

# Bexar County Detention Ministries, Inc.

## *New Beginnings*

Summer 2011

Volume 6

Thank you to our gold & silver sponsors!!

### New Beginnings Spring Luncheon

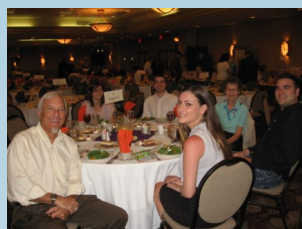
The Doubletree Hotel was the scene of the third annual New



Left-Right: Carol Lockett, Lin Lichtenberg, Leon Evans, & Dee Wilson

Beginnings Spring Luncheon on June 3, 2011. Mr. Leon Evans, CEO and President of Center for Health Care Services was the recipient of the 3rd Annual "John Byrd Community Service Award" for all his efforts in jail diversion for the mentally ill. Ms. Dee Wilson, the Director of Reentry and Integration (RID) for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice

was the informative and entertaining event speaker. Steve Priester, our favorite anchorman from KSAT 12-News, was our Master of Ceremonies for the third year in a row! Our outgoing Board chair, Ms. Lin Lichtenberg, received a surprise acknowledgement and plaque for her many years of service to BCDM. Many thanks to our Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors, to all those who donated silent auction items, and to all those who attended!



### Executive Director's "Thank You"

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AKIN GUMP



*M.E. Allison & Co., Inc.*  
INVESTMENT BANKERS



As many of you know, my 23 year old son (and my baby), Philip Matthew "Mato" Montez, passed away very unexpectedly in a gun accident on July 12, 2011. As horrifying as the incident was, and the unbearable agony experienced immediately after the incident by myself, Mato's father, my other children and the rest of our family and close friends, we have been very blessed and overwhelmed by the enormity of the compassion, kindness and prayerful support that has come our way. We received hundreds of cards, texts, emails, phone calls and visits. Donations of food and flowers and other gifts continued to come into my home for days after Mato's passing. Monetary donations continue to this day to come into BCDM in Mato's memory at our family's request. Travis Park United Methodist Church was packed with our friends, family and supporters at his "celebration of life" service on July 15, 2011. Our very own BCDM Board member, Rev. Claus Rohlf's officiated.

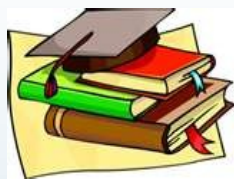
The fact that I have been a life-long and outspoken gun control advocate makes my child's gun-related death particularly horrific and distressing for me and my family. I will continue to advocate even more strongly for stricter and more sensible gun control laws and believe if Mato had lived, he would have certainly supported me. The ridiculous slogan "guns don't kill, people kill" is dead wrong. Guns absolutely **do** kill sometimes, and gun accidents are all too frequent and fatal.

Mato was very proud of his mother and I of him. He was charming, kind, sweet-spirited and generous. At the same time he was fiercely independent and strong-willed. He truly believed in the mission and purpose of BCDM and he was present at most of our fundraisers. Mato would have been very pleased to learn of the great kindness and concern shown to his family by the BCDM family over the past few weeks by members of our Boards, the staff, volunteers, clients and our supporters.

My precious child is now with God and we find comfort in that. We love him dearly and miss him terribly, but we are lucky to have had him for 23 wonderful years. We are also very lucky to have had all of you with us during this most difficult of times. My family and I want to thank you for caring about Mato and our family. We will be forever grateful and we love you.

*Carol Lockett, Zachary and Marisa Montez*

**STUFF THE BACKPACK**



**School supplies needed:**

- BACK PACKS (CLEAR OR MESH)
- TISSUE BOXES
- ANTIBACTERIAL SANITIZER
- JUMBO COLORS FOR (3YR OLDS & KINDER)
- 4 OZ. BOTTLES OF ELMER'S GLUE
- GLUE STICKS
- COLORED MARKERS
- PENCILS
- SCISSORS
- WATER COLORS
- SPIRAL SUBJECT NOTE BOOKS-WIDE RULED
- PENS- (BLUE, BLACK OR RED INK)
- PLASTIC SCHOOL BOXES
- 1 INCH BINDERS
- 24-CT CRAYONS
- LOOSE LEAF PAPER (WIDE RULED)
- RULERS
- PINK ERASERS

Uniforms: Gently used khaki pants, polo shirts & shoes

**Backpacks will be distributed to children of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated on**

**August 19th @  
St. Timothy's Catholic Church  
1515 Saltillo  
2:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.**

**CONTACT:  
NATALIA TOVAR @  
210-299-4540**

**FUN-raiser at the Cove!**



One of our favorite restaurants, the Cove, located at 606 Cypress, was the location for our very last fundraiser for the fiscal year. Many of our Board members, volunteers, friends, families and even some of our clients showed up to support BCDM! Thanks so much to Lisa Asevstas from the Cove for agreeing to donate 10% of all food sales proceeds to BCDM. Elisa Maldonado from Juvenile Probation also donated 30% of the total sales of Silpada jewelry sold that evening to customers of the Cove!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

BCDM is in critical need of donations for “specific client assistance” for the formerly incarcerated, and their family members and children. Your specific contributions will provide:

- \$60** A meal for 30 for the men & women and their children who participate in the support groups every second and fourth Tuesday. The “We Are Not Alone” group is for family members of the incarcerated and the “Shalom” support group is for formerly incarcerated men.
- \$50** A series of six Anger Management classes as required by Bexar County Courts.
- \$30** Public transportation (bus pass) for employment purposes (or when applying for a job) for one month.
- \$20** A backpack and all school supplies for a child of an incarcerated client.
- \$20** Food and hygiene items for a family of four for one week.
- \$23** A birth certificate for one client looking for employment.
- \$16** An identification card for one client looking for employment or housing.
- \$15** A 3 ½ hour Job Readiness training class, a resume and attire for interviews for one client.
- \$10** A “Managing My Life” workbook and a series of classes for one incarcerated individual about to be released into the community.
- \$5** A substance recovery, money management or parenting class for one formerly incarcerated client.

BCDM also gladly accepts monetary donations for operational costs, and for maintenance and repair on our very old and decrepit Family Renewal Center building.

[\(Donate Now\)](#)

**TESTIMONIALS.....**

“Over the past few weeks, Bexar County Detention Ministries has helped me a lot with what I needed to get accomplished. Everyone respects you here, there are no rude comments made towards you, nobody judges you, or looks at you like you do not belong in this building. The staff respects everyone who walks through their doors. No matter who you are or what you do, the staff are here for you – all you have to do is ask! They will be here to help anyone, like they were for me when I needed help”.

~ **G. Sanchez**

“My experience with the Family Renewal Center has been astonishing, and more of a blessing! I think it is great for what this program offers. They’ve already assisted me with money management class, assistance in GED programs, and clothing for interview situations. I am thankful for their assistance.”

~ **J. Amaya**

## BCDM Board of Director's Update

Board elections were held on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The following are the FY 2011-2012 officers and Committee Chairs:

**Board President** – Louis Rubiola (new)

**Board Vice President** – Paul Micheli

**Board Secretary** – Theresa Scheets

**Board Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair** – Pete Doemel

**Development Committee Chair** – Rogelio Rodriguez (new) & Co-Chair  
Theresa Scheets

**Personnel Committee Chair** – Veronica Saucedo

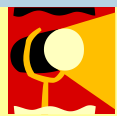
**Nominating Committee Chair** – Mark Seal

**Facilities Committee Chair** – M.H. Levine (new)

Congratulations to our new Board Chair Louis Rubiola, and the new Development Committee Chair Rogelio Rodriguez, and Facilities Committee Chair M.H. Levine. The Board and staff look forward to working with you!

Our wonderful Board Chair for the past year, Lin Lichtenberg, has rotated off the Board after her term expired. Patsy Ybarra, another exceptionally dedicated Board member, has also rotated off the Board, BUT both of these fantastic Board members promise to stay involved as ex-officio Board members and committee members.

## Employee Spotlight – Anne Eyster, BCDM Facilitator



My name is Anne Eyster. I began working with BCDM in late October 2010. It's kind of interesting how I found my way to the wonderful folks at BCDM....I was very interested in finding an "almost full-time" job, and I receive weekly job postings from a local non-profit council here in San Antonio. One of the postings was for a position entitled "Change Agent", yet the listing did not provide a full job description and/or duties. Since I was very impressed with the little I knew about BCDM as an organization, I decided to submit my resume and inquire about this position. I

received a call that afternoon from the Executive Director, asking me to come and visit with her.

When I came in to meet with Ms. Lockett, she asked me if I would be interested in "shadowing" a couple of the current staff members who served as class facilitators, to see if facilitating was something in which I would be interested. It was mentioned that I had a "loud speaking voice.... and this is a good asset in class facilitation". Interesting....my "loud speaking voice" is what was NOT admired in my previous jobs. Therefore, I began shadowing a few classes per week, and I began facilitating classes on my own at the beginning of 2011. I facilitate classes in *Anger Management*, *Character Development*, *Chemical Dependency* and *Life Skills*. While I hold a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration, BCDM made it possible for me to also become certified in Anger Resolution Therapy (C.A.R.T.).

A little more personal information about myself; I am an alcoholic. God willing, I will be celebrating 6 years sobriety on July 23; however, all I really have is TODAY!! I love working with the wonderful staff and volunteers at BCDM, and I love being a part of providing all the many services we offer to the incarcerated, the formerly incarcerated and their families. To put it in a "nut shell"....the AA 9<sup>th</sup>-step promises tell us....*No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experiences can benefit others.* BCDM and my higher power (whom I choose to call God) have made this promise come true for me; I am SO BLESSED!!

**Executive Director's Note: Anne was not hired for the "Change Agent" position, but rather a part-time teaching/facilitation position was created just for her! She does a fantastic job facilitating all her classes!**

## End of the Year Stats!

July 1, 2010 ~ June 30, 2011

**2,434 formerly incarcerated Individuals & 710 family members received services in our Community-Based Programs.**

**86% of the formerly incarcerated provided services at the Family Renewal Center did not get rearrested this fiscal year!**

### **DID YOU KNOW....**



BCDM also provided over 7,000 Life Skills classes, to include; Anger Management, Character Development, Drug Free, Health Awareness, Job Search, Parenting & Money Management to 5,153 incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.

### **BCDM was also able to help:**

- 257 individuals keep their electricity on by paying their CPS Energy bills.
- Clothe 130 individuals.
- Fed 68 families/individuals.
- Provide ID's to 121 individuals.
- Provide child care to 43 children of support group participants.
- Develop resumes for 52.
- Provide hygiene items to 34.
- Provide backpacks and school supplies to over 300 school-aged children during the "Stuff the Backpack" program.
- Provide gifts to 461 children who otherwise would not have had any gifts under the tree during the *Light Up a Heart Christmas program.*

Thanks to the support of our board, staff, volunteers, partnering agencies and donors, BCDM is able to provide assistance to those who need it most.

## Volunteer Spotlight



Kelly Allen, Pastor of University Presbyterian Church, has been volunteering with a group of women from UPC and two other churches since February of 2010. We conduct a weekly Bible Study with women at the GEO detention facility downtown San Antonio.

A member of our church Chriss Lloyd is on the BCDM board and he introduced me to Carol. I have had a long time interest in and on and off involvement in criminal justice ministry, and have had a long time desire to be a part of an ongoing ministry with inmates, based on the idea that we all have something to share with each other.

This Bible study is the highlight often of our week. It is a deep time of spiritual formation for all of us. We begin with group prayer, we read a passage together, often in Spanish and English, and share our thoughts, reactions, stories in response. We listen for the wisdom that comes from the women who are incarcerated and they sense a solidarity we share with them as they struggle with uncertain futures, addictions, separation from families, the stress of living in close quarters with other women, and what it means to live in faith within and outside the walls of GEO. We have moved through many parts of the Bible, including stories of women, the Psalms, Jesus' parables, Exodus and the 10 commandments. We have shared communion with homemade bread that made participants laugh with the joy of tasting something that delicious for once in a long long time. Each meeting is an opportunity to see how Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the narratives of our own lives intersect. We have talked about children, death, relationships, forgiveness, gratitude, and even looked at how the spirituality and expectations of life in a monastery compares to life in jail and what help those practices can offer.

This experience always reinforces for us the extreme need for more programs like BCDM to address needs and provide support for people after incarceration. No matter how much faith and determination develop behind bars, what will help sustain those commitments and hopes afterward? The tragedy especially of addiction and the lack of access to decent treatment early on is on our minds week after week.

We could sit in a classroom in our own church building and conduct a Bible Study, but I guarantee we would not learn or grow as much as we have in putting ourselves into a different environment and interacting with people who see the same passages with different eyes and different life narratives.

We have been very careful never to say "We are bringing the Word to inmates in GEO," but to know that, through the Holy Spirit, the Word is being planted and nurtured in us as we gather around these sacred stories as women equal and beloved in Christ.

Thanks for letting us be a part of this ministry.

## Grants & Programs ...

### **Bexar County Helps Us Out Again!!**

As anyone who lives in Texas knows the heat this summer is brutal and more of our clients than ever are having trouble paying their electric bills. Bexar County Department of Community Resources has allocated BCDM an additional \$20,000 for our clients who qualify for the "comprehensive energy assistance program". This \$20,000 is in addition to the original \$30,000 allocated at the beginning of the fiscal year. Our clients are very grateful to Bexar County for the increased allocation!

*With God all things are possible. ~ Mark 10:27*

### **"Common Sense" Parenting offered at the Family Renewal Center**

Boystown, Inc. has partnered with Bexar County Detention Ministries Family Renewal Center and now offers a 6 week "Common Sense" parenting class for parents of school-age children at the Bexar County Family Renewal Center, 503 San Pedro on Monday evenings. Instructor Gerald Paschal facilitates this excellent curriculum which is "designed to develop or enhance parenting skills that encourage positive behavior, discourage negative behavior, and teach alternatives to problem behavior in children." Classes are from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. each Monday. The parenting classes are free, although a \$5.00 intake fee is charged to all BCDM clients.

**For more information please contact Outreach Coordinator . Natalia Tovar at 210/299-4540 ext. 117, or**

### **Greehey Foundation Supports BCDM Programming in the Haven for Hope**

Bexar County Detention Ministries began facilitation of Substance Recovery classes and Life Skills/ Reentry classes in the Haven for Hope last summer. In April 2011, Cipriano Martinez, our Substance Recovery Coordinator, began talking with residents in the Haven for Hope Prospects Courtyard, as well as providing a group for the residents of the Prospects Courtyard. Although the original two classes have been moved back to the Family Renewal Center, BCDM continues to have a presence in the Prospects Courtyard. The Greehey Foundation recognizes the efforts of BCDM and encourages our collaboration in working with the Haven for Hope population. BCDM was recently the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the Greehey Foundation to support this collaboration. Haven for Hope residents who have been incarcerated, or family members of the incarcerated living at Haven for Hope are currently eligible to attend all the reentry programs offered at the Family Renewal Center and we welcome more Haven for Hope clients!

We are grateful to the Greehey Foundation for this generous donation!