



# New Beginnings

Winter 2010

Holiday E-Newsletter

Volume 4

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### Walter and Reba Viner Grant Award

The Walter and Reba Viner Humanitarian Foundation through the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, chose in 2010 to award \$10,000 to Bexar County Detention Ministries, as we are an agency "involved with helping families of the incarcerated." The Viner family members established an endowment for the Viner award in 1999 in memory of their parents, Walter and Reba Viner. We are grateful to have received this award this year! Carol Lockett was presented a check and a plaque at the Jewish Community Center Endowment Fund awards on December 12, 2010.

## San Antonio Area Foundation Awards BCDM a "Special & Urgent Needs" grant!!

On October 7, 2010, BCDM was the grateful recipient of a grant in the amount of \$4,915 from the **San Antonio Area Foundation's "Special & Urgent Needs Funds"**. Our antiquated phone system that we have struggled with for several years began to deteriorate at a rapid rate in the past few months. Lines weren't working, calls were dropping, equipment was breaking and receiving voice mail was a constant problem. The previous phone system only allowed for six hours worth of accumulated voice mail messages for all the staff in the Family Renewal Center! When Lady Romano from San Antonio Area Foundation contacted BCDM to tell us we had been awarded the grant, the staff was in an all day retreat, our voice mail was full, and she couldn't leave a message! Dunn Communications Services gave us a great price on the new phone system and our IT Coordinator, Renee Hildebrand, installed the wiring. We now have an attractive, efficient phone system with caller ID and 60 hours worth of message storage.

Thanks so much to the **San Antonio Area Foundation's "Special & Urgent Needs Fund"** committee's award of this very important grant to BCDM. Our clients, volunteers, Board members and staff are thrilled with the new system!



## BCDM Gets a Storage Shed!

If you've been in our offices or conference room lately, you'll notice we're completely out of space! We have no place to store office supplies, cleaning supplies, special events items or even old files and other records. These items have been piled up in various offices and in the conference room for many months. On October 22, 2010 we got some great news!

**The Myra Stafford Pryor Trust** through the Frost National Bank has awarded BCDM \$11,462 to purchase a storage shed in the lot next to the Family Renewal Center. Our shed was delivered and set-up on December 10th! All the piles of boxes will be moved out of the FRC and our clothes closet, formerly housed at Highland Terrace United Methodist Church, will be moved into the storage shed, a more convenient location for clients and our staff.



Our need for additional space continues to grow as we have added more staff, programs and services. Thanks so much to the **Myra Stafford Pryor Trust** for the donation of the grant for the storage shed. We really, really needed it and will fill it up quickly!!!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### "Light Up A Heart"

Children's Christmas program

Friday, December 17, 2010



The annual "Light Up A Heart" children's Christmas program will take place on Friday, December 17, 2010, at St. Timothy's Catholic Church, 1515 Saltillo. Last year, over 500 gifts were distributed to children of the incarcerated, or children of parents recently released from incarceration. We expect to meet or exceed this number this year. For more information or to donate gifts or funding, or to volunteer, please contact Natalia Tovar at 210-299-4540 ext. 117

### *New Beginnings Spring Luncheon Scheduled for June 3, 2011*

Our annual "New Beginnings Spring Luncheon" has been scheduled for Friday, June 3, 2011 at the Doubletree Hotel! Our featured speaker will be Dee Wilson, Director of Reentry and Integration (RID) for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice . Ms. Wilson is a dynamic, knowledgeable and entertaining community leader and we are thrilled she has agreed to be our speaker for this event!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

### **BCDM RECEIVES ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT FROM BEXAR COUNTY FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES ASSISTANCE!**

BCDM received an allotment from Bexar County Department of Community Resources in the amount of \$60,000 in early 2010 for public utilities assistance for our clients. When we had spent nearly all the allotment in early November, Bexar County

allotted us an additional \$15,000 to be spent by the end of December, 2010. This additional funding will allow us to serve many more clients. We are very appreciative to Bexar County for this continued support of BCDM's programs!

### **CHURCH GRANTS**

BCDM has received financial support from eight Protestant churches or associations during the past quarter, totaling \$9,000. Protestant contributions to BCDM include the following:

- San Antonio Baptist Association
- Madison Square Presbyterian Church
- Air Force Village I & II
- First Presbyterian Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church

- Christ Lutheran Church
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Women of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Thanks to all of the churches who continue to support the BCDM Protestant Chaplaincy program!

The Archdiocese of San Antonio continues to support the Catholic Chaplaincy program.

### **BEXAR COUNTY GENERAL FUND AWARD**

It was a tough year for non-profits to receive funding from Bexar County, but BCDM was the recipient of a \$48,000 grant from Bexar County again this year. This is the third year BCDM has received funding from the County and we are grateful for the continued support!

This year the funding from the County will be utilized to support three vocational training slots and a full-time case manager who will teach character development and reentry classes in the Bexar County Adult Detention Center and at the Bexar County Adult Probation Department's Substance Abuse Treatment Facility-I (SATF-I). The posi-

tion will also provide case management services to at least 350 individuals who were formerly incarcerated in the Bexar County Adult Detention Center or have been incarcerated in any of the inpatient facilities managed by the Bexar County Adult Probation Department. We desperately needed an additional case manager. The new case manager, Natalie Lizarralde, was hired and began employment in mid-October and she's already seen 70 individuals who were formerly incarcerated in Bexar County facilities! She's also teaching classes in the Jail and at SATF-I!



**“Spotlight on a Volunteer” Phyllis Bergen - Jackson**



While attending an African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Lay Workshop Phyllis was honored to enjoy presenter, Mrs. Matty Johnigan. She shared statistics and her involvement with Prison Ministry. Phyllis was fascinated with the information gained and knew she had to get involved.

Phyllis was also in the audience when Carol Lockett was the guest speaker for a Church Women United meeting and spoke of the various programs offered at the Bexar County Detention Ministry and the need for volunteers. Phyllis immediately felt in her heart this is something she was meant to do.

Phyllis is involved with the “We Are Not Alone” (WANA) Support Group for women with an incarcerated family member. The group meets every Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm. When the WANA Support Group didn’t have a permanent location for meetings, Phyllis’s church, Hodges Chapel graciously gave the WANA Support Group a temporary place to meet until a permanent location was secured. Phyllis’s involvement in the program is to provide childcare, coordinate children activities, and to seek donations from other A.M.E. Churches for meals, school supplies, clothing, and other needed items. Phyllis would like to thank members of the A.M.E. Churches for their donations.

Phyllis says her motto is “ If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living will not be in vain”.

Thank you Phyllis for being such a consistent, and dedicated volunteer. We love you!

**“Spotlight on new BCDM Staff” Azalia Eliserio**

My name is Azalia Eliserio and when I first moved to San Antonio three years ago, I was referred to Family Renewal Center for assistance with employment. I have been a volunteer of this facility and the WANA group since March 2010. With the help of BCDM, I attended Vocational Training and graduated from the Alpha & Omega Career Center in September 2010, where I received a “Secretarial and Clerical Skills Certificate”. In October 2010, I was hired by BCDM Family Renewal Center as an Office Assistant and I love my position because it allows me to help others just like me. BCDM has opened many doors of opportunity that I didn’t ever think existed. They have renewed my faith and determination for continued success. They have been not only “My Angels”, but my family’s as well. We are very grateful for all they have done for us. I am also currently a full-time Business Management student at San Antonio College, thanks to the doors that BCDM showed me I could open.



“Before I came here, I was on probation, I was homeless, and I had nothing. I started doing my hours, and the people here were so nice they helped my finish my hours, helped me get a job, and got me into my very own house. Now I have my three kids, my fiancé with me, and I’m doing great. BCDM is the greatest thing I’ve been involved in!”

**- K. Batts**

“I am very thankful for the Bexar County Detention Ministries. I’ve received help in the form of job leads, food assistance, educational materials and the support and understanding from the very best in overall help, council, and just pure and honest staff who are willing to really make a difference in the lives of the men and women they help.” – **N. Guzman**



Visit us on the web at

[www.bcdm.org](http://www.bcdm.org)



### **Board Retreat at The Summit (Crosspoint, Inc.)**



Crosspoint (the Summit) was the setting for the Board Strategic Planning retreat on Wednesday evening, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen Board members were in attendance. Tony Brietzke from City Public Service and Pete Hottenstein from Southwest Research were our facilitators for the evening. These two men are also Loaned Executives for the United Way. The Board members identified six areas of focus for the coming year: Money (funding); core purpose; Board Development; Vision/planning; Marketing; and Programming. Board members were assigned to particular committees to plan strategy and develop solutions for all of these categories. The Board will retreat again in January, 2011. Tony and Pete did a great job as our facilitators and we are very appreciative that they took time out of their very busy schedules to help the BCDM Board identify strengths, weaknesses and strategies for improvement! We believe we are definitely on the right path to making this very effective and necessary organization even bigger and better!



### **BLUEBONNET PALACE FUNDRAISER**

**NOVEMBER 20TH**

The weather was perfect for a barbeque on the patio of the Bluebonnet Palace on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Our staff, volunteers, board members and family and friends gathered to eat some tasty barbeque and socialize in the “new” Bluebonnet Palace on Lookout Road. The music was great and our group enjoyed both the inside and the outside of the Bluebonnet. Some country western dancing was even observed! Approximately 75 folks came out to support BCDM. Thanks to Kestla John and the staff at the Bluebonnet Palace for allowing us to host this fall BCDM fundraiser! We had so much fun this event may become an annual winter fundraiser!!



### **STAFF RETREAT AT THE SUMMIT**

All BCDM staff gathered on the morning of October 21, 2010 at the beautiful new Crosspoint facility (The Summit), located at 301 Yucca, for an all-day retreat. Rev. Dr. Luster M. Lockett, Retired, and Rev. Lynne Lockett, Pastor of the First United Church in Castroville, facilitated the day's activities. The focus was on “Understanding Our Differences” and the primary activity of the day was for each staff member to take the “Myers Briggs” Assessment, scoring it, and learning about our personality traits. There was much discussion about our individual differences, and how we can complement and enhance each other, despite those differences. It was really no surprise that we have lots of extroverts among our staff, as well as many staff who are intuitive and “feelers” (what would you expect from a group of chaplains and case managers???) It was a fun, interesting and enlightening day! Many, many thanks to both Reverend Locketts and to Dr. Kevin Downey, CEO of Crosspoint, for allowing us to use this beautiful old convent (now a residential program for formerly incarcerated individuals) for our staff development day!



*“May peace be your gift at this holiday season and your blessing all year through.” - Author Unknown*