

# Visitation House Ministries

## A Supportive Housing and Education Program

Serving women and their children experiencing homelessness

Spring Newsletter | 2022



### A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Congratulations to Sister Yolanda Tarango, CCVI, co-founder of VHM, on being elected the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word!

We held a beautiful blessing at the House where many friends, supporters and former families shared their stories and reflections. The Farewell Blessing was a wonderful final chapter to the House, which transformed so many lives for over 36 years - families, staff, volunteers and supporters.

Upon our move the VHM administrative office is currently located at 830 W. Mulberry Ave. Our transitional housing program continues at the La Posada Apartments where we currently have four families in residence. As part of our children's afterschool enrichment program we held a Spring Break Camp with the theme "Bloom Where You are Planted." This idea perfectly conveys the movement of the ministry as we continue to bloom and grow to serve vulnerable women and children in our community.

We look forward with great anticipation to seeing you in-person at our Summer Sojourn Gala on Thursday, June 23 at the UIW Rosenberg Skyroom. *Celebrating Hope & New Beginnings!* This will be our first gala since 2019. Your support sustains mothers and their children and helps provide housing and direct services for each family. On behalf of the women and children of VHM, our sincerest thanks to you!

If you have any questions about Summer Sojourn Gala, please contact:

Cynthia Bossard at [cynthia.bossard@amormeus.org](mailto:cynthia.bossard@amormeus.org) or call (210) 735-6910.

With gratitude,

*Andrea Hofstetter*

Executive Director



# BECAUSE OF YOU... WE CELEBRATE!

## FAREWELL BLESSING

We joyfully welcomed Incarnate Word Sisters, supporters, families and board members to our **Farewell Blessing** at Visitation House on Saturday, March 26th. In a ministry filled with many chapters and completions, we closed this chapter to begin another and marked the transition with ritual and prayer. For 36 years the beloved house provided a safe, loving home for the Sisters, women and their children. There was sweet sorrow as we lingered on the porch on a beautiful sunny afternoon, sharing many wonderful memories, and celebrating all we have received in the house. We also looked with confidence to the future in gratitude for the gift that the house sale brings to strengthen and grow our ministry.



## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

**With your help and support** of our mission we celebrate the five families who call La Posada apartments home. We are proud of the moms who participate in the VHM supportive housing program. They are committed to achieving their education goals and to nurturing and caring for their children.



**Khadijah** has completed her first semester at San Antonio College (SAC), pursuing an associate degree in Human Services with a specialization in Addiction Counseling, A.A.S. Her daughter XIA (16 months) is thriving at Avance and has graduated to the toddler room due to her walking, emotional and intellectual development.

**Jennifer** has also completed her first semester at SAC where she is pursuing an associate degree in Nursing. Her daughter Leiahnnah (4yo) is registered for Kindergarten in the fall having completed her pre-K year and as her schedule allowed participated in our afterschool enrichment program activities.



**Christina** has enrolled at SAC and is excited to begin her general education courses of study this summer. While awaiting the start of her classes she has worked fulltime as a home care provider, one that brings her great joy and satisfaction. Her son Liam (3yo) loves daycare but is also looking forward to the fall when he can start pre-kindergarten and join our afterschool enrichment program with the big kids.

**Felipa** continues to pursue her GED taking classes at Restore Education. Jason has flourished during his first year of school, experiencing structure and learning in a group setting. His sisters, Jazmin and Kamilah attend daycare.

**Stephanie** and her three children recently received approval for housing through the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) and exits the program to avail of this wonderful opportunity. We appreciate the partnership with SAHA to support our efforts to secure permanent housing for exiting families. Since joining VHM Stephanie has pursued her associate degree in social work at SAC and a work study program at William R. Sinkin Eco Centro, a community outreach center for environmental sustainability operated by SAC. Her children have blossomed in the program and gained a solid education start. They are on track to progress to their next grade levels for the 22-23 academic year; Ron to 4th, Delilah, 3rd and Zofia to 2nd. This year, Delilah joined her school's dance team and had several performances, and Zofia has moved up three guided reading levels. Ron maintained AB Honor Roll and also increased his reading proficiency.



## AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



The afterschool enrichment program fostered social emotional learning in **Spring Break Enrichment Camp 2022**. Case manager, Tami and her afterschool enrichment team organized the camp based on the theme "*Bloom Where You Are Planted*". Sporting camp T-shirts, the children and staff participated in lessons and activities to increase self-awareness, self-control, and develop interpersonal skills. Emphasis was placed on helping others bloom and staying away from things and people that would stop you from blooming. Fun was had by all!

## TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE SPOTLIGHT

March is National Social Worker Month and the theme for **Social Work Month** 2022 was “The Time is Right for Social Work” and we were doubly pleased to feature our social worker and case manager, **Tamira Farquharson**. We celebrated with Tami to honor her great profession of social work and the passion and dedication she demonstrates daily. We also celebrated with Tami on receiving her Master's Level Social Worker License (LMSW). Congratulations Tami! You are an essential member of the VHM team. We are proud of your accomplishment.



April offered us the occasion of **National Volunteer Week** and the opportunity to recognize and thank the many volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice and support to VHM; to shine a light on their loving acts of kindness during the proclaimed volunteer week and the other 51! Their generosity is invaluable in helping us carry out our mission, whether tutoring a child, helping a mom, donating their expertise, products, or financial support. Volunteer Gabriella lived as a child in La Posada apartments with her mom and 3 siblings. The children in our afterschool enrichment program were eager to hear all about her experiences living in the same apartment. Life has come full circle!



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT



**South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH)** is the lead Continuum of Care (CoC) agency for San Antonio and Bexar County. The CoC Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. SARAH is responsible for collaborating with, listening to, and collecting data from the housing and homeless community to ensure everyone has a place to call home. Visitation House Ministries is an active member of the CoC and appreciates the support that SARAH provides. We have recently applied to become a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) user. HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. We are excited to expand our knowledge base, increase our proficiency in coordinating service provision, and managing our operations to better serve the women and children who call VHM La Posada apartments home.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

As one of the sponsored ministries of the **Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word**, VHM celebrates the Sisters' newly elected General Leadership Team who will serve for the next four years. Our heartfelt congratulations are extended to **Sr. Yolanda Tarango, CCVI**, who was elected the new congregational leader for 2022-2026. Sr. Yolanda is the Chair of CCVI US Ministries, and VHM cofounder and former executive director. Sr. Yolanda and the CCVI team are assured of our support and prayers as we work to fully share in the charism of the congregation and serve the poor and vulnerable in their name. May God's Blessings be on the new members, on the work of their leadership and all the good works of CCVI Sisters. Praised be the Incarnate Word!

S. Peggy Bonnot  
S. Emilia Gracia Morales  
S. Leticia de Jesús Rodríguez Hernández  
S. Yolanda Tarango  
S. Cecilia Zavala Esparza



## OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM

The **Outreach Program** provided services with a preventative focus for women in the community. During the 21-22 academic year the GED program was hosted via zoom and has recently closed with the spring semester. We continue to offer social services throughout the summer to include remote case management for the students. Services offered also include items to help these women meet their individual, family and household needs.

### -JOB OPENINGS-

#### GED INSTRUCTOR (Part-time)



Scan QR code  
for Job Details

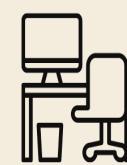


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items will automatically ship to us.

### VISITATION HOUSE MINISTRIES UPDATE

## WE HAVE MOVED



OFFICE ADDRESS  
830 W. MULBERRY AVENUE  
SAN ANTONIO TX 78212



MAILING ADDRESS  
VISITATION HOUSE MINISTRIES  
P.O. BOX 12074  
SAN ANTONIO TX 78212



MAIN PHONE  
210-735-6910

# SUMMER SOJOURN GALA

MCCOMBS CENTER ROSENBERG SKYROOM  
at UIW

Thursday, June 23, 2022

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

*The 2022 Summer Sojourn Gala will be  
held in-person for the first time since 2019!*

**Join us** as we celebrate over 36 years of empowering mothers to create stable and loving homes for themselves and their children. The **Summer Sojourn Gala** is our main fundraiser of the year and raises a substantial portion of the ministry's annual budget. Your support sustains mothers and their children and helps provide housing and direct services for each family, including case management, parenting, counseling, educational assistance, budgeting and independent living skills training.

We continue to welcome table sponsorships and we need your help to collect donations for our silent auction and raffle. If you have any questions, please email **Cynthia Bossard** at [cynthia.bossard@amormeus.org](mailto:cynthia.bossard@amormeus.org) or call (210) 735-6910.

## RSVP

KINDLY REPLY BY JUNE 10

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ admission(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to purchase a table for 10 guests \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sorry, I am unable to attend the Summer Sojourn. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is my donation.

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VISITATION HOUSE MINISTRIES

## RAFFLE TICKET PRICES

1 Raffle Ticket for \$10.00

or

6 Raffle Tickets for \$50.00

or

15 Raffle Tickets for \$100.00



Thank you for being a part of the  
Visitation House Ministries Summer Sojourn Fundraiser.  
We look forward to seeing you at the event.



**FOLLOW US!**



**DONATE AT: [VISITATIONHOUSEMINISTRIES.ORG](http://VISITATIONHOUSEMINISTRIES.ORG)**