



BEXAR COUNTY DETENTION MINISTRIES, INC.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

"To facilitate the spiritual, emotional and personal transformation of incarcerated individuals, those formerly incarcerated and their families."

Summer 2010
Volume 2

"New Beginnings" Luncheon **June 24, 2010** **at the Doubletree Airport Hotel**

We still have a few tables available and tickets left for the 2nd Annual "New Beginnings" Luncheon and silent auction to be held at the Doubletree Airport Hotel (formerly La Mansion) on Thursday, June 24th from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per seat and table sponsorships are between \$500 and \$5,000. Fr. David Garcia, Archdiocesan Director of the Old Spanish Missions in San Antonio, is the featured speaker, and Ms. Aurora Sanchez, Executive Director of Bexar County Department of Community Resources is this year's recipient of the "John Byrd Community Service Award". Please join us! For more information, please contact Stacy Baker at 299-4540 ext. 16 or sbaker@bcdm.org.

"Early Bird" table sponsors include: Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bill Miller Bar-B-Q, Karen and Tim Hixon, Crosspoint of San Antonio, Center for Healthcare Services, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Lifetime Recovery/Alpha House, San Antonio Housing Authority, Alpha & Omega Career Center, Valero Energy, H-E-B, Walthall, Sachse & Pipes, Inc., Chief Justice Catherine Stone, Judge Sol Casseb, and Judge Barbara Nellermoe

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"You must be the change you want to see in the world." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY!!!

"I would like to thank the Family Renewal Center (FRC) for assisting me with my goals. It was imperative that a change and a stand be made in my life. Natalia and the caring people at the FRC provided me with the extra help I needed. Without them education was beginning to look like less and less of an option. With most career centers and vocational programs, playing the money game, you know how much loan money you qualify for? The Family Renewal Center was my life raft in a sea of frustration and alienation. No one believed in me except for myself and their staff.

I remember my interview and the question that was posed, "What makes you a good candidate for our program?" And I bet Steve, Carol and Natalia remember the over flow of urgency, emotions and determination that accompanied my answer. And now at the completion of my training my journey has just begun. I move forward with confidence, I move forward with boldness...but mostly I move forward in faith, knowing the goodness of God and the people placed in my life has begun to manifest itself! This is my heartfelt THANK YOU! And God Bless!!"

Sincerely, M. White

Welcome New Board & Advisory Board Members!

BCDM is thrilled to have four new regular Board members elected during the past six months, and one new Advisory Board member! They are:

Board Members

Zachary Fanucchi,
Attorney
Robert, Wachsmuth & Associates

Mark Nitcholas,
Sr. Vice President
Hutchinson, Schockey,
Erley & Co. Investment Bankers

Note: Mark drives in from Houston & rarely misses a meeting!

Michael Pesch,
Vice President-Refining
Nustar Engery

Peter Doemel,
Vice President -Finance & Administration
Dynapac - USA, Inc.

Advisory Board member

The Honorable Ron Rangel,
379th Criminal District Court

We welcome all our new Board and Advisory Board members!!

Thank you to our faith-based donors!!

We are very grateful to the following churches and church-related organizations for their contributions towards supporting our chaplaincy program.

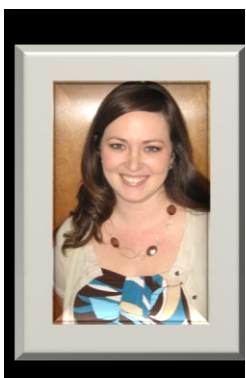
The Archdiocese of San Antonio
First Presbyterian Church
Alamo Heights United Methodist Church
Air Force Village II Protestant Church
San Antonio Baptist Association
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
The Women of St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Christ Episcopal Church
St. Luke's Men's Club
Epworth United Methodist Church
University Presbyterian Church

If your church or church organization would like to donate to BCDM, please contact EvaRae Boothe, BCDM Business Manager at 299-4540 ext. 13.

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending".

~ Maria Robinson

BCDM has a new Volunteer Coordinator



Being the daughter of a retired police chief, fire marshall and soon-to-be County Judge, I have always had an interest in the justice system. In my search for a degree plan, I couldn't resist Criminal Justice. While earning my degree, I found that our justice system has a lot of imperfections. One of those being the barriers offenders meet once they are released from jail or prison. My passion for this line of work came from years of studying recidivism rates, prison statistics and the law.

While sitting in Dr. Michael Gilbert's Restorative Justice class at the University of Texas at San Antonio, I was able to listen to a guest speaker. That speaker was Carol Lockett, and as she discussed BCDM's mission and objectives, I immediately became interested, and she suggested that I do my internship with BCDM. Weeks later, we were in contact and I began my internship. During my internship, I assisted in casework, various programs, fund raising, donations, job fairs, etc. To say the least, it was a terrific and rewarding learning experience. Following my internship, I graduated cum laude from UTSA last December with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

As Volunteer Coordinator, I am working to create a more efficient process for those who want to become volunteers. Networking and technology are two key factors in a non-profit agency, therefore, I plan on working towards promoting BCDM while helping create a more efficient organization.

GRANTS AWARDED



“Bridge” funding received from the San Antonio Area Foundation

BCDM has been awarded \$15,000 by the San Antonio Area Foundation (SAAF) for “bridge” funding. This funding has generously been made available by SAAF for one year only in response to the unstable economic situation over the past year and a half, and the fact that many non-profits have suffered a significant decrease in donations. “Bridge” funding can be utilized to pay operational expenses; utilities, insurance, supplies and equipment, audit fees and even staff salaries. We are very grateful to SAAF to have been awarded this funding!

Trull Foundation

BCDM is the recipient of a recent \$3,500 grant from the Trull Foundation. This grant will fund “specific client assistance” (ID cards, bus passes, uniforms, tools etc.) and we will be able to purchase “Managing My Life” workbooks as BCDM staff and volunteers prepare individuals soon to be released from incarceration for “life on the outside”. The Trull Foundation is a long-time supporter of BCDM and we are very grateful for this generous donation.

Epiphany Team visits the Cyndi Taylor Krier Juvenile Correctional Treatment Center



The San Antonio Epiphany Team visited the Cyndi Taylor Krier Juvenile Correctional Treatment Center again for the eighth time to conduct a retreat for 36 incarcerated youth on April 17-19, 2010. The male residents had to apply through the Chaplain, Sr. Kathleen Eggering, for the privilege of attending the three-day retreat, held in the campus gym, where they participated in songs, talks, artwork, dancing, celebrations and chapel services – all with a Christian emphasis. The goal of the retreat each time is to show the youths (called “Stars”) how much God loves them. Six youths who had attended the last Epiphany retreat in November, 2009, were able to return this time as servants (“Superstars”) for their peers, and they were a great help to the team as they assisted in preparing for various activities. Much appreciation is due the Epiphany volunteers, who meet several times in preparation for the weekend, as well as raise over \$4000 for each retreat. They are supported by many others with prayers, baked goods, monetary donations, and meal preparation. The Epiphany Team returns the second Saturday of each month for a reunion with the participants, to encourage them in their Christian journey!

The Family Renewal Center gets new furniture!

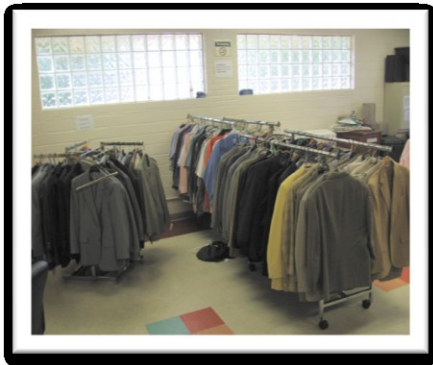


Dynapac USA, Inc. has generously donated new conference tables, 21 black swivel leather (very comfortable) chairs, desks, chairs, computers, monitors, a whole new set of lobby furniture, and miscellaneous items to BCDM! New BCDM Board member Peter Doemel, Dynapac Vice-President, and President, Bruce Truesdale, were responsible for this unexpected gift, and Peter made arrangements with Gary Gates with Gates Machine and Fabrication, Inc. to deliver the furniture at no charge.

Many thanks to Dynapac USA, Inc., and to Gary Gates for their generous donation of furniture and time. Our lobby and conference room look so much more professional!! You should see Carol's new furniture!!! It all matches!!

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is though nothing is a miracle. The other is though everything is a miracle! ". ~ Albert Einstein

Thank you to Second Looks, men's Resale Clothing Store



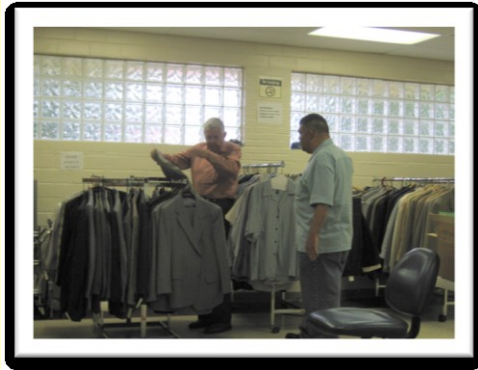
"Second Looks" located at 1804 Nacogdoches Rd., 78209, has generously donated hundred of slacks, shirts, ties, jackets and suits to the BCDM Clothes Closet for the past two years. These designer and upscale clothing items assist BCDM staff in appropriately outfitting our clients for job fairs, and job interviews. Many thanks to John Harris and his staff for helping us keep our male clients well-dressed as they attempt to reenter the workforce!

BCDM Clothes Closet located at Highland Terrace United Methodist Church



Highland Terrace United Methodist Church, located at 1918 Steve Ave, has donated space to BCDM for the past year for our **clothes closet**. We receive many donations from individuals, businesses, and other organizations of clothing, accessories, shoes, as well as "household" items. Individuals recently released from jail or prison often have to set up housekeeping from "scratch". They need lamps, dishes, linens, pots and pans and furniture. We are grateful to **Pastor Melanie Miner and the congregation of Highland Terrace United Methodist Church** for allowing us to use some of their space free of charge! For more information about the clothes closet, please contact Steve Balarin at 299-4540 ext. 19 or sbalarin@bcdm.org.

Preparation for Job Fair



To assist our clients with their participation for the big Job Fair held on May 19th at the Neighborhood Place, BCDM held a 6 hour program May 10th and May 17th to prepare them for interviews. Local hairstylists, Rick Torres and Pauline Quintanilla, with Innovative Hair Designs, donated their time to provide haircuts and styling. Second Looks donated professional clothing for men and Imelda Trevino donated professional clothing for women. BCDM staff assisted clients with constructing and updating resumes. 32 haircuts and styling were provided and 36 individuals received clothing. Another 25 clients were assisted as they developed resumes, some of them for the first time ever. In all, 43 clients were provided services. Thanks so much to Rick and Pauline who donated their time and to Imelda for the donation of clothing and to all the BCDM volunteers who came in to help out!

Easter Basket Program



178 Easter baskets were distributed to the children of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated the week before Easter!

We want to thank St. Francis of Assisi, St. Vincent De Paul conference, Our Lady of Guadalupe-Helotes, Los Angeles Heights U.M.C., and Church Women United who donated Easter baskets and supplies. We also thank the many volunteers & staff who put the baskets and “Resurrection Eggs” together. Our hope is that the “resurrection eggs” introduced our young clients to the concept of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the true meaning of Easter!

Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater San Antonio

For the past year, Gina Gomez and Bruce Witter from the Consumer Credit Counseling Center have been teaching a 2 hour class on budgeting, money management and financial planning to BCDM clients each Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. During the past 10 months, 402 BCDM clients have completed this program! Clients who are assisted with food, clothing, rental assistance, or public utilities assistance through BCDM are required to participate in these free money management classes.

Thanks to the staff at the Consumer Credit Counseling for donating these classes to BCDM clients!

All-staff retreat



March 26th was an inspiring, fun day for all the BCDM staff. Pastor Phil Holck, from Good News Lutheran Church, assisted us with identifying our “spiritual gifts”. We were able to not only pinpoint our own “gifts”, but we learned what “gifts” our co-workers believe we possess! Very interesting and enlightening! The afternoon was filled with much laughter & games including a water balloon toss. Who says, nuns, priests & chaplains can’t have fun??