HAVEN FOR HOPE BINGO NIGHT

By Celina Lopez
Fisher Heck Architects

Hosting Haven for Hope Bingo Night is one of my favorite things to do with SDA. I have been volunteering every year since we started back in 2018. It is a passion of mine to seek out others who are struggling, those who need encouragement and some joy in their life. In April, SDA hosted a bingo night for the adults who live at Haven for Hope to have some fun and win some gift cards/gift bags for the winners. Prizes and gift cards are donated by the SDA San Antonio chapter.

We had over 50 people in a wide range of ages. Each person got to choose how many bingo cards they wanted; one lady had 9 cards! I was impressed how she was able to listen to the numbers and mark her cards. I stood in the back and just had time to soak in how these individuals need to be loved and smiled at. I saw two moms that came in with their babies in strollers. One of the babies was only six months old but she held her baby in one arm and used her other hand to play bingo. There is always one jokester that likes to call out bingo to get everyone's attention. I saw some individuals in wheelchairs who pulled up to the tables, they were excited to play and win. As the players were all leaving out the door, I gave them a smile, looked into their eyes, and told them thank you for coming. Moments like that really touched me and I realized we are doing a good thing. One lady wanted to know when our group was coming back to host another bingo event. All the volunteers who came out brought them joy, and we gave them an hour to have fun.

The next day a friend of mine saw our SDA Facebook posts about us volunteering there. She told me she knew of a homeless man that hangs out by the HEB she works at. She asked me if I had any contacts at Haven for Hope to see if they could help this man. I reached out to Veronica; Manager of Client Services, and she responded immediately saying they could send someone out to do a community visit. I am hoping this man can get some help. Social media played a role by opening a door for someone else needing help. I am not sure how it will end but I did see some hope in that.

Volunteering is not a place for anyone to compare your life to theirs but an opportunity to see how you can touch someone and maybe be the glimmer of light they need in their life.





