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Caring

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICES
OF SAN ANTONIO

Summer 2015

La Misión Dental Clients Come from Near and Far

Dr. Minh Vu, staff dentist at La Misión Family Health Care, is seeing patients from as far north as Evans Road in San Antonio, and as far south as Victoria, Texas. Why are they coming from so far away? "My patients tell me that there are no dental services available to the uninsured near their homes. They hear about me through word of mouth—*literally*," Dr. Vu (left) says with a big smile.



Her patients leave with big smiles, too, although she admits, "I am mostly doing emergency treatment like extractions for pain relief right now. I would like to be able to offer them more comprehensive dental care starting with a complete exam to identify all of their dental needs."

Dr. Vu has been treating a group of Pakistani immigrants from a Muslim community on the far north side of San Antonio. Dr. Vu says, "These individuals are excellent patients. They are eager to comply with the dental plan and they are very appreciative of the services."

One of the local community members, Zainoor Hashim, arranged health screenings for the immigrant group, which numbers about 1,000. Most of them do not speak English, so she drives and translates for them. This led to meeting Dr. Vu and to groups of Pakistani patients making the trek in small groups to La Misión, 40 miles from the neighborhood where they live.

Transportation and financial limitations that affect both groups of dental patients would be

helped, Dr. Vu said if she had access to a mobile digital x-ray unit so she could reach more individuals offsite by taking her services "on the road."

Dr. Vu is an Air Force veteran and has worked at La Misión since 2011. She received her DDS from UT Health Science Center in 1998. In addition to her proficiency in general dentistry, she is skilled in endodontics, oral surgery, and restorative dentistry.

Adopt-a-Child Back to School Program

Do you remember the excitement of the first day of school?

Many children living in poverty spend that special day at home, to avoid the embarrassment of wearing worn-out clothes and being without the required school supplies. Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio have been advocates for the less fortunate with the Back to School Program since 1995.

Please be part of this wonderful tradition by participating in the Adopt-a-Child Back to School Program. Monetary donations are accepted, or you can shop for a particular child.

Call 210-334-2300 for more information

New shoes	\$25-\$50
New clothing	\$50-\$100
School supplies	\$25-\$50
TOTAL	\$100-\$200

Your contribution makes the first day of school special!

☐ YES, I want to shop for a child.
Please send me more information.

☐ YES, I want to sponsor a child.
Enclosed is my contribution of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail to: ADOPT-A-CHILD
Daughters of Charity Services
7607 Somerset Road - San Antonio, TX 78211
or FAX to: 210-922-0332





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Mission Statement

Faithful to the Vincentian tradition, the Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio will establish and maintain neighborhood-based programs to increase accessibility to primary health care and human services on the part of the poor. These programs will have a strong holistic orientation and consider participation and empowerment as an integral dimension of the delivery service. While services will be rendered with preferential option for the poor, it is not to the exclusion of others.

Service Locations

Main phone number: **210-334-2300.**

DePaul Family Center

7607 Somerset Road

San Antonio, Texas 78211

DePaul Children's Center

3050 Golden

San Antonio, Texas 78211

DePaul-Wesley Children's Center

1418 Fitch

San Antonio, Texas 78211

El Carmen Wellness Center

18555-1 Leal Road

San Antonio, Texas 78221

La Misión Family Health Care

19780 South US Hwy 281

San Antonio, Texas 78221



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Even though organizations like ours love to quote numbers of people served and such, behind every number is a face, a family, a struggle, and if all goes well, a solution to a problem.

A child came to one of our two early childhood education centers earlier this year after being kicked out of two child care programs due to disruptive behaviors that his teachers could not tolerate or cope with. His mom and dad brought him to DePaul Children's Center, worried and apprehensive that this would be yet another negative learning experience for their child and for themselves.

The Child & Family Specialist (CFS) consulted with Mom soon after the boy's enrollment to support her and address her concerns regarding her child's current needs, as well as their previous experiences with the other early childhood centers. Our classroom teachers receive ongoing training in expert classroom management skills. This troubled little boy was accepted "as is," and the teachers immediately met him where he needed to be met at his current social and emotional level of development. Apart from normal frustrations every now and then that are part of the learning process, his days are filled with nurturing support, stimulating classroom experiences, and encouragement from his teachers and the CFS, who continues to work directly with him. He is growing socially and emotionally, as every child should have the opportunity to do.

This kind of success story happens often in the Daughters of Charity early childhood development program. The Child & Family Specialist, the Family Care Coordinator, and the specialized training we offer our teachers are funded by a combination of Methodist Healthcare Ministries and the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise Mission in Ministry program. This funding makes it possible for us to offer enhanced family and individual support services, beyond what is found in many, if not most, child care programs in the city. Our program is exceptional and we are committed to preparing our children for success in school and in life.






Ruben Escobedo Honored as Servant Leader at Annual Event

For the fifth time, Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio has presented the St. Vincent DePaul Servant Leadership Award. This year the award went to Ruben Escobedo at a luncheon on June 18. As the epitome of a Servant Leader, Ruben Escobedo embodies St. Vincent de Paul's directive that "Servant Leaders provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities, and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the community," With more than 50 years of experience as a CPA and business executive, and a history of community and corporate directorships, Ruben has earned admiration and respect throughout all levels of the community.

The list of public and non-profit organizations that he has served is lengthy and impressive—United Way, St. Mary's University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, the Historical Center Foundation, the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders, the San Antonio-Mexico Foundation for Education, and City Public Service. The auditorium of the CPS Energy Management Center was named in Ruben Escobedo's honor.

Ruben and his wife Veronica Salazar Escobedo have been honored as a couple by Catholic Charities with the Lifetime of Faith and Service Award, by the Alamo Area Council of Boys Scouts with the Good Scout Award, by the United States Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate as Honorary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and by the San Antonio-Mexico Friendship Council with the "Amistad." In 2014, they were honored with the first President's Gateway Award for Advancement by St. Mary's University. Ruben received an Honorary Doctorate from St. Mary's University in May 2011.

Past recipients of the award have been Pat Duncan, Kevin Moriarty, Steve Dufilho, and Lee Bailey. This was the first year that the luncheon was held at The Whitley Theological Center at Oblate School of Theology. Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, President of the College, and a close personal friend of Ruben and Veronica Escobedo, gave the Invocation and Grace before Meals. Over 180 friends of the Escobedos and other well-wishers attended the event.

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We are honored to be the recipient of these loving tributes.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT DAUGHTERS OF
CHARITY SERVICES OF
SAN ANTONIO, GO TO:
WWW.DCSSA.ORG

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Will you make a bequest to Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio by including a gift in your will to our future work?

A charitable bequest is a gift intended to serve a religious, educational, political, or general social purpose to benefit mankind, aimed at the community or a particular segment of it. Charitable bequests also reduce the estate taxes that might be owed on the estate left by a decedent.

To discuss planned giving options, please call Dianne McAlister at 210-334-2300 or email her at dmcalister@dcssa.org.