



Dear Neighbors,

Founded by the Diocese of West Texas in 1951, Good Samaritan Community Services continues to expand our ministry throughout South and Central Texas, providing programs that serve families, with a focus on children and youth. We support our neighbors to meet the challenges of life by providing them with access to services that enable them to become more economically self-sufficient, healthier, and better able to make their own decisions and grow in love and faith.

Your generosity empowers them to thrive. It is because of ‘Good Samaritans’ like you that they are better able to lead lives that are more enriched and blessed. Thank you for allowing us to bestow these daily blessings on your behalf in support of our neighbors in Brownsville, the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, Sonora, and Wimberley.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Mike Chalk
Chair

Simon G. Salas
Chief Executive Officer



ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2019

Actions taken in 2019 requiring the consent of the delegates to the Diocesan Council, per the Canons of the Diocese, included the appointment of three members to the Board of Directors of Good Samaritan, which action was approved. This year, the appointments of three additional members are before the delegates for consideration and approval.

VOTES OR APPROVALS GRANTED

None, except those noted above.

SUMMARY OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Renewal of Our Ministry

Earlier this year, Bishop Reed, sent a letter asking church members to seek opportunities to support Good Samaritan, the Diocese's ministry, resulting in opened doors to work with many church members throughout the Diocese. This has led to new financial support, an increase in visits to our campus, and several churches have welcomed us to their parishes and hosted some of our staff retreats.

Our goal this year has been to strengthen our ministry throughout the Diocese and cultivate more intentional relationships with our churches. A Good Sam staff member is now responsible for deepening these relationships, and we have used our time together to explore partnerships and learn about our shared ministry.

Neighbors Served This Past Year

Total Neighbors: 4,654

Brownsville: 990
RGV (Pharr): 141
San Antonio: 3,294
Sonora: 112
Wimberley: 117

Special Recognition

2019 Children's Bureau Champion Award for Building Community Capacity

One of five awards given nationally by the US Department of HHS, Administration for Children and Families



Strategic Planning

Good Samaritan's Board of Directors and CEO embarked on a strategic planning process this past year. This plan was developed with involvement and guidance from a Strategic Planning Committee composed of various members of the Board of Directors and the organization's CEO. The voice and opinion of stakeholders, including the Board, staff, clients/families, private and nonprofit partners, congregations, school districts, donors, community leaders, volunteers, and governmental entities was solicited via a survey. In addition, an organizational scan was conducted to review structure and administration, systems and facilities, processes, programs, and people to explore how these elements, currently and potentially, could affect operations in the future.

The plan adopted by the board focuses on vision and direction. We will:

- Create a strategic funding model that ensures long-term sustainability;
- Discover and provide high-quality programs based on the need that empower communities to thrive;
- Evaluate and define the scope of its mission with the Diocese; and
- Develop a plan that ensures that the Board and staff have the skills and tools needed to fulfill our mission.

This Strategic Plan is an essential step toward continued discernment and provides a roadmap for strengthening organizational capacity.

Program Highlight

Parents as Teachers is a national, evidence-based program model designed to ensure that children are school-ready when they enter Kindergarten and that Parents see themselves as their child's first teacher. There are four program components:

- Personal Home Visits
- Monthly Family Nights
- Screenings to track child development, health, etc.
- Connecting families to community resources

The goal of the program is to:

- Improve maternal/newborn health
- Reduce child abuse and neglect
- Improve school readiness/achievement
- Reduce crime/domestic violence
- Improve family economic self-sufficiency



As we complete the third year of this program, close to 40 families are enrolled in the program. We are seeing tremendous growth in family relationships and child development.

Future Opportunities

Good Samaritan has been a United Way partner for decades. Together we have addressed food insecurity, provided youth with learning opportunities in primary school as well as higher education goals, enabled seniors to lead more healthy lives as they age, and families to receive counseling and support.

Across the country, support of United Way agencies has been in decline the past decade. To address the drop in revenues, our local United Way partner has begun to award funding via a competitive contract process, versus grants. We were awarded contracts this past year for new programs; however, we did not receive funding to continue certain services for seniors. As a result, services were reduced. A plan is in place to increase support, to the extent it aligns with the strategic plan goals adopted by the Board of Directors.

As we begin to implement the Strategic Plan's sustainability goal, the Board is carefully reviewing all programs and services. The Board directed we align program costs with the revenues raised and strengthen fundraising plans.

This approach was reviewed and discussed with members of the advisory boards in every region that we operate. The intention is to continue to operate every program that aligns with our ministry, mission and our Strategic Plan.