



SERVICES THAT WORK

○ WINTER | ○ 2007



SERVICES THAT ARE SAFE



SERVICES THAT LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Caring caring

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICES OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Expanded Child Care Center Puts *Children First*

Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio has launched the *Children First Campaign* to fund the construction of a new early childhood education center on Somerset Road next to the current DePaul Family Center, which was constructed in 1984. In that year Daughters of Charity Services expanded to include child development in response to the community's need for safe, affordable day care. The goal for the project is \$4.3 million. To date, we have funds raised or pledged in the amount of \$2,385,756. The expansion will enable us to increase enrollment from 100 to 200 children at DePaul Family Center.

In the new DePaul Child Development Center, each of the 11 classrooms will contain appropriate furniture, display areas, multiple learning centers, sinks, and a bathroom. A central kitchen will serve nutritious meals daily, and the after-school program room will have areas for study, computer use, play, and relaxation.

Daughters of Charity Services has received a grant of \$750,000 from Methodist Healthcare Ministries toward the \$4.3 million goal. These funds will be used to renovate DePaul Family Center. The renovated space will house expanded dental and social service programs, and we will add space for a dental laboratory

to support the dental clinic. A new and larger food pantry and additional storage areas for clothing, shoes, and furnishings will support our social services program. The renovated space will allow community services through additional collaborations with other non-profit organizations in addition to our own organization being able to expand services.

V.I.P. Tours Local Programs

Sr. Evelyne Franc, DC, (*pictured below*) the Superioress General of the Daughters of Charity worldwide, was impressed with our child development and medical programs, which she toured during her first visit to the Daughters' West Central Province in the United States in November. Sister Evelyne and Sister Margaret Barrett, Assistant General and the order's English-speaking representative in France, visited Texas for the first time during a 10-day trip that included New York, Missouri, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Sister Evelyne was concerned for the Hurricane Katrina survivors who are still displaced and also expressed interest in the

Hispanic community that we serve, particularly the immigrant community. The Daughters of Charity were founded in Paris in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. Today Sr. Evelyne is the leader of the religious order of women, with 21,000 Sisters living and working in 2,424 communities in 94 countries.



For more information about the *Children First Campaign* or to discuss major gifts please contact Larry Mejia, President/CEO or Dianne McAlister, Director of Development, at 334-2300.

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Message from the President/CEO

Toddler's Steps Begin Lifetime Journey

Whether we are three or 93, we all remember our first day of school, that milestone event when we stepped into the wider world and launched our lives as students. When Daughters of Charity Services created the child development program at DePaul Family Center in 1984, it was in recognition of the fact that many children in our neighborhood were unprepared to take that first step into school. They had not learned the basic skills needed for first grade, and they lacked the high quality early childhood experiences that lead to success throughout a child's life in school.

Our commitment to preparing neighborhood children for first grade, and ultimately for high school, college, and beyond, continues with the *Children First Campaign*, a project that will result in a new building able to serve twice as many children as we do now. Thanks to early support from the community, we are already halfway to our goal of \$4.3 million.

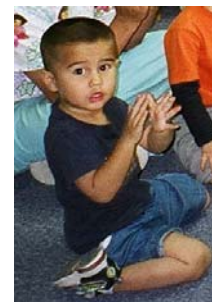
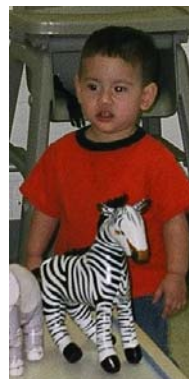
Increasingly, the corporate and business community is seeing early childhood education for what it really is, not babysitting, but vital preparation for our toddlers' success in school and in life. (See shaded box at right.) High quality early childhood education is not just an add-on, it is an essential investment in the future of our children.

How Are the Children? a U.S. government report on Early Childhood Development and Learning states "The general consensus of the scientific community is that children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs:

- arrive at school with better language skills and get along better with their peers;
- are 40 percent less likely to need special education or be held back a grade than their peers
- are more likely to graduate from high school, go to college, and be employed as adults."

Daughters of Charity Services has been committed to quality early childhood education for over 20 years and that commitment continues as we prepare another generation of toddlers for successful school careers and lives.

Larry Mejia



Early Childhood Education Good for Business

Why are economists, bankers, public officials and business leaders across the country talking about young children and their early education? Because they know that the key to business success and economic prosperity is investing wisely in human capital.” This observation by the Boston-based nonprofit organization Strategies for Children highlights the importance of Daughters of Charity Services’ *Children First Campaign* to build a new child development center and double the number of children that we serve.

The organization’s report, entitled *Early Childhood Education: An Economic Development Strategy*, goes on to say: “The nature of our economy is shifting to industries such as high-tech and biotech that require better-educated and more highly skilled employees. Preparing tomorrow’s workforce and positioning our state for future economic growth requires making substantial improvements in children’s early learning opportunities. Early childhood education is an investment with extraordinary public returns. Research has shown that investing in early childhood education is an investment in human capital, helping to produce a supply of literate, educated, employable workers, while resulting in better working public schools, less crime, and a greater rate of return in the job market in later years.”

UTSA Students Kick In and Kick Back

In December a group of UTSA students who had not used up all of their meal tickets before the holiday break “kicked in” and used them to furnish a meal to the children at DePaul-Wesley Children’s Center. About 20 students delivered the

meal, set up the serving line, and served a plate to each child. Then the big students and the little students did what everyone enjoys after a big meal—they “kicked back” and chatted, played games, and maybe even

dozed a bit. The little kids really had fun with their big brothers and sisters, and the big kids enjoyed it, too. Their biggest challenge was sitting in those teeny chairs!



Daughters of Charity
Services of San
Antonio, Texas

Caring

Winter 2007

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

