

THE



# GOOD NEWS

August 2023

## Message from Simon

Greetings Neighbors,

As students gear up for the fall semester, we want to thank our generous donors for the 2023-2024 Good Samaritan Back to School Drive! Thanks to your generosity, Youth and Teens Services staff were able to make **225 Pre-K, Elementary, Middle, and High School bags** that were distributed to an equal amount of students.

This provides aid to approximately **150 families** on the West side of San Antonio and helps students show up prepared for the first day of school. One of the biggest things that our school-age clients are in need of happens to school supplies, and because of you, their families now have one less thing to worry about. Again, on behalf of Good Samaritan Community Services, thank you for your continued support.

Simon

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## Serving Our Neighbors

This summer, six Johnson High School student-athletes teamed up with Camp Good Sam to give 15 girls and boys ages five and six a chance to attend baseball camp at no cost. The boys partnered with Coach Gordon Gessell to run the camp and embraced being role models on and off the field.

These student-athletes also came together to raise **\$6,000** to cover the cost of food and drinks, equipment, t-shirts, and more at a two-day baseball camp. Thank you to Johnson High School Jaguars for providing this excellent opportunity for our kiddos, and we look forward to seeing all the success you will have on and off the field.





In order to combat the record-setting heat, Project Cool-Off set out to provide a box fan to the seniors in our community.

Special thanks to: **V.I.P. Mortgage, Inc.**, **American Pacific Mortgage**, and **Capital Title of Texas, LLC** for collecting fans this summer and organizing this effort. Our seniors are already enjoying the fresh air from their new fans!

## Intern Spotlight



Meet our amazing interns! These four students spent eight weeks interning at our Development Department this summer. We hope you had an exhilarating internship, and we thank you for all your contributions to the organization.

Maya Collier, student @ UTSA  
Saira Shakoor, student @ Agnes Scott College  
Aubri Lalinde, student @ Palo Alto College  
Angel Carmenaty, student @ UTSA





This month, the entire Good Sam team (San Antonio and Brownsville Campus staff members) visited Andretti Indoor Karting & Games. The afternoon was full of team-bonding games, bowling, cool prizes, yummy food, arcade games, and so much more!

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## Family Development Services



The Senior Center is designed with the Six Dimensions of Wellness by providing educational activities through **6 Pillars**:

- 1) Promote Health
- 2) Strengthen Purpose
- 3) Nurture Relationships
- 4) Stimulate Minds
- 5) Support Spirituality
- 6) Build Resiliency

The Good Samaritan Child Development Center is happy to have **seven preschool children** moving



forward to elementary schools in Pre-K 4 and/or Kindergarten this fall.

Congratulations to all of our little graduates!

Each of them has received a quality preschool program, and they are well-prepared for future success!



Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program (PAT) honored several families this summer who have been long-term participants in the PAT Program. One family has been with the program for five years.

Families receive monthly home visits to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development, improve child and family health and well-being, and increase school readiness.

This program provides dual-generation programming serving both parent/grandparent and their child.



During the summer, Camp Good Sam served a total of **325** 1st-12th grade students at our San Antonio and Brownsville campuses. As part of our summer program, we offered intensive tutoring modules led by reading and math specialists to address the reading deficits that were exacerbated by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. These modules aimed to support educational achievement and help students improve their reading and math skills. This year, Camp Good Sam featured a range of enriching curriculum and activities designed to promote learning and growth. We are proud to incorporate acclaimed programs such as Write Brain Books, Math Hoops, Vex Robotics, and Alee, offering our youth exciting opportunities to enhance their literacy, math, and problem-solving skills.

Our youth engaged in reading activities centered around the Superhero Universe. They delved into various books, including "Miles Morales, Spider-Man" by Jason Reynolds. These books served as a catalyst for a range of enriching activities that fostered not only academic growth but also social-emotional learning. The Superhero Universe books provided a rich context for exploring important themes such as responsibility, resilience, empathy, and self-identity, gaining valuable insights and tools for navigating their lives. Through these reading activities, the youth were able to explore complex topics and relate them to their own experiences. They participated in discussions, reflective exercises, and creative projects that encouraged them to think critically and develop their social-emotional skills.

Lastly, in addition to Camp Good Sam, we launched an exclusive high school program called Good Sam Academy (GSA). GSA focused on fostering 21st-century skills, post-high school readiness, and civic engagement. Through GSA, we aimed to equip our older participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to succeed academically and positively impact their communities.

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## Upcoming Events

### Fright Night

**WHO:** Open to the community!

**WHERE:** Good Samaritan Community Services

**WHEN:** October 27th, 2023

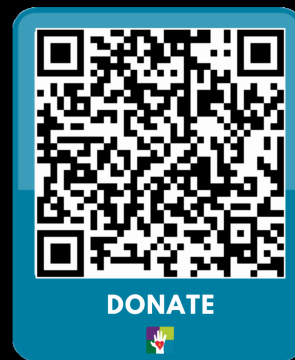
**CONTACT:** [info.youth@goodsamtx.org](mailto:info.youth@goodsamtx.org)



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Good Samaritan Community Services | 1600 Saltillo St., San Antonio, TX 78207

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