Adopt-A-Child for Back to School

DCSSA program helps more than 400 kids get school-ready

Children in need from the Southside, South San, Harlandale and Southwest independent school districts, as well as students in Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio education programs, need your help with clothing and school supplies so they will be mentally and physically prepared to learn when school starts at summer’s end.

DCSSA’s Adopt-A-Child for Back to School Program provides clothing and supplies for more than 400 students from kindergarten through high school. Individuals and businesses are invited to sponsor one or more children through donations, to shop for clothing and shoes, or to buy school supplies. Recipients are pre-screened and qualified by the schools they attend.

Clothing and supplies for students are based on school requirements and children’s ages and sizes, so DCSSA provides lists for those interested in doing the shopping themselves.

Each child will receive new pants, tops, underwear and shoes, plus a hygiene kit and a backpack filled with the supplies they need.

South San Antonio kids need your support to be the best students they can be! If you’d like to help, please fill out and return the form below.
DCSSA honored Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., as the recipient of the 2017 St. Vincent de Paul Servant Leadership Award during the organization’s 12th annual award luncheon on June 8. Approximately 230 guests attended the event.

Dr. Guerra, who is 77, served for 23 years as director of health for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and was a practicing pediatrician for more than 45 years. Steve Dufilho, now chairman of the national board of Ascension Health, and Ray Berend, DCSSA chairman of the board, presented the award to Dr. Guerra.

Guests viewed a video about Dr. Guerra’s life’s work, and Dr. Guerra also addressed the audience. As a surprise, Dr. Guerra’s cousin, Father David Garcia, who was unable to attend, also appeared in a congratulatory video. Father David is the archdiocesan director of the Old Spanish Missions and is the administrator of Mission Concepción’s parish church.

During a life devoted to public health, Dr. Guerra held academic appointments as a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center and was an adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and at the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation at the former Brooks Air Force Base. He earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and his Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard University School of Public Health, where he was a Kellogg Fellow.

We extend our thanks to Valero Energy Foundation, Ascension Health, Ray and Dorothy Berend, Saint Susie Charitable Trust, Nancy and Charlie Cheever, Adele and Steve Dufilho, Seton Foundations, H-E-B Food/Drugs and Independent Video Productions for their support.
Healthy Families Camp provides some fun in the sun for kids

Healthy Families Summer Camp, in collaboration with Southside Independent School District, sponsored two weeks of activities for 78 children ages 4 to 14 this summer, with help from 23 volunteer parents and young adults who run every aspect of the program.

This is the day camp’s third year. It began when mothers in exercise classes at DCSSA’s El Carmen Wellness Center said they wished there was a safe, affordable place where their children could go to engage in active play and learn about nutrition and health. DCSSA’s Sister Irma Vargas and Sister Consuelo Tovar, along with Dr. Luis Solis, Director of Community Health and Social Services, got together with the mothers and came up with the idea of a camp.

This year, the camp was held at Losoya Intermediate School in the Southside ISD near the Wellness Center. Kids played basketball, volleyball, soccer and badminton outdoors, with parents and young athletes serving as coaches. When the day warmed up, they went indoors to learn about nutrition and practice yoga and arts and crafts. Campers also took field trips to the Witte Museum and Medina River Nature Park. In addition to providing the locale, Southside ISD provided breakfast and lunch to the campers daily.

On the final day of camp, children and volunteers were treated to a barbecue at Medina River Nature Park.

For children living in poverty on the city’s Southside, visits to museums or nature parks are rare, and the safe, structured activities of summer camp that promote healthy living are hard to find. Thanks to those mothers in the exercise classes, those rarities are now reality.
CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIFTS RECEIVED APRIL 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2017

Birdies for Charity
Klesse Foundation
St. Luke’s Lutheran Health Ministries
John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation and Frances Margaret Seaver Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation
Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activites

DCSSA gladly accepts charitable donations in the form of stocks, thanks to a partnership with Frost Brokerage Services. For more information, please contact Anna Sweeden, Chief Development Officer, at (210) 334-2376 or Anna.Sweeden@dcssa.org