Servant Leadership approach to Christian spirituality. Like many seminal ideas, the concept of Servant Leadership is not new. Lao Tzu, a wise man in China wrote about Servant Leadership in 600 B.C.E., as did Chanakya, an advisor to the Prime Minister of India in 400 B.C.E. Jesus described himself as a Servant Leader in the Gospel of Mark (10:43-45), *Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.*”



When I read the words of St. Vincent de Paul on the front page of this newsletter, I realize that St. Vincent was also a Servant Leader: *Serve the poor with joy, courage, constancy, and love. Be very careful of the goods of the poor and the interests of the house, be faithful to prayer, even while coming and going.*

St. Vincent’s and Robert Greenleaf’s core values are practically identical. Unlike traditional leadership approaches with a top-down, hierarchical style, Servant Leadership emphasizes collaboration, trust, empathy, and the ethical use of power. At heart, the individual is a servant first, making the conscious decision to lead in order to better serve others, not to increase their own power. Larry Spears, the director of the Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, identified ten characteristics that describe the essence of a servant leader. The characteristics are listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment to the growth of others, and building community.

St. Vincent came to servant leadership through prayer and scripture. He was unshakable in his faith in the Providence of God, and he was inspired by Luke 2:27: *Earthly kings lord it over their people. Those who exercise authority over them are called their benefactors. Yet it cannot be that way with you. Let the greater among you be as the junior, the leader as servant.*

According to Greenleaf, leaders earn trust only when their followers have confidence in their values, competence, and judgment, and when they have a sustaining spirit. St. Vincent was the servant leader of his day. He was a disturber and an awakener. By the time he died in 1660, he had earned the trust and confidence of most of the church and of European society. St. Vincent planted his vision firmly in the minds of his followers and never wavered from it. St. Vincent passed that legacy down to his Daughters of Charity, and they brought it to San Antonio when they arrived here at El Carmen Church in 1958. We are proud to be the heirs of that legacy and to carry on the mission of Servant Leadership.

Larry Mejia

Dads on Deck at Adopt-a-Child!

This year, more dads than ever came to DePaul Family Center with their children to pick up school supplies at the Adopt-a-Child Back to School project.



Daughters of Charity
Services of
San Antonio
Caring

Summer 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
7607 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

For more information
about Daughters of
Charity Services of
San Antonio, go to:
www.dcssa.org.

Memorial and Honor Gifts Received from May 1, 2008 to July 31, 2008

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

Memorial

Ms. Dorothy Bendele
Ray Carillo
George Cook
Ms. Jeanne Gerfers
Mary Katharine Gruen
Kate Nichols
Amanda Gutierrez Guerra
Sister Lillian Hrymyk
Sister Magdalena Kujawa
Mel Joffe
David Ledezma
Victor Leydendecker
Victor Leydendecker
Lillian Lothrop
Elvira Martinez
Margarette Merrill
Ms. Jan Verstuyft

In Honor of

Ms. Charlotte Jones
Anna B. Leydendecker
Genevieve and Norman Rech
Ms. Lotita R. O'Connor

Donor

Ms. Jane Butler
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Joan Barrett
Laura Evans
Katherine Nichols
Katherine Nichols
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Claire Roberts
Aurora Martinez
Jane Butler
John Wauters

Donor

Ms. Wendi Taber
Karl Leydendecker
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Stehling
L.C. O'Connor

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE WEALTHY TO HELP. A planned gift to Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio enables you to continue to support our work forever. Whether your gift is used to provide for the needs of medical and dental clients, to assist the elderly, to help with child care for the children of working parents—no matter where or when in the future—you can be there to help.

Planned giving offers many benefits. If you give during your lifetime, you will receive a charitable income tax deduction. If your estate is subject to taxes, a gift made at death will provide a tax deduction. Perhaps most important is the enduring nature of planned giving—you may use the gift to honor or remember a loved one, perpetuating your family name long beyond your lifetime. To discuss planned giving options, please call Dianne McAlister at 210-334-3204 or email her at dmcalister@dcssa.org.

Daughters of Charity Services

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(210) 334-2300

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