

Catholic Charities employee receives charitable service award

By Stella Senac



Photo provided

Robert Gorena, site coordinator for the Foster Grandparent Program, was honored by the Knights of Columbus Council 786 with the first annual Bishop Thomas Flanagan Charitable Service Award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize those who have shown dedication and commitment to helping those most in need.

Gorena has raised over \$100,000 over the past eight years to help Catholic Charities with various programs that provide assistance to people seeking help in their time of need. A member of Council 786, Gorena established an annual weekend trip eight years ago in which several bus loads of people travel to Dallas to watch a Cowboys football game.

The event has grown bigger every year, which has helped Catholic Charities serve more people every year. According to Gorena, "There is always a need to help people, lend a hand and show you care for all who seek your kindness."

Catholic Charities is not only grateful to Gorena for his dedication to the agency and its mission, but we are proud of him for caring so much about those in need that he stepped forward to make a difference.

Thank you, Bob, for selflessly dedicating your time and energy to help Catholic Charities provide for the needs of our community!

Stella Senac is the program director for the Foster Grandparent Program.

Corporation for National & Community Service visits Catholic Charities

By Lisa Streeter

The Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) held a strategic dialogue forum on July 9 at Catholic Charities' headquarters.

CNCS is an organization dedicated to encouraging people of all ages to volunteer their time to help with their community's critical needs. CNCS encourages this service through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn & Serve America. Catholic Charities sponsors two of these Senior Corps programs: Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP).

The keynote speaker was CNCS CEO Patrick Corvington. Corvington is a recognized expert on nonprofit sector leadership, philanthropy and volunteerism. President Obama nominated Corvington for his position as CEO of CNCS.

Approximately 50 other prominent guests from the nonprofit and for-profit sector participated in the forum. Among those in attendance were Catholic Charities President/CEO Steve Saldaña; Catholic Charities Deputy Director of Senior Services Monica Bonilla; United Way's Partners for Community Change Senior Vice President Toni-Marie Van Buren; Christian Senior Services CEO Sharon Baughman; One Star Foundation President Elizabeth Darling; and One Star Foundation Vice President Rosa Moreno-Mahoney.

In attendance from the San Antonio branch Senior Corps programs were RSVP Program Director Belinda Vasquez and FGP Program Director Stella Senac.

The purpose of the forum was to engage nonprofit and for-profit leaders in open dialogue to debate focus areas in modern American society that need improvement, as well as discuss a five-year strategic plan.

The concept for the five-year strategic plan came from the Serve America Act that was implemented in April 2009. Strategic priorities discussed included service as a solution, expanding opportunities to serve, building enduring capacity and embracing innovation.

Areas of focus were education (to increase the number of graduates and academic performance), veterans services (more opportunities for veterans and their families), clean energy (decrease energy use), health futures (decrease obesity and increase overall quality of life for older adults) and economic opportunity (including an increase in employment opportunities, financial stability and affordable housing for economically vulnerable individuals and families).

To open the flow of communication, the guests broke into groups to discuss these topics. Afterward, Corvington spoke on the importance of volunteering with an emphasis on high impact volunteerism (volunteering in areas of critical community needs).



Photo provided

Catholic Charities President/CEO Steve Saldaña welcomes Corporation for National & Community Service CEO Patrick Corvington to San Antonio for the corporation's strategic dialogue forum.

CNCS plans to post the strategic plan to accomplish these goals on its website, <http://www.nationalservice.gov/>, in the fall of 2010.

If you or anyone you know is age 55 or older and interested in volun-

teering in the above-mentioned areas, contact RSVP San Antonio at (210) 222-0301 for more information.

Lisa Streeter is a community coordinator for RSVP.

Crisis Intervention Program moves to Guadalupe Community Center

By Ester Geffre

After much discussion, deliberation and meticulous planning, Catholic Charities has decided to move its Crisis Intervention Program from its location at 2903 W. Salinas to Guadalupe Community Center at 1801 W. Durango.

Catholic Charities has been serving clients from all over San Antonio for more than 69 years at the Salinas location. The agency was established in this building as the Catholic Welfare Board in 1941; it is Catholic Charities' first home and is an important part of its history.

Catholic Charities will continue to serve clients at this location with immigration services, which provides professional consultation and reduced-fee legal services designed to assist low-income immigrants achieve the full benefits available to them under immigration law.

Now that the Crisis Intervention Program is moving one mile southeast, the program's dedicated

staff will be joining forces with the equally-committed staff of Guadalupe Community Center to create a multi-faceted hub of service for the residents of San Antonio.

The Military Family Relief Project and Community Voice Mail San Antonio will make the move along with the Crisis Intervention Program, all of which are overseen by program director Ester Geffre. As executive director of Guadalupe Community Center, Geffre will now oversee all programs housed at the Center.

The move will greatly benefit the community by creating one central location for food, clothing, utility and rental assistance, as well as after-school and leadership programs for youth, teen alcohol and drug abuse prevention education, cultural enrichment programs and fitness and wellness training.

The Crisis Intervention Program will consolidate its food pantry and clothes closet with Guadalupe Community Center's pantry and clothes closet to create one large center of

material assistance. Fusing the two departments will also bring on a facelift for the center that will be much appreciated by both employees and clients alike. "I have big plans for converting the already welcoming space of the center into an even warmer and friendlier environment for clients," Geffre affirmed.

Like Catholic Charities, Guadalupe Community Center has a long history in the West Side dating back to 1940. It has established itself as a vital contributor to the well-being and success of West Side families. Its mission is to provide social services that enhance the culture, health, quality of life and progress of individuals and families in the community.

The center works to counter juvenile crime, teen pregnancy and family and domestic violence through the following programs: after-school and summer programs for youth; youth leadership training; monthly youth chess tournaments; teen alcohol and drug abuse prevention education; cultural enrichment programs; food



Photo provided

and clothing distribution; and wellness and fitness training.

Although the Immigration Services staff at the Salinas office will miss their neighbors in the Crisis Intervention Program, the move is just what Catholic Charities needs to enhance its service to local families.

Catholic Charities looks forward to the move and to the enhancement of services the move will create.

For information on the Crisis Intervention Program or Guadalupe Community Center, call Ester Geffre at (210) 433-3256 or egeffre@ccaosa.org.

Ester Geffre is executive director of Guadalupe Community Center.

Carrier Corporation reaches out to Catholic Charities to help those in need

By Pamela Raines

Despite recent rains, this past summer's temperatures in this part of the country have exceeded 100 degrees.

In response, Carrier Corporation has launched a local effort to donate new window air conditioning units to people in need. An active supporter of local communities through community service and charitable contributions, Carrier works with its many dealers and distributors across the nation on charitable contributions and partnerships.

Carrier is reaching out to those

who are not otherwise able to escape the heat, especially in southern climates like San Antonio, where there can often be health risks to elderly or infirm individuals.

Carrier has a long history of charitable giving. Just this year, Carrier has donated nearly \$2 million

in equipment or funding to local and regional non-profit organizations.

In coordination with local Carrier dealers and distributors, more than 1,400 window air conditioning units

are being given away throughout the country through this summer's program. More than 280 units have come to the San Antonio area.

Looking to form local partnerships to help provide relief from the summer heat for those in need, Carrier contacted San Antonio television stations for assistance in identifying a nonprofit organization to help distribute the units.

Carrier contacted Catholic Charities' president/CEO, Steve Saldaña,



Pamela Raines is the development director for Catholic Charities. Information provided by Carrier.

Parenting program expands efforts to support young, first-time parents

By Shirley Seaney

Catholic Charities' Precious Minds, New Connections (PMNC) parenting program has recently grown with the addition of the former Healthy Families San Antonio PMNC program. This new program is located at the Guadalupe Community Center and funded through the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation.

The PMNC staff includes the program director, Shirley Seaney, and four parent educators, Taysha Parra, Rebecca Moran, Virginia Plasencia and Yolanda Galvan. The program primarily serves young, first-time parents throughout Bexar County with home visitation services. Projected to serve 200 families this year, the program is voluntary and free to parents of young children. It offers one-on-one parenting education and child development information to parents wanting or needing a little extra support.

The visits are fun and informative. The educators get down on the floor with the parents and children to play and practice different skills that will promote positive interactions between parent and child as well as healthy brain development.

With each hour-long visit focusing on building communication, fine and gross motor skills, intellectual development and personal-social skills, educators teach parents to have appropriate developmental expectations at each stage of development, which will in turn lessen the risk for child abuse and neglect. Developmental screenings as well as opportunities for parents to build a support network are offered through monthly parent activity groups.

Parenting is stressful enough without being surprised with "normal" behavior that is difficult to manage, even for the most experienced parent. Parents are their children's first teachers. Catholic Charities wants to help parents take the guesswork out of parenting and prepare them to enjoy the blessings of having a child. The PMNC program is a great vehicle for conveying valuable parenting information and ideas.

For information on enrolling in Precious Minds, New Connections or to make a referral, call (210) 568-8958.

Shirley Seaney is the program director for Precious Minds, New Connections.



Photo provided

From left, Precious Minds, New Connections Program Director Shirley Seaney leads Catholic Charities newest group of parent educators, Taysha Parra, Rebecca Moran, Yolanda Galvan and Virginia Plasencia, in helping parents become their children's first, best teachers.

Refugee woman transcends a lifetime of hardships to live out her passion

By Mary Nan Ollis

The tag-line on Rahwa Neguse's e-mail signature states, "If there is no passion in your life, then have you really lived? Find your passion, whatever it may be. Become it, and let it become you, and you will find great things happen FOR you, TO you and BECAUSE of you." (T. Alan Armstrong)

Rahwa is a woman, born in Eritrea, who has not only found her passion, but who is allowing it to become who she is while she does great things for her own life and the lives of others.

Rahwa is the youngest girl of a family of six children. Her family originates from Eritrea, a country located in Northeast Africa. Eritrea was involved in a 30 year civil war with Ethiopia from 1961-1991. It was this event that led Rahwa's family to flee from Eritrea to Sudan as refugees and, ultimately, to the United States.

Rahwa explains that her father, mother and two older brothers left Eritrea in the middle of the night and walked to the Sudan/Eritrea border.

Once they entered Sudan, they went to a refugee camp. At the time, her mother was pregnant with her eldest sister. Several years later, her family moved to a different area of Sudan where an elder sister and she were born.

Her family resided in Sudan for a total of six years. She was 18 months old when her family emigrated from Sudan to the United States. Upon arrival to New York, she and her family were resettled in New York by World Relief, a refugee resettlement agency. They eventually settled in Fort Worth.

"I truly believe that, because of the challenges my family faced in my early life as a young child, I have gained the motivation, discipline and determination that I currently possess. Challenge has a way of developing perseverance and a can-do attitude."

Rahwa Neguse,
Former refugee

Rahwa's family faced and overcame many obstacles upon their arrival to the United States such as not speaking English, not understanding U.S. customs and trying to navigate the difficulty of searching for gainful employment. On top of these stressors, Rahwa's mother became ill.

Rahwa remembers a time in elementary school when a math

teacher asked her to solve a problem that was projected on the wall from a projector screen. When she was silent and did not answer, the

teacher commented under her breath, "foreigner." The teacher assumed that Rahwa was not intelligent enough to answer the math problem.

When Rahwa was old enough to understand what the teacher meant and the insulting tone used, it angered her because the true reason that she was unable to answer the question that the teacher asked was because she was not able to clearly see the screen due to not having the proper eye glasses.

Rahwa states, "Early on in life this experience taught me that, no matter what, people will judge me based on my background before getting to know me. It also echoed the value of not judging a book by its cover."

Rahwa has been able to transcend the hardships faced by her family. She states, "The major accomplishments that I have achieved during my life journey stem from the character I have developed based on my background and life experiences. I truly believe that, because of the challenges my family faced in my early life as a young child, I have gained the motivation, discipline and determination that I currently possess. Challenge has a way of developing perseverance and a can-do attitude."

Her academic accolades are numerous, spanning from elementary school all the way through graduating with a Master's degree in public administration at University of Texas at



Photo provided

San Antonio. Currently, she is living in Eritrea serving local orphans while working on youth-centered programming.

Catholic Charities Refugee Services greatly depends on volunteers to help fulfill its mission of welcoming the stranger. If you are interested in assisting refugee families transition to life in the United States, contact Tom Hoog, Refugee Services donations and volunteer coordinator, at (210) 222-1294, ext. 204 or thoog@ccaosa.org.

Written in collaboration with Rahwa Neguse. Mary Nan Ollis is the program assistant for the Refugee Cash Assistance Program.

Volunteers help us fulfill our mission

By Patsy Moreno

Catholic Charities Guardianship Services & Money Management Program held its first Meet & Greet Volunteer Mixer on Aug. 11 at the beautiful Chandler House in Monte Vista.

Since 2003, Catholic Charities has provided legal guardianship and other less restrictive services (i.e. durable powers of attorney, health care powers of attorney and money management) for incapacitated individuals residing in Bexar County in order to terminate and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of those who are deemed incapacitated due to a physical or mental condition.

As the volunteer coordinator for the Guardianship Services & Money Management Program, the staff is constantly exploring new ways to recruit, retain and recognize our volunteers. The mixer was a very welcoming opportunity for our volunteers to get to know one another and share their volunteer stories. All had a wonderful time and are looking forward to next year's mixer.

Many volunteers have been with our program since its inception. They are very dedicated and have a great passion for giv-

ing back to the community. The ages of our volunteers range from 23 to 79. No matter their ages, they all have a never-tiring energy to help Catholic Charities fulfill its mission by serving others.

The Guardianship Services & Money Management Program staff is looking forward to recognizing our volunteers at our upcoming seventh annual volunteer recognition luncheon on Sept. 30. Volunteers will be treated to a nice lunch at the Bright Shawl.

There are many volunteer opportunities with the Guardianship Services & Money Management Program at varying levels of commitment, including volunteer guardians, court researchers, court visitors, bill payers, representative payees and monitors. All volunteers receive free training and recognition for all of their efforts.

For more information on becoming a guardianship or money management volunteer, contact Patsy Moreno at (210) 293-1009, ext. 266, or pmoreno@ccaosa.org.

Patsy Moreno is the volunteer coordinator for the Guardianship Services & Money Management Program.



SAVE THE DATE!

*Fandango
Under the Stars*

**Saturday, November 13
6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch**

*A dinner, dance and silent auction
to benefit Guadalupe Home*

For ticket info, call (210) 476-0707.

“Texas Hammer” works with Catholic Charities to prevent hot-car deaths

By Pamela Raines

According to a recent study out of San Francisco State University on child vehicular hyperthermia deaths, Texas leads the nation in hot car deaths. Eleven deaths have been recorded this year.

“The Texas Hammer” Attorney Jim Adler recently partnered with Catholic Charities to stop this toll.

It all started with a “good Samaritan” in San Antonio — a young mom who is on a

crusade to stop the deaths. Denise Perez, a mother of a 5-year-old girl and 18-month-old boy, printed 800 bumper stickers last year in an effort to spread the word about preventing hot-car deaths in the Alamo City, but she could not find any distributors.

“I wanted to send out a reminder to people who might be changing their routine or are just distracted who might otherwise forget that they have a baby in the back,” said Perez. “It saddens me because I just can’t imagine what a terrible mistake that is to live with.”

In mid-August, the *San Antonio Express-News* told her story in a report about hot-car deaths in Texas. Attorney Jim S. Adler read it and stepped forward to reimburse Perez for the bumper stickers and donate them to Catholic Charities, which is distributing them to families in its parenting classes.

This is a great opportunity for Catholic Charities because it gives parent educators something to hand to clients to remind them

that forgetting a child in the car can happen so easily and so quickly.

The San Francisco State University study also shows that 51 percent of these reported deaths over a 12-year period (228 children) occurred because a caregiver forgot about the child in the backseat. The majority of these deaths are children under two years of age.

Hot-car deaths have become much more

common since child passenger safety laws have required children less than one year of age and under 20

lbs. to be restrained in rear-facing car seats. These laws were created to protect children, but because a child in this position is “out of sight,” they are at risk of being “out of mind,” especially for sleep-deprived parents who go to and from work on auto-pilot.

“Unfortunately ... trying to protect children by putting the car seat in the backseat ... increases the tendency to forget the child because the parent is just distracted,” said Jodie Sinclair, a representative with Adler’s office.

Catholic Charities is grateful to Denise Perez and Jim S. Adler & Associates for their efforts and for reaching out to Catholic Charities in their campaign to prevent hot-car deaths in Texas. Together, we will be able to educate the community and save the lives of many helpless children.

Pamela Raines is the development director for Catholic Charities. Jodie Sinclair contributed to this article.



SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Made by the Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

- NEVER leave a child unattended in a vehicle — not even for a minute!
- If you see a child unattended in a hot vehicle, CALL 9-1-1!
- If a child is missing, always check the car FIRST!
- Be sure that all occupants leave the vehicle when unloading. Do not overlook sleeping babies.
- Always lock your car and ensure children do not have access to keys or remote entry devices. If a child is missing, check the car first, including the trunk. Teach your children that vehicles are never to be used as a play area.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the carseat, and when the child is put in the seat, place the animal in the front with the driver.
- Place your purse or briefcase in the back seat as a reminder that you have your child in the car.
- Make “look before you leave” a routine whenever you get out of the car.
- Have a plan that your childcare provider will call you if your child does not show up for school.

Physical and nonphysical violence a common topic in counseling sessions



Photo provided

By Howard Kravitz, OPA, MA, NCC, LPC-S

The counselors at the Catholic Counseling & Consultation Center see people with a variety of difficulties in their lives. One common issue that often comes up is violence.

Violence does not always involve physical assault, although that does happen all too often. It can take shape in a variety of ways. It can take shape in the things we say or imply by the comments we make to others. It can emerge in actions we take to alienate a person or make someone feel unappreciated or unwelcome. These are just a few examples of violence that come up during our counseling sessions.

As we work with people in their struggles to manage their individual situations, they often ask, “What can I do to make things better?” Although there is a lot of psychology that accounts for aggressive behavior, the way we end it is always the challenge.

My approach is to ask people to look at the Golden Rule, the rule that says to treat others the way you wish to be treated. The Christian version of the Golden Rule is special. Why? It derives its source from God. God wants us to do this. You should love others the way you want and receive God’s love. It may not be very scientific, but if you say you love someone, follow the love. In doing so, it becomes much easier to refrain from the violence. It’s hard to love and verbally or physically abuse the one you love ... if you really love them.

In 1 Jn 3:15, the apostle John explains that to hate someone is the same as murdering them: “Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.”

In Mt 5:43-48, Matthew explains that the opposite of hating someone is loving them, that we

should even love our enemies: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

We certainly have enough sin to go around; I urge my clients to be mindful of the sin of violence in all its forms.

Howard Kravitz is the managing director of the Catholic Counseling & Consultation Center.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Rom 12:21

Catholic Charities kicks off United Way campaign

By Pamela Raines

The United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County has a long tradition of helping people with basic needs — food, clothing, shelter and safety — and changing lives through strong, well-managed programs. Our local United Way supports 117 high-quality programs and initiatives at 60 agencies. Catholic Charities is one of those agencies.

United Way also engages the community to get to the heart of problems. In San Antonio, United Way focuses on improving early care and education for children, helping students succeed in school and strengthening families to become more financially stable.

As a United Way agency, Catholic Charities impacts the community everyday through its many services, including helping prevent homelessness in San Antonio, matching active

seniors with needy children as foster grandparents, easing the transition of refugee families to their new lives in the United States and helping teen parents develop the parenting skills necessary to successfully nurture their children.

This year’s United Way annual campaign is about to begin. For us, contributions to United Way are contributions to Catholic Charities and to the thousands of people that need our help right here in San Antonio and Bexar County.

Consider donating to United Way this year. Your gift ensures that help is there when it’s needed the most — helping us LIVE UNITED as a community. Call (210) 352-7000 for more information.

Pamela Raines is the development director for Catholic Charities. Information provided by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.



Catholic Charities Refugee Services
8th Annual

International Gala

featuring

Paul Rusesabagina

Real life hero of the film “Hotel Rwanda”

Saturday, October 23

6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Omni Hotel Grand Ballroom

**For ticket information, call
Iris Resendez at (210) 242-3171.**



Confronting human trafficking: It's everyone's responsibility

By Melissa S. Moreno, Esq.

This year has marked not only the 10-year anniversary since Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), but the release of the State Department's 10th annual Trafficking in Person's Report (TIP) as well.

The report provides an assessment and recommendations for 177 countries on how to reach the goal of "abolishing the illicit trade in human beings." Ambassador De Baca, director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, stated that, "In our first Trafficking in Persons Report, we cited the United States only as a destination or transit country, oblivious to the reality that we, too, are a source country for people held in servitude."

The 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report outlines the continuing challenges across the globe, including in the United States based on the same standards to which we hold other countries. The inclusion of the United States in the report strengthens its global efforts against modern-day slavery, but it also sets forth a clear message that human trafficking is not someone else's problem. As addressed in the report, human trafficking is a human rights abuse that is universal, and no one should claim immunity from its reach or from the responsibility to confront it.

For information on how to support anti-trafficking efforts in your community or to request community outreach services, education or training, contact Catholic Charities Anti-Traf-



Photo provided

ficking Program at (210) 222-2975, ext. 203 or atp@ccaosa.org.

Melissa S. Moreno is the director for the Anti-Trafficking Program.

Volunteer learns valuable lesson during time with Catholic Charities

By Amy Mullen

Productivity is central to American culture. The idea that our time is in high demand and that we need to fill every minute with tasks shapes the way we live our lives. Working for Catholic Charities as a Jesuit Volunteer, I have spent the past 12 months learning to challenge this cultural assumption.

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) is a faith-based program that places college graduates in full-time service opportunities throughout the world. JVC identifies itself as a counter-cultural program with four main values: simplicity, spirituality, social justice and community.

While I expected to learn counter-

cultural ideals at home with my seven fellow volunteers, I did not anticipate beginning to question the American notion of productivity at work too.

Don't get me wrong; I was efficient in my tasks. As a caseworker in the Crisis Intervention Program, I saw all of my clients, completed their paperwork on time and followed up on their cases. I was not an unproductive caseworker, but I did learn that sometimes the most important thing I could give someone was my time. The client may have come into my office requesting utility assistance, but often it was immediately evident that he or she needed so much more. I could give resources, and I could give a bag or two of food, but following that, what more did I have to offer?

The answer slowly became clear: patience. My clients needed many things, one of which was the ability to tell their stories. I found that by taking a little time and momentarily putting off other tasks, I was able to sit with a client and really listen. It was good for me to hear the pain and suffering of San Antonio's poor, but more importantly, it was good for these people to be able to share it. From the outside, as I sat with a crying single mother, it may not have looked like I was doing much, but I felt like I was doing something. I knew I was doing something.

As I return to my home in Rhode Island, I will bring many lessons with me, the most valuable being that I should never be too busy or too "pro-

ductive" to listen to another human being. My time at Catholic Charities taught me that, and for that, I am so grateful.



Amy Mullen was assigned to the Crisis Intervention Program from Aug. 2009 to Aug. 2010 by the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

Volunteers Needed

Catholic Charities Guardianship Services & Money Management Program need volunteers as:

- Guardians
- Court Researchers
- Court Visitors
- Bill Payers
- Representative Payees
- Monitors

Call 293-1009

Youth center gives school uniforms to families in need

By Julie Reyes

This past August, as the summer came to a close and the 2011 school year was about to start, Guadalupe Community Center (GCC) took on the task of providing school uniforms to children in need living in San Antonio's Westside.

Guadalupe Community Center accepted 500 applications for uniforms and shoes. With much thanks and appreciation to a grant from the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation, this is the first time GCC was able to assist families in need with free uniforms on a large scale. Due to an overwhelming response from area families, however, many applicants had to be turned away.

WOAI-TV Channel 4 covered the uniform giveaway and broadcasted segments that stated families would have to be turned away because of the lack of funds versus the demand for uniforms. In response, Time Warner Cable stepped forward with a donation of \$500 to help meet the needs in the 78207 and 78237 areas.

The heartfelt donation from Time Warner Cable enabled GCC to assist several more families. Catholic Charities and GCC are proud to be part of such a giving community. We are thankful to Time Warner Cable as well as the Najim Family Foundation and WOAI.

For more information on Guadalupe Community Center and the services it provides, call (210) 226-6178.



Photo provided

Serenity Ramon (front), Nora Cruz and Jaime Castillo show off the new school uniforms they received from Guadalupe Community Center.

Julie Reyes is the assistant director of Guadalupe Community Center.

Yes! I want to help Catholic Charities in its mission to serve those who are less fortunate.

I am enclosing:

_____ \$25 _____ \$100 _____ \$500
_____ \$50 _____ \$250 _____ Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to: *Catholic Charities*

Please charge my:

VISA MC DISCOVER AM EX

Card No.: _____

Exp.: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check here if you wish your gift to be anonymous: _____



Please mail to: Catholic Charities
202 W. French Pl.
San Antonio, Texas 78212-5818

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide for the needs of our community through selfless service under the sign of love. Catholic Charities is committed to empowering individuals and families in our community with the goal of fostering independence.

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