



CHRYsalIS

MINISTRIES

Change. Growth. Freedom.

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Chrysalis Ministries Embarks on Plan for the Future!!

If the Chrysalis Ministries Board of Directors has their way, the next few years will be an exciting time for serving more clients in the San Antonio Community. Recognizing that Chrysalis must continue to meet the growing needs of our clients for the services we offer, the Board of Directors has unanimously approved a new long-range plan that will include the purchase and renovation of the neighboring property adjacent to our current location at 503 San Pedro Ave.

"The current location at the Family Renewal Center is bursting at the seams," says Board President, Louis Rubiola, "and purchasing the adjacent building is the next logical step in our development as the premier provider of services to the men and women who are laboring to re-enter the community." To facilitate the development of plans to negotiate the sale of the building, and considering the necessary retrofitting of the interior to fit our unique needs for teaching and counseling, Board member, Kristen Salazar, has been appointed Chair of the Steering committee to organize and plan for a major drive to fund the purchase and construction costs for the new Chrysalis Headquarters.

According to Chrysalis Executive Director, Carol Lockett, the purchase of the new building will provide an additional 7,000 square feet of space, which equates to more classroom space, a special area for children, and a multipurpose area for events and major symposium. "We'll be able to provide services to all clients in a more comfortable environment, especially the growing number of children we are seeing," said Lockett. "We are seeing great growth in our services and the number of clients served, which is a blessing," she continued; "however, in order for us to continue making such a positive impact on the community, we desperately need more productive space."

Over the next several months you will be hearing more about this exciting new plan for Chrysalis. Increasing the capacity of Chrysalis Ministries to help redirect formerly incarcerated individuals, and changing the course of their lives before they re-offend, will both eliminate costs to taxpayers and foster the type of transformation God calls us to produce. We invite you to continue being a part of this important journey.

SAVE THE DATE



Chrysalis Ministries
6th Annual "New Beginnings" Luncheon
Thursday, June 12, 2014
 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

The Whitley Theological Center
 at the Oblate School of Theology
 285 Oblate Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216

"John Byrd Community Service" Honoree
*Mr. Dennis Noll, President & CEO of the
 San Antonio Area Foundation*

"Happy Feet" Children's Shoe Program



Our third annual "Happy Feet" Children's Shoe Program will be held on **April 17, 2014** at the Family Renewal Center, 503 San Pedro from **10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** **Thank you for your support of our programs!** You are again invited to join in bringing joy to the children we serve! Children of the incarcerated will receive a new pair of shoes to enjoy for Easter and for the rest of the school year.

If you would like to make a donation to help a child in need of shoes, please do so at our Family Renewal Center no later than April 4, 2014. Checks may be payable to Chrysalis Ministries. A \$25 donation provides 1 pair of shoes. For any additional information, please feel free to contact Bianca via phone 210-299-4540 ext. 126 or besquivel@chrysalismin.org.

Thank you to all of our donors....



For more than 48 years, the San Antonio Area Foundation has connected donors of all backgrounds with the causes that matter most to them, for the betterment of San Antonio and the surrounding region. The Area Foundation offers a wide range of giving opportunities and highly personalized service that bring donors and charitable organizations together for the benefit of the community. Through an exemplary managed grant and scholarship program, the San Antonio Area Foundation has distributed more than \$200 million since its inception. Their board, volunteers, and staff understand the issues and challenges facing our region and work together with our donors to make a lasting impact on the community.

A recent grant from the "Leon Lewis & Mary Jane K. Lewis Discretionary Fund" of the San Antonio Area Foundation in the amount of \$13,750 was received in December 2013. This grant has allowed Chrysalis Ministries to hire a professional marketing consultant to complete an internal and an external evaluation to develop a long-term comprehensive marketing fundraising strategy. Chrysalis Ministries has hired Mr. Cliff Underwood & Associates. Mr. Underwood has helped generate more than \$200,000,000 in contributions for non-profit institutions. He has served as the Director of Special Campaigns at the University of California, Berkeley, where his fundraising program was selected for the United States Steel Award for the top program in the nation. We are excited to have Underwood & Associates working with our development staff and the Board Development Committee and are very grateful to the San Antonio Area Foundation for awarding us this significant grant!

Texas Shiloh Foundation

Chrysalis Ministries received a generous donation from the Texas Shiloh Foundation for the first time in December 2013. Many thanks to the Foundation's managers, led by Mr. David Jones!

Church Support

Chrysalis Ministries thanks the following churches for their continued support of the chaplaincy program:

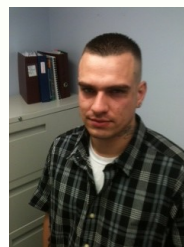
- The Archdiocese of San Antonio
- The San Antonio Baptist Association
- First Presbyterian Church
- Air Force Village II Protestant Church
- Epworth United Methodist Church
- University Presbyterian Church
- University Methodist Church
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Bethel AME Church
- Women of St. Luke's Episcopal

Coker United Methodist Church highlighted Chrysalis Ministries in their December "Mission Moment." A Chrysalis Ministries video was shown at the Saturday evening worship service and again during the four Sunday services. A collection was taken at each service, specifically for Chrysalis Ministries. We are very grateful for this generous donation!



Help us make history!! Mark your calendars for May, 6, 2014. We're participating in The Big Give S.A., a 24 hour online giving event for charities, and we'd love your support!!

Success Story....



"Through all of the care and dedication of the case workers at Chrysalis Ministries and the awesome free classes they provide I was able to learn how to manage a regular life. Anger management, money management, healthy relationships and job readiness classes gave me skills I would have never had and I use daily. Today I have over a year of clean time, and I live in a sober living home Chrysalis Ministries helped me find called the Oxford House, where I've been appointed House President. I am employed, stable, and happy for the first time in a decade. I'm truly grateful for all the knowledge and services Chrysalis Ministries provided me with." **C. Donald**



Chrysalis Ministries Board Members In The Spotlight



Ron Palermo, Board Member

After having just finished serving a three-year federal prison sentence for a white collar crime committed nearly 30 years ago, I had high hopes of burying that part of my life. Although thinking that my debt was paid, society and the federal government were thinking differently, continuing to pile on multiple burdens after release. I had forever lost numerous civil rights, it was nearly impossible to get housing and a job after prison, particularly during a recession, and the 18% interest bearing fine imposed at sentencing continued to grow while appearing to rival the defense budget.

Continually attempting to resolve these issues over the next several years, yet allowed no viable options, I moved to Mexico. I worked for several years there as a teacher and had planned on staying the rest of my life. 9-11, however, forced my return to the states due to the economic after-effects of the terrorist attack on the U.S. dependent Mexican economy.

After relocating to San Antonio in late 2002, the same challenges came back to life. It was shortly after arriving that I visited Chrysalis Ministries, at the time called Bexar County Detention Ministries. There, I received services and valuable advice on how to navigate the world of employment while carrying the dreaded title “FELON”.

Eventually, I found employment as a case manager and am enjoying my 6th year in the profession. Presently, I work at Haven for Hope as a Recovery Coach for the *Next Right Step* sober living dorm and can only now fully appreciate the phenomenal work Chrysalis Ministries does. We referred 90 of our Members last year alone for the help and support it provides people to overcome arguably the most powerful barrier to societal integration.

I feel passionate about the ministry’s mission, asked to join the board, and was allowed to start serving in January, 2014. Through the board, I truly believe I can use my personal experiences as a rare survivor of the criminal justice system to help others that have made similar mistakes. Many of us simply ask to be released from our debt after serving the time, allowing us the freedom and opportunity to become contributing members of society.



Chrysalis Ministries Staff In The Spotlight



**Ashley Surber,
Case Manager**

Ashley Surber was hired as a case manager in December, 2013. Here is a message from Ashley....

Upon graduating from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelors in Psychology, I joined the University of Texas Science Center at San Antonio as a Research Associate at the Neurobehavioral Research laboratory and Clinic. I ran an entire research study starting with recruiting participants, determining if they were eligible, guiding them through the day long study and administering all tests needed. I then recorded and analyzed the data and would present the findings to the professors and doctors there at the NRLC. Although, I enjoyed the field, I longed for a career where I was working closer with individuals, for whom I could make a difference in their lives.

Later I became a Certified Nursing Assistant up in Omaha, NE. Being able to see the real and immediate impact I made on people’s lives, brought me joy and I knew helping people “hands on” was a calling for me. However, I was limited to what I could do as a CNA and knew I had more to offer in this world than an over abundance in empathy and hard work. I wanted to use my education and have the opportunity to have more responsibility and an avenue for me to think up new ideas and have the power to implement them.

Then a Case Management position at Chrysalis Ministries was up for grabs. The more I learned about what my role would be and what this organization stands for and provides for the community, the more I became excited and hopeful that I would be picked to join the team. I am so delighted to be a part of Chrysalis Ministries. This family is a group of kind, intelligent, solid people who all share the same passion in helping people. Thank you to Chrysalis Ministries for allowing me to continue what I believe is my life’s calling in helping others.

Ashley can be reached at 210/299-4540 ext. 120 or asurber@chrysmmin.org

“A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others throw at him or her”. ~ David Brinkley



**Bianca Esquivel,
Volunteer Coordinator**

Meet New Volunteer Coordinator Bianca Esquivel!

Please welcome the newest member of our team, Bianca Esquivel. Bianca serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for volunteers serving in the private facilities (GEO San Antonio, GEO Karnes City, and the Laurel Ridge Treatment Facility), and coordinates the processing of all new student interns or service learning students. She also coordinates all the special and seasonal children's programs.

A Message from Bianca...

I am so very excited, honored, and humbled to serve at Chrysalis Ministries as a volunteer coordinator and as the special projects manager. I attended a criminal justice ministry conference in October 2013 and was thrilled to learn about the abundant means of services provided for so many people. While trying to coordinate a group of volunteers to help out at the annual children's Christmas party, I was informed of a job opening with Chrysalis and immediately knew that I just had to apply! I am so grateful to God for this new adventure and opportunity to serve, to learn, and to encourage others to join this transformative "family" that truly supports many individuals and families. I have been blessed to serve in various ministries over the years; these are experiences that profoundly impact my life so that my heart overflows with abundant joy, gratitude, and compassion. In addition to Chrysalis Ministries, I am currently involved (during my free time J) with the Children's Bereavement Center, Girls on the Run, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, and am active in parish ministry, and in hospital ministry as an on-call chaplain. I love butterflies and believe we all go through our own chrysalis experiences – calling us to stretch, grow, and rejoice with hope and possibility for all that we can be and do for one another.

Bianca Esquivel can be reached at 210-299-4540, ext. 126, besquivel@chrysmmin.org. (Please note that Shelly Power is our Volunteer Coordinator who coordinates those who serve in all Bexar County facilities and the Family Renewal Center. Shelly can be reached at 210-299-4540, ext. 123, spower@chrysmmin.org.)

Volunteer Needs

We currently have the following volunteer openings:

- Spanish-speaking volunteers are critically needed to provide spiritual guidance, lead Bible studies, etc., on **Tuesday evenings at GEO Karnes City**. Contact Bianca Esquivel if interested.
- Volunteers are needed to provide spiritual guidance, lead Bible studies, etc., on **Saturday afternoons at the Laurel Ridge Treatment Facility**. Contact Bianca Esquivel if interested.
- Life Skills facilitators are needed at the **Bexar County Adult Detention Center** and the **Applewhite Recovery Center** (various hours/days of the week). Contact Shelly Power if interested.



**Please turn in your sign-in sheets to the chaplains as soon as you receive them.
Also, complete and turn in your own timesheets to the chaplains at the end of each month.**

Thank you, volunteers, for your continued service to Chrysalis Ministries! You are a critical part of our team and we cannot do what we do without each and every one of you! We continue to be very humbled and grateful by your dedication to our mission and for all that you do!





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



"It makes me happy to let out my creative side and feeling understood and free to be myself laughing, loving and enjoying the company with people who care." Piquela

"This class ...changed my mood. Thank you so much for coming in. It is so wonderful to have someone from the outside that seems to care about us enough to bring us joy". Nicole

I spent the first two weeks of my "Fun Writing" volunteer work with GEO women depressed – the kind of depression where you just want to go to bed under the covers. The clang of gates – gruff staff – the incredible barrenness of it all.

**Mary Lance,
Volunteer**

Then, voila! The third Monday, nine women showed up, dancing and clapping to get started. I gave them a picture and then a verbal prompt – don't worry about grammar or spelling – just write your heart out. Oh my, did they ever. Lots of laughing, giggling and then suddenly tears. I was so touched when one woman said, "I've been here three months, and never seen anyone cry. It's so good for you to show your feelings."

Now I can't wait for my Mondays. The women bless me with their creativity, their caring for each other and their gratefulness. The gruff staff now are friendlier! "Hi writing lady," - and the shift captain and I hugged "Merry Christmas".

Prison is a very difficult environment for the inmates and the detention officers. My prayer is for prison reform in America and I thank Chrysalis staff for their brave and soul- reviving work.



Serving from the *Heart!*



This year's annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held on February 6th at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, was filled with fun and touching inspiration. Many of our dedicated volunteers and Board members, staff, and guests (130 to be exact) braved the cold weather and enjoyed a delicious meal and some great fellowship. We are grateful to Board member Wade Shelton for being the master of ceremony for the night's event and for keeping everyone laughing! Six of our clients shared powerful and profound testimonials of growth through second chances, and expressed deep gratitude for Chrysalis Ministries. Bill Miller's BBQ and the GEO Corporation provided the delicious barbequed turkey dinner. Chrysalis Ministries' staff and interns provided a wide variety of desserts for everyone to enjoy! The Ladies' Art Therapy group, facilitated by Bianca Sapet of the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, contributed keepsake cards with artwork and a quote about the importance and lasting effect of volunteerism. An inspirational poem written by a very grateful inmate at the Main Jail and Annex and dedicated to all volunteers was also shared as a memento of the occasion. Please contact volunteer coordinators Bianca Esquivel or Shelly Power if you would like to pick up a keepsake card and poem. Felipe Barajas, a longtime volunteer and ESL instructor, was recognized for his dedication and passion for serving our clients. Jackie Knighton graced each of us with a beautiful rendition of "What the World Needs Now is Love" It truly was a special evening of thanking everyone for serving from the heart. Please check out additional pictures from this fun event by visiting our website or "liking" us on Facebook!

Success Story....



"Since being released from jail, I kept in contact with Chrysalis Ministries. I received services for job search and took the job readiness class. This organization has been a central focus to rebuild my life. Currently I am completing my community service at the organization and I have used the advice to obtain job interviews. I have two part-time jobs and am now focusing on trying to obtain one full-time job. I would also like to add that my work experience at Chrysalis Ministries has given me hope that one day I will be employed full-time and be paid fairly." **D. Chamberlain**

If you would like to make a monetary donation to BCDM, click on the button below



"When the world says "give up", hope whispers "try it one more time". ~ Author Unknown