

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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Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.
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Donor helps Catholic Charities feed 400 Westside families

By Mary Nan Ollis

When working at Catholic Charities, one never knows what a phone call might bring.

One day this past spring, an anonymous person phoned in with an idea that, at the time, seemed strategically and monetarily overwhelming. The idea was that Catholic Charities in San Antonio could partner with Feed the Children to deliver a truckload of food, hygiene products and water to our community.

Founded in 1979, Feed The Children is a Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization with headquarters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, that delivers food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to individuals, children and families who lack these essentials due to famine, war, poverty or natural disasters.

The donor would pay for the food — a cost of \$7,200 — if we could handle the logistics of working alongside Feed the Children and distributing the items to persons in our community. Ultimately, through this connection, this special and generous donor provided 400 boxes of food, 400 boxes of toiletries and 288 bottles of water to Westside families.

According to the San Antonio Food Bank website, Texas is the second most “food insecure” state in the nation. “Defined, food insecurity is when you are so limited in resources to buy food that you are running out of food, reducing the quality of food that your family eats, feeding your children unbalanced diets, or skipping meals so your children can eat. Approximately 17 percent of Texas’ population is food insecure.”

The frightening fact is that children suffer from hunger in the United States and are more likely to suffer in Texas and Bexar County than if they lived in another part of the country. The San Antonio Food Bank states, “The rate of children living in poverty in Texas is 24.3 percent; the national rate is 20 percent. In Bexar County, that rate is 25 percent — that means that one in four children most likely struggle with food insecurity.”

The food, toiletries and water provided to Catholic Charities through this donation in July were a timely donation to our community. The summer months are always the most difficult for at-risk families as children are not guaranteed the breakfast and lunch meals that are normally provided by schools.



Photos provided

Thanks to these and other hardworking volunteers, Catholic Charities was able to unload 1,000 boxes of food, toiletries and water in one hour.

Additionally, it is a luxury to receive toiletry items as donations. Though many persons with limited resources receive food stamps, they are still unable to make it through the month with government assistance. Moreover, food stamps do not help a family purchase toiletry items such as shampoo, laundry detergent, diapers or soap. In addition to food, the Feed the Children distribution provided high quality toiletry items that helped subsidize the incomes of the families that received donations.

On the day of the distribution, it was particularly exciting to see how volunteers made a huge impact on making the event a success.

One particularly special volunteer was a client of our Military Family Relief Project. He saw that there was a need in the community and that this distribution was going to make a huge impact, so he brought a group of youth to assist with the distribution process.

This enthusiastic group allowed for the unloading time of the truck to be reduced from what could have been several hours to just one hour. The youth brought with them a great deal of joy and energy that reminded

all who were involved in the process the real meaning behind why the distribution was occurring and gave all a sense of hopefulness.

Catholic Charities would like to thank all who came together to make this food distribution a possibility.

First, we are grateful for the initial phone call from the very generous donor who made it possible for the food and hygiene items to be purchased.

We are also thankful to Feed the Children for their partnership in this endeavor. It was a privilege to work with this international organization whose mission coincides with that of Catholic Charities.

Finally, we appreciate the volunteers from the community that came together to distribute the supplies. Without either of these partners, none of this would have been possible.

Catholic Charities understands that it is only through community collaboration that we are able to overcome the overwhelming obstacle of hunger that is before us.

Mary Nan Ollis is the development coordinator for Catholic Charities.



San Antonio Run for Life raises money for Guadalupe Home

By Suzanne de Leon

Early this year, two college students visited Guadalupe Home to let us know they were planning to sponsor and host a San Antonio Run for Life 5K run in July and that they wanted all the proceeds to benefit pro-life organizations.

After doing research, they chose their beneficiaries: Guadalupe Home, Allied Women’s Center and San Antonio Coalition for Life. There was much to do to get such a race organized, and they were definitely up to the task.

Eduardo Bravo and Katherine Wright are amazing young people with boundless energy and a higher motivation. Within just a few months, they got organized, made their contacts, gained the support of sponsors and got the word out.

The race started at Blue Bonnet Palace in Selma. The weather cooperated with an overcast day, and more than 300 runners joined the race.

It was so exciting to see runners and walkers of all ages line up at the starting line. There were lots of children participating and even some moms pushing babies in strollers.

Although, from what we could see, all of the participants had the look in their eye and the desire to be the first one to cross the finish line, the top three in male and

female categories who finished first were the ones who walked away with the top prizes.

During the event, the recipients of the money raised from the event were able to talk to the runners, share information about their respective programs and tell them how we assist our clients. This was a wonderful way to introduce our programs to the public, some of which had not heard about us or the good work we provide to the mothers and babies we serve.

We explained to them the history of Guadalupe Home: Guadalupe Home was founded in 1997 when four women saw the need to provide a home-like transitional shelter and supportive services to some of the most vulnerable citizens in San Antonio — homeless, pregnant women and homeless mothers with infants.

Since then, it has been a transitional living program for homeless, expectant mothers and homeless mothers with infants. During the first few years, Guadalupe Home was run by volunteers. In 2001, Guadalupe Home merged with Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

The women who come to us have absolutely no where else to turn for help. They are scared, scared and in desperate need of shelter, food, and medical care — not just for themselves but for their babies too.



Photo provided

More than 300 runners participated in the San Antonio Run for Life 5K run this past July. Guadalupe Home received a portion of the proceeds.

A large percentage of our residents are survivors of child abuse and neglect, victims of spousal or boyfriend abuse, have mental health and substance abuse issues and often lack spiritual direction.

During their time with us, the mothers make a commitment to improve their lives and the lives of their babies, to participate in various classes (on site and off site), continue their education, whether academic or vocational, or find employment.

On behalf of Guadalupe Home, Catholic Charities thanks Eduardo, Katherine, the volunteers and all the others who made the San Antonio Run for Life 5K a success. We also

give special thanks to Kathy C. Strunk, who greatly assisted Eduardo and Katherine in organizing volunteers, collecting donations and food and for everything else she did.

Eduardo, a student at University of the Incarnate Word, is already starting to plan the race for next year.

Katherine, who attended University of Dallas last year and is currently enrolled in North West Vista, is also planning ways to assure that next year’s race is an even bigger success.

To find out how you can help Guadalupe Home, call (210) 476-0707.

Suzanne de Leon is the director of Guadalupe Home.

Refugee woman shares personal story at national symposium in D.C.

By Erica Schmidt

Every year, hundreds of people from across the country attend the annual U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) conference, and this year was no different.

Nearly 1,000 participants gathered in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of August for the two-day "Bridges to a New Future" symposium geared to enlighten agencies that resettle refugees of the changing dynamics of resettlement, reflect on the effectiveness of existing or proposed policies and reveal positive stories of refugees resettled to the United States.

Hisham Batar, assistant director of Catholic Charities Refugee Services, attended the conference and explained that workshops covered a wide array of refugee-related issues, including success stories, the new country of South Sudan, updated security measures and innovative employment models.

Batar went on to share that the conference was "very informative since (he) was able to meet many different people in the same field of work." Among those he met were groups from Houston and Dallas that Batar and his colleagues here in San Antonio will collaborate with in the near future on new ideas as well as strategies that work best in Texas.

"One key component to ensuring the success of the collaboration will be site visits to fellow agencies," Batar stated.

On the first day of the conference, a unique presentation entitled "Refugee Voices" brought together refugees from across the United States chosen by their communities for their excep-

tional leadership activities. According to Eskinder Negash, director of ORR, refugees were invited to "assess the effectiveness of existing resettlement services, share their vision for an improved resettlement system and suggest innovative programming to achieve that vision."

The presenters reflected on their personal stories of resettlement through oral histories and media streams such as video and photographs.

Naghm Saady was one of 25 speakers that day. She lives in San Antonio and is a caseworker for Catholic Charities Refugee Services. She does not see herself as a leader so much as

an "example for (her) community."

After two years in the United States, her husband and she both have full-time jobs and own their own home, and their children are very successful in school.

Saady explained that she makes suggestions and "helps clients through (her) experience." When asked what she spoke about at the conference, Saady replied simply that she shared her story.

The trip to Washington, D.C. was Saady's first time out of San Antonio since she and her family moved here from Baghdad, Iraq. Though she traveled this time without her family, Saady explained they were thrilled about her opportunity to speak in D.C.

On stage, she watched the monitor count down the minutes and seconds till she shared her story with hundreds of people. It

made her nervous, and she sought reassurance from the presentation coordinator nearby. Soon the moment came, however, and Saady spoke.

When asked what it was like to speak in front of so many people, Saady quickly replied, "I loved it!" It is clear she quickly

While it may be "hard and seem impossible" at the beginning, you have to "try to live. Things will start to happen one after another, and you will succeed."

Naghm Saady

Iraqi refugee & caseworker for Catholic Charities Refugee Services



Photo provided

Iraqi refugee and Catholic Charities caseworker Naghm Saady (far right), pictured here with Shimaa Ali and Ali's daughter, Alia Mohammad, shared her personal story with nearly 1,000 people at the Office of Refugee Resettlement's annual national conference.

overcame any fear of public speaking; Saady has already again spoken in front of a crowd — this time at the annual Texas Consortium of Refugee Providers meeting held in San Antonio in late August.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Immigration Policy Center, there were approximately 10 million refugees worldwide as of last year, and close to 75,000 were resettled to the United States. While resettlement agencies across the country undoubtedly gained insight from this year's ORR conference, the greatest insight may have come from those who have resettled in the United States themselves.

For recently arrived refugees like Saady, the resettlement and adjustment period is far more difficult than it may appear. Saady advises, however, that while it may be "hard and seem impossible" at the beginning, you have to "try to live; things will start to happen one after another, and you will succeed."

If you would like to help a refugee family transition to their new life here in San Antonio or to make a donation, contact Tom Hoog, donations and volunteer coordinator, at (210) 242-3104 or thoog@ccaosa.org.

Erica Schmidt is a freelance grant writer for Catholic Charities.

Anti-trafficking program serves victims of domestic minor trafficking

By Iris Resendez

As a young teen, Tina met a nice and compassionate older man after running away from home. Both of her parents drank a lot, and one of them abused drugs and physically abused Tina. No one seemed to pay much attention to her until she met this older man. He provided her with all of the attention that she had been longing for.

In her eyes, he was a loving man. Most importantly, he was trustworthy. They both began calling each other "boyfriend" and "girlfriend." Soon after, Tina moved in with this much older man.

Everything was great, until one day he told her he could not pay the rent and told her she needed to start helping. He forced her to go on dates with older men and engage in commercial sex. She was forced to walk the streets and have sex with up to 18 men a day to meet the financial quota for her "pimp."

Tina was only 14 years old when she was put into sexual slavery. And she could find no way out, until one day, the police came. The

police were not there to help her, however. She was not treated like a victim of sex trafficking — she was arrested for prostitution.

Human trafficking is very much an American problem. Domestic minor sex trafficking is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders. It is the "recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act" where the person is a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years.

The age of the victim is the critical issue; there is no requirement to prove force, fraud or coercion was used to secure the victim's actions. A child under 18 years of age is automatically considered a victim of "severe forms of trafficking" due to age alone.

The U.S. Department of Justice states that in the United States, the average age of entry

into prostitution for girls is 12 to 14 years old. Experts say there are about 100,000 American children exploited in the sex trade every year.

Many domestic minor sex trafficking victims are younger than 18 years old and are below the age of consent. These victims should not be charged as criminal defendants for the fact that trafficking victims have been forced to engage in prostitution rather than willfully committing a crime.

Instead, these victims of trafficking should have access to treatment and services to help them escape and overcome being sexually exploited. They should also be allowed to seek appropriate compensation from crime victims' compensation funds.

Through a collaborative effort between the Anti-Trafficking Program and Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department (BCJPD), the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of Governor has announced the award of a hu-



Photo provided

IRS tax programs experience increase in accuracy rate for FY2011

This year, the IRS-sponsored programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), are celebrating an increase in their accuracy rate.

For more than 40 years, VITA and TCE sites have offered quality free tax help for low-to-moderate income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns.

During 2011 the accuracy rate for preparing individual 2010 returns rose to 87 from 85 percent in the previous year.

"We are very proud of this increase in accuracy," said Mike Beebe, acting director for IRS, Wage and Investment, Stakeholder Partnerships, Education & Communication (SPEC). "When our quality process is followed, accu-

rate returns result," concluded Beebe.

The IRS SPEC organization takes a number of steps to ensure quality results are delivered through its VITA/TCE programs, including:

- selecting the right partners
- providing quality training and tools
- certifying tax law volunteer competency
- monitoring performance
- communicating results.

SPEC is charged with conducting a quality review that will provide a statistically valid estimate of the quality of service provided in VITA and TCE sites. The IRS' Statistics of Income (SOI) office selects sites from the entire population to be visited by SPEC annually. SPEC then conducts a Quality Statistical

Sample (QSS) review, based on a probability-sample that gives every return in the population a chance of being selected. At the selected VITA or TCE site, after the taxpayer's return has been prepared an IRS employee conducts a review.

After all reviews have been completed, the results are sent to SOI to calculate the overall accuracy measure. This ensures that all samples are statistically valid and the results can be applied to the whole VITA and TCE return population.

To date, the QSS review is the only measure that meets this requirement. Accuracy results from returns sampled by other organizations may differ since the returns are not randomly

selected nor are they live returns. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration will be releasing its annual report on the volunteer program later this summer.

To further strengthen quality, in addition to the QSS reviews, SPEC employees will conduct site shopping for FY2012. Site shopping involves an IRS employee in the role of a taxpayer getting a return prepared. Accuracy is determined by correctly computing the tax liability.

For more information on IRS' VITA and TCE programs, log on to www.irs.gov.

This article was provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

Infant massage promotes nurturing while relieving physical discomforts

By Natasha Bridges

"Neh, neh, eh...whaaaaaaah!"

Those of us who have ever been around an infant know how the sound of a cry can leave you feeling tired, frustrated, helpless.

"Don't pick up your baby because he'll be spoiled!" Too often parent educators hear this statement being made in the home of our brand new moms and dads. Parents want to comfort their baby, but some struggle with this, either in fear of spoiling their children or simply not knowing what to do.

Parent educators from the Catholic Charities' Paloma Parenting Program have had the opportunity to be trained to teach families infant massage. With this training, we as educators are better able to address the issue of comforting a baby with the families we serve.

Infant massage is being done across cultures and has been taking place for many generations for many reasons. So, why should you massage your baby? What can possibly be stressing an infant to the point that they would benefit from a massage?

Imagine where baby comes from: the nice confines of a mother's womb. All physical needs are met, and baby feels safe and secure. Then, baby is born into a totally different environment, where there are loud noises and bright lights. Baby is 100 percent dependent on mom and dad to meet her physical and emotional needs.

Talk about stressful! Parents soon deal with their own sanity in question because they are trying to function on two hours of sleep and haven't showered in days. They can only hope they get through this.

As parent educators, one of our goals is to help parents understand and identify the rea-

sons for a baby's fussiness. Most times a parent can provide a list of physical concerns. Constipation tends to be placed high on the list. When teaching infant massage, we inform parents how strokes for the tummy can help relieve gas and help get things "moving." Usually, parents report that after a couple of massage sessions, they're going through diapers with no problem.

Teething is another difficult time for baby. Using certain face strokes can help alleviate pain. Face strokes are also a great way in helping baby cope with sinus issues. Other benefits of infant massage for baby are that it can help with colic and growing pains, improving sleep patterns and much more.

Parents also report great benefits for themselves after conducting a series of infant massage sessions. An important component of massage that we teach is that of requesting the baby's permission to proceed. It may sound silly, but this is a great way to learn how to read your baby's cues.

Is baby wide-eyed and smiling or looking away and grimacing? Is baby cooing or hiccupping? Is baby's body language smooth and relaxed or jerky and stiff? So much is communicated without words. When a parent becomes an expert of reading his or her own child's cues, they themselves soon feel less stressed and more confident in their parenting abilities.

Program participant Brandi Hernandez and her son Caiden were referred to the Paloma Parenting Program six months ago. She expressed interest in learning more about infant massage, so she was trained on how to do it properly.

Brandi has reported that massaging Caiden is now part of their daily routine. She can tell by his still body and smiling face that he knows he is about to be massaged.



Photo provided

Brandi Hernandez, 19, has made a regular routine of giving her 6-month-old son, Caiden, a massage. For Brandi, infant massage not only relieves any fussiness or physical discomforts for Caiden, it is a way to nurture him and enhance the bond they have with each other.

"I've been massaging Caiden, and he's really happy. He also sleeps a little longer than on days when he does not get a massage. We enjoy the mother-son bond we've created with massaging ... I would recommend this program to others. Caiden and I have grown so much."

Babies and children thrive off touch. Scientific studies promote skin-to-skin contact and the positive outcomes that affect all

infants, from those with special needs to older children. Infant massage not only helps with physical discomforts, but it can really aid in promoting nurturing within a family.

For more information on Catholic Charities' parenting programs, call (210) 222-1294.

Natasha Bridges is the director of the Paloma Parenting Program.

RSVP volunteers in Del Rio help raise more than \$1 million for hospice

By Lisa Streeter

Thirteen years ago, several people in Del Rio decided that something needed to be done so that any person needing end-of-life care would not be refused services due to financial limitations. A committee was soon formed to raise funds for Hospice of Val Verde, the only hospice available in Val Verde County.

It was decided that the funds would be raised by opening a thrift shop in Del Rio. Nearly all the funds from this thrift shop would benefit Hospice of Val Verde. With several volunteers and one employee, on January 17, 1998, Friends of Hospice Bargain Box opened its doors to the community.

End of life care in a hospice facility provides comfort and support from medical professionals to patients with a terminal illness that no longer respond to treatment. Patients admitted to a hospice facility have been evaluated to be within

six months of the end of their life. Therefore, hospice also provides emotional support from social workers, counselors and chaplains to both the patient and their family to help with the transition of death.

Four days per week, about 15 volunteers show up at the Bargain Box to accept donations, clean the store and price, restock and sell merchandise. These volunteers give an average of 20 hours each per month to help raise funds for Hospice of Val Verde. Some volunteers even serve more than 50 hours per month.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), a program of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc., extended its services to Val Verde County when it opened a branch in Del Rio in July of last year.

RSVP
Lead With Experience

In January, RSVP partnered with Friends of Hospice Bargain Box among many other nonprofits to provide mileage and meal reimbursement to this volunteer-driven organization and to assist them with volunteer recruitment.

Since the thrift store only has one paid employee, the majority of the money received from sales is donated directly to Hospice of Val Verde. Donations make up nearly 100 percent of funds for this hospice facility. This money is used solely for patient care and comfort; none of the money is used to pay for the facility or staff.

Many of the clients at the Hospice of Val Verde have Medicare or a third party payer, but these organizations may only cover only a portion of the expenses incurred in hospice care.

With funds raised by volunteers, the Friends of Hospice Bargain Box donated \$30,000 this past March to Hospice of Val Verde, making the total funds donated from Friends of Hospice exceed \$1 million. This contribution enables Hospice of Val Verde to serve 89 patients in the last year and to serve many others in the coming year.

Bonnie Henderson, director of Hospice of Val Verde, says that, because of the money donated by Friends of Hospice Bargain Box, she feels very fortunate to never have to decline a patient due to limited funds.

If you are 55 years or older and interested in volunteering or are a nonprofit in need of volunteers in Val Verde County, call (830) 488-6240. For info on RSVP in Bexar County, call (210) 222-0301.

Lisa Streeter is a community coordinator for RSVP San Antonio.



Fandango Under the Stars

A dinner, dance & silent auction to benefit Guadalupe Home

Saturday, Nov. 12
6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch

Guadalupe Home is a transitional living program for homeless, pregnant women and their babies.

For tickets, call (210) 476-0707.

Save the Date **October 29, 2011**

Catholic Charities Refugee Services

9th Annual International Gala

Saturday, October 29, 2011 | 6:30 p.m.

Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade

Presenting Dr. Carmen Tafolla as the keynote speaker

For more information, contact Jacqueline Burandt.
210.358.2367 | jacqueline.burandt@uhs-sa.com

After-school youth program helps children thrive and succeed

By James Hernandez

Guadalupe Community Center's (GCC) After-School & Summer Youth Program serves families living in the 78207 and 78327 zip code areas of San Antonio. A program of Catholic Charities, the youth program enables parents to maintain their jobs with the assurance that their children are in a safe place after school and during the summer.

GCC provides free after-school and summer activities for children ages 6-17 years. Services and activities provided include, but are not limited to: homework assistance and tutoring, computer lab classes, music lessons, leadership building activities, recreational/organized sports, arts and crafts, and monthly chess tournaments.

The children also earn "GCC Bucks" (works just like money) throughout the week for completing various activities or helping clean up their areas, and at the end of the week, they are allowed to buy incentive prizes with their "bucks." This teaches them the fundamentals of money and the importance of saving.

Overall, the staff focuses on teach-

ing core values, as well as providing artistic outlets for creative expression, character building and family strengthening activities. All services provided are free of cost.

The newest components of the GCC After-School and Summer Youth Program are nutrition classes (provided by San Antonio Food Bank) and gang/drug/alcohol prevention classes. Through the nutrition classes, the Food Bank staff educates children how to prepare healthy snacks at home with food items you can find at your typical grocery store as well as tips on gardening.

Also thanks to the San Antonio Food Bank, the children who attend GCC now have a community garden to call their own! San Antonio Food Bank has helped GCC implement a community garden, which is a great way of teaching kids about gardening while allowing them to get the experience needed to grow and maintain a garden.

The children can test their skills raising tomato plants, or other plants and flowers of their choice, and some children have even brought in their own seeds to plant. With plenty of help and tips from the Food Bank's master gardener, this has been an educational and fun way for the kids to explore gardening.

GCC partners with the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SACADA) to provide classes on gang/drug/alcohol prevention. SACADA "hype crews" do a wonderful job of bringing educational yet fun and exciting lessons to



Photos provided

James Hernandez (top center), coordinator of Guadalupe Community Center's After-School and Summer Youth Program, is proud of how well the children in the program are thriving and succeeding.

GCC in order to get the kids excited about fighting smoking, gangs and drug and alcohol abuse.

These lessons typically begin with speakers who bring hands-on visual aids to pass around to the kids to show them the dangers of smoking or drug abuse. After these discussions, the children are allowed to create banners and other arts and crafts with a positive message to commit to what they have learned.

GCC was recently able to implement music lessons and even provide the students with music instruments to use while they are in the program. This helps them the children learn about music composition as well as the importance of working with others to make music together. The staff even color-coded the keys on our new keyboards so that the younger kids can play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and other beginner songs.

Last week, Catholic Charities received a \$6,500 grant from the Charity Ball Association for the After-School & Summer Youth Program, for which we are truly grateful. With these funds, we will be able to purchase books, sports equipment, computer software, and educational games.



These partnerships have made a huge impact on the development and happiness of the children attending Guadalupe Community Center.

The partnerships we have with the San Antonio Food Bank, SACADA, and now the Charity Ball Association, show what a difference in the community — and the lives of children and staff alike — we can make together, spreading hope and inspiration all around.

For more information about Guadalupe Community Center and the After-School and Summer Youth Program, call (210) 226-6178.

James Hernandez is the After-School and Summer Youth Program coordinator.



Catholic Charities helps individuals plan for future incapacity

Over the past few years, growth of the senior population in Texas has outpaced the growth of the senior population across the nation. Between 1999 and 2009 there was a 14 percent growth in the population of persons aged 65 and older nationwide. In Texas, there was a 25.9 percent increase in this same population.

Fortunately, once a person reaches age 65, they do not automatically become incapacitated. Many people live well and healthfully through the decades. However, for those who find themselves in need of assistance with managing their financial affairs,

Catholic Charities is able to provide services to persons aged 55 and older through its Money Management Program. Additionally, Catholic Charities provides Guardianship Services to qualifying individuals (not limited to persons age 55 and older).

According to Adult Protected Services (APS), financial exploitation (the misuse of resources of an elderly person for personal or monetary benefit) is the main form of elderly abuse. Exploiting low-income, elderly persons typically involves taking their Social Security or Supplemental Security In-

come, abusing their bank accounts or taking over their properties.

Many seniors are vulnerable to exploitation and suffer from exploitation because they do not have family or friends — at least not any that can be trusted — to help them manage their finances. Others cannot manage their finances due to various other reasons, such as dementia, physical or developmental disabilities, drug or alcohol abuse and/or mental illness.

Many times, people do not seek help until there is a pressing need. Guardianship Services & Money Management Program promotes

advance planning for future illness or incapacity.

One way seniors can plan for their future is to participate in health/resource fairs and wills clinics. Catholic Charities is currently working with the Honorable Diana Bautista, Atascosa County Judge, on creating a free wills clinic, where one can receive assistance in creating their will.

For more information on resources for aging and disabilities, or if you are interested in learning how you can volunteer with these populations, contact Felicia Traveso at (210) 293-1009 or ftraveso@ccaosa.org.

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 DISCOVER
 MC AM EX

Card No.: _____

Exp.: _____ 3-digit code _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

I wish my gift to be anonymous.

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



GUADALUPE HOME WISH LIST

ITEMS FOR BABIES

Diapers (newborn to size 5)
 Baby wipes
 Baby soap/shampoo

ITEMS FOR MOTHERS

Feminine hygiene items
 Shampoo/conditioner
 Bath soap
 Hand/body lotion
 Toothpaste
 Toothbrushes

BED & BATH

Bed sheets (crib & twin)
 Pillows
 Pillow cases
 Towels & washcloths
 Toilet paper
 Hand soap

KITCHEN/DINING

Paper towels
 Dish soap
 Cereal bowls
 Silverware

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Cleaning supplies
 Disinfectant spray
 Disinfectant wipes
 Kitchen sponges
 Scrubbing pads
 Carpet cleaner
 Trash bags (13 gal. & 30 gal.)

LAUNDRY

Laundry detergent
 Dryer sheets

OTHER

VIA monthly bus passes

Guadalupe Home also welcomes monetary gifts. No donation is too large or too small!

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