



Visitation House Ministries

VISITATIONHOUSEMINISTRIES.ORG

Winter 2023 Newsletter



A Transitional Housing & Education Program

Serving women with children experiencing homelessness



A Letter from our Director

Happy 2023! The end of a year and beginning of a new always reminds us how thoughtful and giving our community is in supporting families in our program. We were able to gather, reflect and celebrate our families' successes.

We would like to thank and acknowledge two wonderful supporters to VHM, Dr. Kathleen Light and Pauline O'Donoghue. Dr. Kathleen Light served VHM for over 10 years as an active board chair, we are grateful she has always been our advocate and continues to be a generous supporter in so many ways. We also thank and congratulate Pauline O'Donoghue on her retirement and for her over 13 years of commitment to VHM. She lead the way for our fundraising and marketing efforts and always supporting our mission. Though both will be missed we know their support continues.

As you read our newsletter we hope you are inspired to share our mission with your family and friends. Visitation House Ministries continues to evolve and exciting possibilities are emerging. We look forward to sharing more with you in the near future.

We thank you for the gift of ministry through your donations and prayers as together we serve the women and children in our community.

With Gratitude,
Andrea Hofstetter
Executive Director

a sponsored ministry of the
 **SISTERS OF CHARITY OF
THE INCARNATE WORD**
SAN ANTONIO

*"Instead of letting your hardships and failures
discourage or exhaust you, let them inspire you.
Let them make you even hungrier to succeed."*
— Michelle Obama

BECAUSE OF YOU.. WE CELEBRATE!



Christina, Khadijah, Jennifer and Ex. Dir. Andrea Hofstetter

Resident moms and VHM staff enjoyed an amazing home-cooked meal that included ham and all the fixings. It was a delight to enjoy fellowship in a casual setting. We enjoyed sharing favorite recipes and family traditions. It was truly priceless and we look forward to the next Christmas luncheon!



Congratulations! Christina made the Dean's List! She is working towards an Associate in Business Management at SAC. We are so proud of her huge accomplishment! Christina has proved that hard work and dedication will reap the rewards. Onto the next Semester!

Time is flying by! This time last year, Jennifer had completed her GED and was registering for college. She has now entered her third semester of college, while working a part-time job and being an amazing mom to her daughter Leiahnnah. Jennifer is working towards a Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing at SAC. Keep up the amazing work Jennifer!



WOW! Khadijah has successfully completed three semesters, and is taking another full course load as a full-time student this semester at SAC. She is working towards a degree in Human Services, with a specialization in Addiction Counseling, A.A.S. You got this Khadijah!

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE SPOTLIGHT



Thank you for your Board Service!

Dr. Kathleen Light's term as Board Chair has concluded after 11 years of remarkable service. We appreciate her dedication and community spirit she brought to her role. Kathi is both wise and virtuous, we are grateful she shared those qualities with VHM in support of our mission. We will certainly miss working with her as a board member and we look forward to staying in touch for many years to come.



Happy Retirement Pauline!

Pauline O'Donoghue Retired! Pauline was officially our Development Coordinator, however, a wearer of many hats, she was our Children's After-school Chauffer, Marketing Coordinator, Fundraiser Coordinator, VHM Advocate and a Forever Friend. Thank you, Pauline, for all the wonderful years of teamwork and dedication. You will be deeply missed. May your retirement be filled with wonderful adventures, happiness, joy and good books! Cheers to YOU!

COMMUNITY PARTNER SUPPORT



Meet the Mission

We were excited to welcome students from the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), as part of Meet the Mission. The wonderful students lead by **Professor William Gokelman** volunteered their time to deep-clean the facade of the La Posada Apartment building which houses VHM families. Meet the Mission is organized and sponsored by the **University Mission & Ministry (UMM)** under the leadership of **Sr. Walter Maher** and is held every September. Thank you UMM!



IBC C&CDC

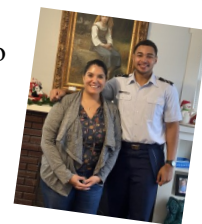
Visitation House Ministries was honored to be selected as a 2023 recipient of the "It's a Brighter Christmas Donation Campaign" sponsored by **IBC Charitable & Community Development Corporation**. We received a refrigerator and a stove for one of our refurbished apartments.

We also received wonderful gifts for the moms and their children along with essential items which allow the families to stretch their limited incomes and make funds available for other necessities. We are so grateful for all the work you do for the community. Thank you IBC Bank and Thank you IBC Employees!

Thank you to all the Secret Santa's that helped make Christmas memorable for the mothers and their children.



We are grateful to the many Secret Santa's who shared their support this Christmas season, by donating toys, time, or products for the families we serve. *Thank you* to the employees of the **CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Regional San Antonio Corporate Office** for including Visitation House Ministries on their Angel Tree. Each child received beautifully, wrapped gifts named just for him or her – Your support created forever memories. *Thank you* to the residents and staff at **The Village at the Incarnate Word** for donating toilet paper and paper towels, essential needs that the women in the program receive monthly. *Thank you* to the Staff at the **Village Angelique House Memory Care** for donating a personalized gift for each child to open on Christmas day. *Thank you* to **Shaydon** and his fellow **UTSA Air force ROTC** cadets who organized a clothes drive and chose Visitation House Ministries as one of the recipients.



Amazing support keeps us mindful of the generosity, goodwill and commitment to our mission and work, which abounds in San Antonio.



BOARD HIGHLIGHT

Meet Our New Board Members! We are thrilled to welcome our new board members to Visitation House Ministries. We look forward to their individual expertise and knowledge to continue forward our **Mission: To meet the needs of economically vulnerable women and children.** Their perspectives along with our current board member's expertise will be hugely significant as we plan our next phase of growth.



Monica Cruz is an Adjunct Professor at St. Mary's University (StMU) in the Department of Public Administration, teaching courses on Leadership and Organizational Culture and Research Methods. Monica brings a host of talents and technical skills to the board competency matrix, including legal and research and data analysis proficiency. We can count on her engagement and active participation in the vibrant delivery of the VHM mission.

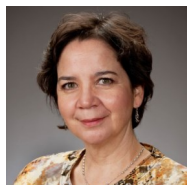


Veronica S. Laurel is the Associate Vice President for the Foundations of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System. With more than 25 years' experience in corporate communications, marketing and public relations she has a solid knowledge of the San Antonio community and the role of not-for-profit boards. Veronica brings a vast knowledge of communications, public relations and fundraising.



Kristen Goree, is the Director of Operations for IT NetPros, experts in the design, and management of Information Technology Systems. Kristen has demonstrated a passionate commitment to the ministry. Kristen's commitment to family, community and participation is powerfully evidenced in her associations with VHM. Her support of VHM and the women in our program represents a model of servant leadership.

It's with great pleasure to introduce Visitation House Ministries Board Co-Chairs:



&



Jeanette Eisenmenger *Toni Serna-Hernandez*
Jeanette & Toni will be Co-Chairing a diverse and dynamic group of leaders with extensive knowledge and experience in philanthropy, public service, and education.

OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM



We are so proud of the women who continue to take part in our online GED Spanish Math class. The GED classes have continued on Zoom with our amazing Instructor, **Sr. Judy Roxborough, STJ**. We are thankful for her patience and dedication to the women who continue to focus on their goal of receiving their GED.

"Our students' lives are like little row boats on the ocean, trying to get to shore, but tossed about by many opposing demands. Our help is essential to most of them, so that they can keep moving towards shore, little by little, in spite of the harsh winds blowing against them. VHM is a lighthouse that searches for them, assesses what they need, and works to bring them home." - Sr. Judy Roxborough, STJ

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars! Enjoy a fantastic night of great food and drinks, raffles, silent and live auctions, and entertainment. Your support will help to Empower, Educate and provide Hope to some of society's most vulnerable members -- women and children experiencing homelessness. **We look forward with hope and great anticipation to seeing you at the MCCOMBS CENTER ROSENBERG SKYROOM at UIW!**



To become a Summer Sojourn
Sponsor please email
Cynthia Bossard at
cynthia.bossard@amormeus.org
or call (210) 735-6910

JOIN US AS WE WORK TO BRING HOPE.

We need your help to gather items for our Summer Sojourn Raffle and Auction. Please take a moment to view the Idea List. Contact: Cynthia at (210) 735-6910 to schedule your donation drop-off.

2023 SUMMER *Sojourn* *Idea List* *Gala*

- Artwork/Religious Artwork/Crosses
- Basket Theme Items: e.g. BBQ Basket/Game Night/Man Cave
- Travel Getaways - Coastal such as beaches: Port Aransas, Galveston, S. Padre Island/Lakes: Hill Country, Austin, Houston, Dallas. Car Rental/Airline Tickets
- Designer Purses/Luggage/Duffel Bags.
- Dinner & A Play. Hotel and dinner on the Riverwalk . Alamo Draft House Gift Card/ Majestic tickets/
- Electronics - IPAD / Surface Pro / Laptop / Smartwatches /Google Nest /Alexa / Game Consoles / 1TB or 2TB Backup Portable Drive Gift Cards to Best Buy or GameStop.
- Gift cards from your favorite restaurant, movie theatre, book store or clothing store and donate to the auction
- Jewelry - All kinds from James Avery, Kendra Scott to diamonds
- Photography from a professional photographer for a family portrait package
- Services - Spa/Message certificates/Vehicle Services/Pet services (Vet/Grooming)/Lawn care/Pest Control/House Cleaning
- Sports - Tickets to Spurs game/A baseball game/An event/Sports equipment/fishing or hunting accessories/Yeti Coolers and/or Yeti Mugs
- Unique "Experiences" e.g. Personal Chef/Cooking Classes/Tourist for the Day.