

P.O. Box 12074, San Antonio, TX 78212

210-735-6910



Visitation House Ministries

VISITATIONHOUSEMINISTRIES.ORG

Fall 2022 Newsletter

A Supportive Housing &
Education Program

Serving women with children experiencing homelessness

A Letter from our Executive Director



Happy Fall!

It was wonderful to see many long-time supporters and meet new friends at our Summer Sojourn event on June 23, after a two-year break due to the pandemic. Over 250 guests and volunteers enjoyed amazing food and drinks, music, conversation, and numerous desirable raffle items. If you missed our event this year we hope to see you next year in June.

This fall semester we are enthusiastic for our families to begin their school routine with most of the Moms attending San Antonio College. We are look forward to being part of the University of the Incarnate Word's (UIW) "Meet the Mission" day of community service. This year an enthusiastic group of UIW volunteers will help to beautify our La Posada Apartments with a deep external cleaning.

Volunteers are an important part of our mission and we know you will help us to thank and acknowledge the volunteer efforts of Scott Bossard. Upon his retirement from the Navy, Scott has continued to give back by generously volunteering hundreds of hours to help maintain our facilities. We thank you Scott for volunteering with VHM and for your Service to our Country.

We look forward with hope and great joy to the exciting possibilities emerging for VHM. We are eager to share more with you in the near future as our ministry continues to evolve to best meet the needs of those served.

Thank you for your prayers and continuing support. We are truly grateful for your commitment to transform lives, one woman, and one child at a time.

With Gratitude,

Andrea Hofstetter

Executive Director



BECAUSE OF YOU... WE CELEBRATE!



The moms in our program are first-gen students i.e. first in their families to pursue college degree programs, with little or no experience navigating the academic, financial, and cultural barriers to higher education, including application processes which sometimes bamboozle even the most savvy. VHM Case Manager, Tami Farquharson, LMSW worked in conjunction with the San Antonio College (SAC) collective and the comprehensive educational supportive SAC Empowerment Center to overcome these hurdles. Jennifer, Khadijah, and Christina are registered full time students at SAC for this fall semester. Jennifer has already successfully completed two semesters and a full course load of summer classes and is working towards an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing. Khadijah also successfully completed two semesters and a full course load of summer classes and is working towards a degree in Human Services, with a specialization in Addiction Counseling, A.A.S. Christina has successfully completed spring and summer courses and is working towards completing intermediate courses with the goal of choosing a degree plan this spring.

We are proud to partner with SAC in the moms' journey to achieving their education goals and fully appreciate the nurturing support and guidance provided by the SAC collective community to sustain, assess, and improve student pathways. SAC's dedication, hard work and commitment to student success and performance excellence is reflected in the Aspen Prize award for Community College Excellence. SAC is the first in Texas to receive this prestigious national honor with singular focus on student success including excellence in equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds during and after college.



(Photo Credit: San Antonio College)

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



We welcome back the children to the Afterschool Enrichment Program (EP). Leiahnnah and Jayson are enjoying their Kindergarten year and Liam is excited to start in Pre-K. EP is geared towards the elementary school-aged children in our program and provides academic remedial, reinforcement, and engagement. In a structured and nurturing environment, the children practice time management, learn productive study habits skills, and apply critical thinking.



Time, Talent, and Treasure Spotlight

Volunteer of the Year !



Our first Volunteer of the Year Award goes to the efficient and devoted, go-to person and **VHM-Man-Friday, Scott Bossard**. Scott is gifted with trade skills, repair work, maintenance work, interior and exterior. Aside from being handyperson extraordinaire Scott is reliable, responsible, and passionately committed to ensuring a safe and pleasant living and working environment at VHM for families, staff and volunteers. Scott inspired the creation of the Volunteer of the Year Award and has set the gold standard!



Community Partner Support



We are eager to partner with other nonprofits, such as Guardian House to enhance program services and the vibrant delivery of the VHM mission. **Guardian House** provides counseling services which are geared to meet the individual needs of the mom and the family unit. Guardian House offers professional support to assist them in taking the next step toward healthy development and providing them the tools to make positive life-long changes.

In Memoriam

We offer sincere condolences to our board chair, Dr. Kathleen Light, on the death of her mother, *Eileen Marie Light, (nee McCarty)* who died in San Antonio, Texas on September 6, 2022, at the age of 95. Committed to the issues of women and children, Eileen was a long-time supporter of Visitation House Ministries. We have many grateful memories of her generosity which helped transform the lives of numerous mothers and children that called La Posada Apartments home.



We also remember all the dearly departed Incarnate Word Sisters who entered eternal life during this past year and who have so generously supported the ministry.

BECAUSE OF YOU.. WE GIVE THANKS!

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Our gratitude is about more than saying "Thank you".

We ARE thankful. For our sponsors, donors, and gala attendees, volunteers, (special mention goes to an amazing MC, Paul Garro, and Auctioneer, Ross McKenzie) raffle ticket buyers, bidders in the live and silent auctions. All of You! You made our first gala since 2019 a resounding success. We are honored and humbled by your investment in our ministry, in our mission to serve the vulnerable, and in the women and children we serve on your behalf.



OUTREACH PROGRAM



OUTREACH PROGRAM 2022 Fall Semester

GED Math Preparation in Spanish via Zoom

For Information:

CALL 210-735-6910



visitationhm@gmail.com

In addition to providing educational accompaniment to women in the program and the broader community through its GED Program, Outreach has expanded to integrate remote case management.

Remote Case Management provides:

- Support and orientation to help participants access a wide range of services for which they and their families may be eligible (medical, behavioral, health, employment, social and education).
- Product Support, providing personal care items that help meet the individual or family or household needs.

Outreach also includes Phone-Based Support for callers in need of human services, providing referrals and connections to resources available among peer social agencies, nonprofit organizations, congregations, government agencies, and compassionate groups in and around San Antonio.



DomesticShelters.org announced the winners of the 2022 Purple Ribbon Awards across 28 categories, as judged by a national panel of respected professionals from the domestic violence field. Visitation House Ministries was honored to be named a recipient of the 2022 Purple Ribbon Award in the Shelter/Program of the Year category.



Please email resume to:

Andrea Hofstetter

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DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

(Full Time)



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GED INSTRUCTOR

(Part Time)



→
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MAKE A CHANGE!**

SAMA campaign runs until January 2023

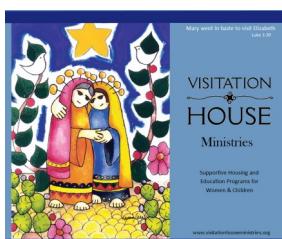
The San Antonio Metropolitan Area (SAMA) Charitable Campaign is for employees participating in the City of San Antonio Charitable Campaign, the Bexar County Government Local Charitable

Campaign, San Antonio Water System Charitable Campaign, and the Combined School Districts Charitable Campaign. Your employer will provide you with a directory of charitable causes to support. You can decide how often and how much to contribute to charity from your paycheck.

Please select us as **8011 Visitation House Ministries, Inc.**

2023 Calendar

Supplies are limited.



The VHM Calendar has become a tradition. Each calendar month can be detached and serves as an envelope for mailing a donation. 2023 marks 38 years of offering a safe and welcoming space to economically vulnerable women and children.

To receive a calendar please email
cynthia.bossard@amormeus.org

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