

New Beginnings

Winter 2012

Facilitating the spiritual, emotional and personal transformation of incarcerated individuals, those formerly incarcerated and their families.

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BOOTS, CHAPS & COWBOY HATS!!

Kick up your heels with local country artist

The Ben McPeak Band

@ Floores Country Store

www.liveatfloores.com

(14464 Old Bandera Road, Helotes, TX 78023)

on Thursday, March 1, 2012

7:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.

**Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple
CHECK, CASH, VISA/MC AMEX**

Ticket price includes a three meat bbq plate, plus three sides & trimmings
(serving time from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

For more information or tickets

Contact Stacy Baker at 210/299-4540 or at sbaker@bcdm.org

Dress Attire: Western Wear

All proceeds raised from Boots, Chaps & Cowboy Hats will go to support the services provided by BCDM at the Family Renewal Center.

SAVE THE DATE!!



Luncheon

June 6, 2012

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Bright Shawl

819 Augusta Street, 78215

Please contact Stacy Baker to purchase individual tickets or sponsor a table at 210-299-4540 ext. 116 or at sbaker@bcdm.org

“Happy Feet” Children’s Shoe Program



The brand-new “Happy Feet” Children’s shoe program is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, from 10:00 am –12:00 noon at the BCDM Family Renewal Center, 503 San Pedro. Our goal for this first year is to provide new tennis shoes or store vouchers for shoes to **200 children of the incarcerated**. We will have a wide variety of styles and sizes available on March 31. If there are no shoes to fit a particular child, a store voucher to a shoe store for a specific child will be distributed.

**DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS SHOE PROGRAM:
CASH OR NEW TENNIS SHOES!!**

If you would like to make a monetary donation, donate shoes for the “Happy Feet” project, or you know of a child in need of new tennis shoes, please contact **210-299-4540**.

“Light up a Heart” Children’s Christmas Program

Church Donations!!



BCDM has truly been blessed by many local Churches and organizations in our community within the past several months. We are grateful to the following church congregations for the very generous donations since December:

Protestant Chaplaincy Program

Air Force Village
Christ Episcopal Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Concordia Lutheran Church
University United Methodist Church
Women of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

Special Programs

Alamo Heights United Methodist Church
Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Caleb AME Zion Church
Church Women United
Epworth United Methodist Church
Epworth United Methodist Men
Fellowship of San Antonio
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Grace Fist Baptist Church
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Medina Valley United Methodist Church
Our Lady of Atonement Catholic Church
Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Selma
P.F. Temple In the Word Class
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
St. Leo’s Catholic Church
Sherman AME Church



The fifth annual “Light up a Heart “ Children’s Christmas program took place at The Neighborhood Place, 3014 Rivas Street, on Friday December 16th. **447 Children of the incarcerated and individuals recently released from incarceration were provided with two requested gifts each!** Santa Claus (former Board member Tom Duesing) Mrs. Claus (AARP worker, Rose Gutierrez), Pancho Claus (Juan Martinez), Scrooge (Mr. Soto, Volunteer extraordinaire), Tiny Tim (John Behnke) and The Grinch who stole Christmas (Board member, Roland Douglas) all made appearances! A live nativity scene brought the true meaning of Christmas into full focus for the children and families present at this event. Many thanks to all the churches and individuals who donated gifts, money or refreshments, and to all those who volunteered to wrap presents or distribute gifts, sandwiches, punch and cookies at the party. This event continues to be a smashing success and every year, we have more and more donations. Our list of wonderful volunteers who show up to work this event each year also continues to grow! It’s very special to be able to see the glow on the faces of these children as they open their gifts, and climb into Santa’s lap. See for yourself by visiting our website at www.bcdm.org for more pictures (**click on photo gallery!**)



Testimonials....

Since coming to Bexar County Detention Ministries ya’ll have helped me with housing, Job Readiness, Anger Management, 12 steps, etc. If I wouldn’t have gotten into this program I would be back in jail, or back out selling drugs on the streets, instead of fighting for myself. This program is awesome. The whole staff is understanding and listens when others don’t. Thank you very much, especially Natalie. I thank God that ya’ll have this program for me and others like myself. Thank you Bexar County Detention Ministries.

~ **Kathy Haynes**



I lived in a park for seven and a half months. I was trying to attend SAC. I had no money for food. I had no clothes. All I wanted and needed was \$29.00 to take my placement test so that I could go to school. No one would help me. All of the charities told me no. They will give you a hand out, but not one of them would give me a hand up. Out of desperation I called pre-trial and they told me to call BCDM. Just like that they helped me. I got my \$29.00. I took my test. I started school January 17, 2012.

I’ve been free of drugs for almost ten months, I’m going to college (I have not gone to school since 1980). I turned 50 years old on 1-31 -2012. I have an apartment. I have food. I have never been happier nor more proud of myself in my entire life.

I owe a lot to the nice people at BCDM. I was at the end of my rope. I was going to give up. If not for them I would still be either in the park or in the street, I will never be able to thank them enough. ~

Margaret Gross



In The Spotlight



BCDM Board Member

As the Human Resources Officer for Bexar County Juvenile Probation, I met Carol Lockett in 1999. There was no way I could have known that 10 years later, I would be serving as a Board Member for the same non-profit organization for which Carol serves as Executive Director! When Carol approached me three years ago and educated me on the people that Bexar County Detention Ministries services both directly and indirectly, I was honored to be asked to contribute to such an organization.



Veronica Saucedo
3 1/2 years

Over the past three years, I have made a humble effort to do my part in adding to the wonderful impact that this organization has on so many lives in our community. I have tried to serve as guide in the field of Human Resources and have contributed by updating the Employee Handbook, conducting training, or just providing feedback on employee issues. These efforts are just a drop in the bucket compared to all the good work and heart that is poured out by the BCDM staff. They are a constant inspiration for me to give more of myself to the mission of BCDM - To facilitate the spiritual, emotional, and personal transformation of incarcerated individuals, those formerly incarcerated, and their families.

Our New BCDM Employee

My name is Elly Ferrell and this past May, I graduated from Sewanee; The University of the South with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Spanish. After spending the summer working in Wyoming, I came home to settle into San Antonio and to look for a full time job (a somewhat grueling task for many recent college grads). Not knowing what I specifically wanted to do with my college degree, yet realizing that I wanted to work in a field where I could help people directly, I immediately subscribed to a daily non-profit job posting website.



Elly Ferrell
Case Manager

When I started my post-grad job search I knew that I wanted to work in an organization that had direct client contact, with some Spanish speaking clients and had connections with many other organizations in the community. When I saw the posting for a "Fatherhood Program Case Manager", at Bexar County Detention Ministries, I had an instantaneous feeling that this could be the job for me. After further investigation into the organization and asking questions during my interview, I knew that I wanted to help this non profit and learn from all of its employees and contacts. I was astounded at how many people BCDM helped annually and how passionate each and every one of my interviewers seemed about their work.

I started in December and have been meeting with and helping fathers on a daily basis. BCDM and the partnering agencies in the "Fatherhood Grant" are rallying around these fathers and giving them the resources that it takes to better themselves and their families, including counseling, classes and help with employment. I feel truly blessed to have been given this opportunity to help clients so closely and to be able to learn from every one of the BCDM employees. Everyone here at BCDM has bent over backwards to help me and make me feel welcome and I will always appreciate BCDM giving me this chance to help.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. ~ John Wesley

Bexar County Detention Ministries ~ New Beginnings



Volunteer Appreciation Banquet



The 2012 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held in the Madonna Room at "Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church", 223 E. Summit on Friday, February 17, 2012. Despite the downpour that day, nearly 100 of our volunteers, Board members and their families braved the bad weather to join us for the celebration of our wonderful volunteers!

Many thanks go out to Bill Miller's Barbeque for donating the delicious brisket and to the Central Texas Detention Facility (GEO), and Warden Brett Bement for the donations of beans, potato salad, condiments, and eating utensils. We are also grateful to Monsignor Larry Walsh and Sister Mary Teresa Cullen for allowing us to hold this special event in the Madonna Room for the second year in a row at no charge. Margie Barrientes-Contreras from the Bexar County Adult Detention Center MATCH/PATCH program made the beautiful "hearts and flowers" centerpieces by hand. They were beautiful, Margie! Thank you so much! The inmates at the Bexar Adult Detention Center also made art which decorated our tables. Ms. Kimberly Talbott sang a lovely solo acapella; what a beautiful voice she has! Five of our clients who have either made exceptional adjustments in the community, or family members of our clients, provided moving and inspiring testimonials! Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson and his wife Karen even joined us to show their support.

Thanks again to all who made this event a huge success and to all our dedicated volunteers. We love you!

"Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood" Program



Bexar County Detention Ministries has recently collaborated with one of our partner agencies, Southwest Key, as Southwest Key has recently been awarded a federal grant called "Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood". The Southwest Key staff have facilitated parenting classes in the Family Renewal Center for several years and we are excited to be able to work with them in a new capacity. This collaboration is designed to solidify and support the existing San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign. Bexar County Detention Ministries will provide career and job readiness assessments, employment assistance, linkage to local employment resources and financial management support to fathers, and to some mothers, who are formerly incarcerated. Other services will be provided by Southwest Key, and the P.E.A.C.E. initiative, the Avenida Guadalupe Center, and the "American Indians of Texas". If all goes well, we will be part of this innovative grant for three years!

We have hired a dynamic new case manager for this grant program, Ms. Elly Ferrell (see new BCDM staff member on page 3) and she has hit the ground running!



For more information about these events **OR TO DONATE**, please visit our website at www.bcdm.org.

Don't forget to "Add" & "Like" us on



"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity" Author unknown