Press Release

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PHOTO ATTACHED

CLOTHES AND SUPPLIES SEND CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE

SAN ANTONIO, TX, DATE: Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio held its 17th annual Adopt a Child Back to School Drive on Saturday, August 13. Who doesn't remember the excitement of the first day of school? New clothes, new shoes, new pencils, and backpacks—every child needs to launch the school year with new supplies.

On Saturday, 376 boys and girls age kinder through high school went home with new shirts, pants, socks, underwear, shoes, and book bags, as well as notebooks, pencils, markers and other standard school supplies purchased for each of them by name, age, and size by volunteers. Some of the 227 volunteers shopped directly for the children; some donated money and others did the shopping.

Each child received clothes and supplies valued at approximately \$140. A group of Valero Energy Corporation volunteers participated in the drive for the fourth year in a row. Under the leadership of Lee Bailey, Vice-President Internal Audit, the

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICES OF SAN ANTONIO

Page 2

group sponsored 84 boys and girls from South Side School
District. Three local Banana Republic stores each sponsored two
children each.

"Many children living in poverty spend the first days of school at home, avoiding the embarrassment of wearing worn-out clothes and being without school supplies, said Deborah Colorado, Director of Social Services. "Increasingly, children are also asked to bring supplies that at one time were furnished by the school such as tissues, hand sanitizer, boxes of pencils, Ziploc bags, baby wipes, and multiple reams of copier paper."

"In a month it will be time for our companion program, 'Adopt a Family for Christmas,' where we buy presents and food for needy families and seniors in the neighborhood," Deborah continued.

"People who want to participate can call 210-334-2300 for information."

Daughters of Charity Services held the distribution at the main administrative offices at DePaul Family Center, 7607 Somerset Road. Daughters of Charity Services operates four neighborhood centers: DePaul Family Center, DePaul Children's Center, La Misión Family Health Care, and El Carmen Wellness Center. The centers provide primary medical care, dental care, social services, health education, preventive services, counseling, child development, after-school programs, home visitation, and other services to over 12,000 individuals annually. The programs have a strong holistic orientation and consider participation and empowerment as integral dimensions of the delivery of service.