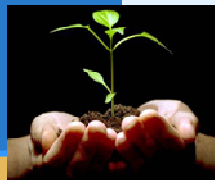


# Bexar County Detention Ministries, Inc.

## New Beginnings

SPRING 2011

VOLUME 5



### SAVE THE DATE!!! Friday, June 3, 2011!!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “**New Beginnings**” Spring Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, June 3, 2011 at the Doubletree Hotel located at Loop 410 and McCullough (same location as last year). **Leon Evans, CEO of the Center for Health Care Services is the “John Byrd Community Service Award” recipient this year.** Mr. Evan’s is being recognized for his significant efforts in reducing inappropriate incarceration and hospitalization of persons with mental illness, and for calling for legislation which would require the support of and development of state-wide jail diversion for all Texas counties. **Our keynote speaker is Ms. Dee Wilson, MSSW, LCSW, the Director of the Reentry and Integration Division (RID) of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.** Ms. Wilson promises to be informative concerning reentry issues and new reentry initiatives being implemented in TDCJ, and she is a highly entertaining speaker as well! **Steve Priester from KSAT-12 will also be back as our Master of Ceremonies for the third year!**

Invitations will be sent out soon, but for more information or to purchase a ticket or a table, please contact Stacy Baker at (210)2 299-4540 ext. 116 or [sbaker@bcdm.org](mailto:sbaker@bcdm.org) Hope to see you all at the luncheon!

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### *Client Testimonial-D. Gutierrez*

*“I would like to thank Bexar County Detention Ministries and staff for listening and giving me another chance at being a productive member of society. It has been two years ago that I enrolled in the Bexar County Detention Ministries Job Readiness program and in doing so I was given the opportunity to get a referral for a job and I am now a Team Leader at my job. It has been a long journey, but I consider myself blessed and grateful. So Thank you Bexar County Detention Ministries and may God bless you all.”*

### *Client Testimonial — A. Arismendez*

*“Having been released from prison September 21, 2010, I was referred to the Family Renewal Center by the P.A.T.CH program & Southwest Key fatherhood program I was a part of while incarcerated at the County Jail after my conviction of a 3rd D.W.I. which I take responsibility for on my part. Point being, I was given resources and classes by this Bexar County Detention Ministries that are a part of my reentry program from prison, and job referrals. I have been shown respect, compassion and responsibility by each and every member of this office having come to them looking for a hand-up and not a hand-out. That is why I volunteer as much as possible at the FRC, which is what I have been taught to give back and make a difference in my life and others.”*

### *In Memoriam*



**Louis Gene Vance**  
1943-2011

We remember with loving gratitude our dear friend Louis Vance who died on January 29, 2011. A devoted volunteer and benefactor of Bexar County Detention Ministries, Inc. (BCDM), Louis organized numerous A.C.T.S. Retreat teams as well as Christmas caroling at the Adult Detention Center. As CEO of Bill Miller, BBQ Restaurant he also has been a most generous benefactor to Bexar County Detention Ministries through the years. Most recently Louis graciously provided the barbeque for our Volunteer Appreciation banquet. May he now enjoy God’s abundance around the eternal banquet table.

*Good-bye to Chaplain Al Logan and hello to two new Protestant Chaplains*



Rev. Wauters



Rev. Long

After many, many years of service to Bexar County Detention Ministries, Chaplain Al Logan has left us to run the PATCH program in the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. We were sad to see him go, but happy that we have found two new part-time Protestant chaplains; the Rev. Valerie Long and the Rev. Will Wauters! Rev. Long has been a BCDM volunteer for many months at the GEO-Karnes facility and Rev. Wauters has also been our volunteer at GEO-Karnes and at the Laurel Ridge Treatment Center for over a year. Rev. Wauters and Rev. Long will split duties between the GEO-Karnes and the GEO-San Antonio facility. Rev. Long is an ordained Methodist pastor, and Rev. Wauters is a semi-retired Episcopalian priest, although he seems to still be involved in a large number of social causes both in San Antonio and around the world. Both our new chaplains have extensive experience in prison/jail ministry and we have all been impressed by their enthusiasm, compassion and sheer joy at being able to minister to the incarcerated!!

We wish Chaplain Logan the very best, and we are very happy to welcome Chaplains Long and Wauters!

*Collaboration with Jewish Family Services!*

Beginning April 13, 2011, BCDM and Jewish Family Services (JFS) will begin collaboration on a mental health program for formerly incarcerated individuals and their family members at the Family Renewal Center. M.H. Levine, the Executive Director of Jewish Family Services, and a member of the Bexar County Detention Ministries Board of Directors, has graciously agreed to provide a JFS licensed therapist for several hours each week at the Family Renewal Center to facilitate therapy sessions. These services will be provided to appropriate BCDM clients who have Medicaid, private insurance, or to individuals who qualify for therapy under the "Victims of Crime Act" grant. Individuals who can pay on a sliding scale fee basis will also be accepted. Mental health counseling is critical for many individuals recently released from incarceration or their family members. A previous mental health program at the FRC was a huge success. Many thanks to M.H. Levine and Jewish Family Services for working with BCDM to implement a much-needed mental health program again!

*BCDM received a \$5,000 grant from Alamo Heights United Methodist Church*

BCDM received a \$5,000 grant from Alamo Heights United Methodist church in Feb, 2011 for our Protestant Chaplaincy program. Alamo Heights United Methodist Church is a long-time supporter of BCDM and we are very grateful that they continue to see the need to assist with funding our Protestant chaplaincy program. This program provides a wide variety of chaplaincy services in eight local adult and juvenile detentions and treatment facilities in Bexar and Karnes Counties.

*Grant Award from the Trull Foundation*

BCDM was the recent recipient of a \$1,600 grant award from the Trull Foundation to fund anger management certification for four BCDM staff and volunteers. This training provided by The Center for Anger Resolution, Inc. was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio and our staff and volunteers became "certified anger resolution facilitators". Anger management classes are currently provided in several facilities we serve and two classes are facilitated on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Family Renewal Center (FRC) from 6:30 pm. To 8:30 p.m. The series is six weeks. For more information or to register for these classes at the FRC, please contact Natalia Tovar at (210) 299-4540 ext. 117 or [ntovar@bcdm.org](mailto:ntovar@bcdm.org).

Treat a person as he is, and he will remain as he is. Treat him as he could be and he will become what he should be. ~ Jimmy Johnson

*Light Up A Heart Children's Christmas Party*



On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, St. Timothy's Catholic Church 1515 Saltillo was the scene of the annual BCDM "Light Up A Heart" Christmas program for the children of the incarcerated. Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Poncho Claus, the "Grinch Who Stole Christmas", Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim were all present for this fun event! 491 children of the incarcerated were presented with two requested gifts each. The pizza, homemade cookies and punch were abundant and free-flowing. We are very grateful to our many, many enthusiastic volunteers, Board members and staff who donated cookies, helped locate the gifts for Santa, distributed the refreshments and helped with set-up and clean up. We are also appreciative of the many churches, civic organizations and individuals who donated money and gifts for all the children we served. For more pictures, please visit our website at [www.bcdm.org](http://www.bcdm.org) and click on "photo gallery"!

*Thank you for "Planting the Seeds of Faith"*



Our Lady of Grace Catholic church graciously allowed BCDM to hold our annual "Thank You for Planting the Seeds of Faith" volunteer appreciation banquet there on Thursday evening, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. One of our very long-time volunteers, Geri Wiater, who is retiring from service, was honored for her many years of dedication. Four of our many very successful clients gave moving and uplifting testimonials about how their involvement with our staff and volunteers touched their lives, leading to positive, impressive, and lasting life changes. Many thanks to Bill Millers BBQ, Inc. for the donation of the brisket, and to the GEO Corporation for the donation of potato salad, beans, and condiments! Mary Berman, owner of Fleur Delight Florist, donated the plants for the table decorations. Starbucks donated the coffee, and the BCDM staff made all the delicious desserts! Several individuals who are incarcerated in the Bexar County Adult Detention Center made the artwork which was placed on each table. A BCDM community service worker, Cristian Lopez, did a beautiful job of painting the flower pots.

We hope our volunteers enjoyed the event and understand the importance of their commitment to serving the incarcerated, the formerly incarcerated and their family members. Thanks to Sister Mary Theresa at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church for allowing us to use the lovely Madonna Room for this event. To see more pictures, please visit our website at [www.bcdm.org](http://www.bcdm.org) and click on "photo gallery".

### *Collaboration with Bexar County Pre-Trial Services*

In an effort to assist Bexar County with providing more comprehensive services to adults released from the Bexar County Jail who are pending court, BCDM has collaborated with Pre-Trial Services. BCDM case management staff will be present at the Pre-Trial Services offices Monday through Thursday to meet with clients and make referrals to the Family Renewal Center for reentry services. BCDM staff and volunteers will also facilitate Anger Management classes, faith-based Substance Recovery classes and Chemical Addiction classes at the Pre-Trial Services offices at various times during the day and on Wednesday evenings. Our collective goal is to reduce the amount of recidivism for this population of individuals pending court. An update will be forthcoming in a few months!

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.  
~ Winston Churchill

### *Drumming Circles comes to the Cyndi Taylor Krier*



Drumming circles have been introduced to the residents at the Cyndi Taylor Krier Juvenile Detention Treatment Center. Mr. Kevin Cooley has volunteered to be the facilitator who leads and directs the residents as they play together. With the help of several donations and Kevin's advice, Sister Kathleen has purchased twelve drums for the use of the residents.

Kevin began playing drums professionally at the age of sixteen in Corpus Christi, Texas. He now lives in San Antonio with his family and performs professionally with several different bands as a freelance drummer. He has always believed in the power of music to transform lives. It is this conviction that led him to become involved with drum circle facilitation. He has collaborated with schools, special needs youth, corporate and small business team building, church youth groups, private parties, and wellness groups. His enthusiasm and love for drums and people are readily apparent. The residents quickly fall in with his direction and actively and eagerly follow his lead to produce drum rhythms both cooperatively and competitively. They are always eager for his return visits.

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### *Staff Spotlight—Natalie Lizarralde, Case Manager*



Ever since I was a little girl, I have always been intrigued by people and their behavior. I knew right away that whatever I was going to do with my life was going to revolve around human services. I am a born and raised in San Antonio, and I received my Bachelors in Psychology from Texas Lutheran University in 2006.

When I graduated from college I had no idea what I was going to do with my life. I worked here, I worked there, but nothing seemed to inspire or motivate me. Last year, February 2010, I came to The Bexar County Detention Ministries (BCDM) and I volunteered my time and services. I needed more work experience in my field, especially if I wanted to use my degree to further advance my knowledge in this field.

I honestly have to say that this organization is the most exciting experience I have ever had. All the clients, their families, and their stories, have not only impacted me but affected me in such an amazing way. Every day that I come to work, I never know who is going to walk through my door.

The best feeling in the world is working with a client from the ground up. Working step-by-step, side-by-side, and helping them change their life for the better is a very fulfilling job to have. Participating in the development of a client, from being incarcerated, to establishing a career, and then finding them their own home is the most beneficial part of what we do as case managers.

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### *Bexar County comes through for BCDM again!!*

BCDM is the recipient of a \$30,000 allocation for public utilities assistance from our very good friends and huge supporters at Bexar County Department of Community Resources again this year. This allocation allows us to assist our clients with paying electric bills (one time per year) and is critically important to some of the formerly incarcerated and their family members, as they struggle to put their lives and families back together. Thanks so much to Bexar County!!