

THE GOOD NEWS

Official Good Samaritan Community Services Fall Newsletter

October 2023

Message from Simon

Dear Friends,

Fright Night was a huge success this year! With over 450 of our neighbors in attendance, the night was full of spook. I want to thank all of our Good Sam staff members for their countless hours of preparing, planning, and executing this free community event that is open to all and led by **Victoria Morales**.

Moreover, I would like to thank our sponsors and partner organizations: DJ Joaquin Muerte, SA River Authority, Mikey Vibe Sound Service, Guitar Dojo, SA Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness, Family Services, Fiesta Youth, and the United Way of SA and Bexar County.





FRIGHT NIGHT 2023



Community Spotlight

The Ghost Town Survivors and Barrio Girls held their 12th annual BBQ Good Sam fundraiser on Saturday, October 21, 2023. They sold **534 plates** and raised almost **\$3,000!**

The money raised will allow **ten (10) students** to get a one-time scholarship and to provide holiday presents to ten families in this area.



Family Development Services

Congratulations to our Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program (PAT) for our achievement in receiving an earned endorsement as a **PAT Blue Ribbon Affiliate**. PAT ensures that every child is healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school. Through a thorough Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process, we met the PAT Essential Requirements and quality standards with at least 80% of the standards.

Blue Ribbon Affiliates are recognized as exemplary affiliates, delivering high-quality services to children and families. The endorsement benefits you by:

- Assuring current and potential funders, community organizations, and participants that our affiliate is a wise investment
- Raising visibility for our program and strengthening our affiliate's stature in our community.
- Demonstrating our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality services
- Giving Good Sam additional national recognition as a high-achieving member in early childhood learning and parent engagement

Our PAT team will be honored at the **2024 Parents as Teachers Conference**, along with other Parents as Teachers affiliates that were awarded the Blue Ribbon.



Youth & Teen Services

While October has been a busy month, our Youth Action Committee (YAC) members participated in the **Bike Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society's** annual Valero Ride to the River. Cyclists from different organizations, businesses, and families affected by MS

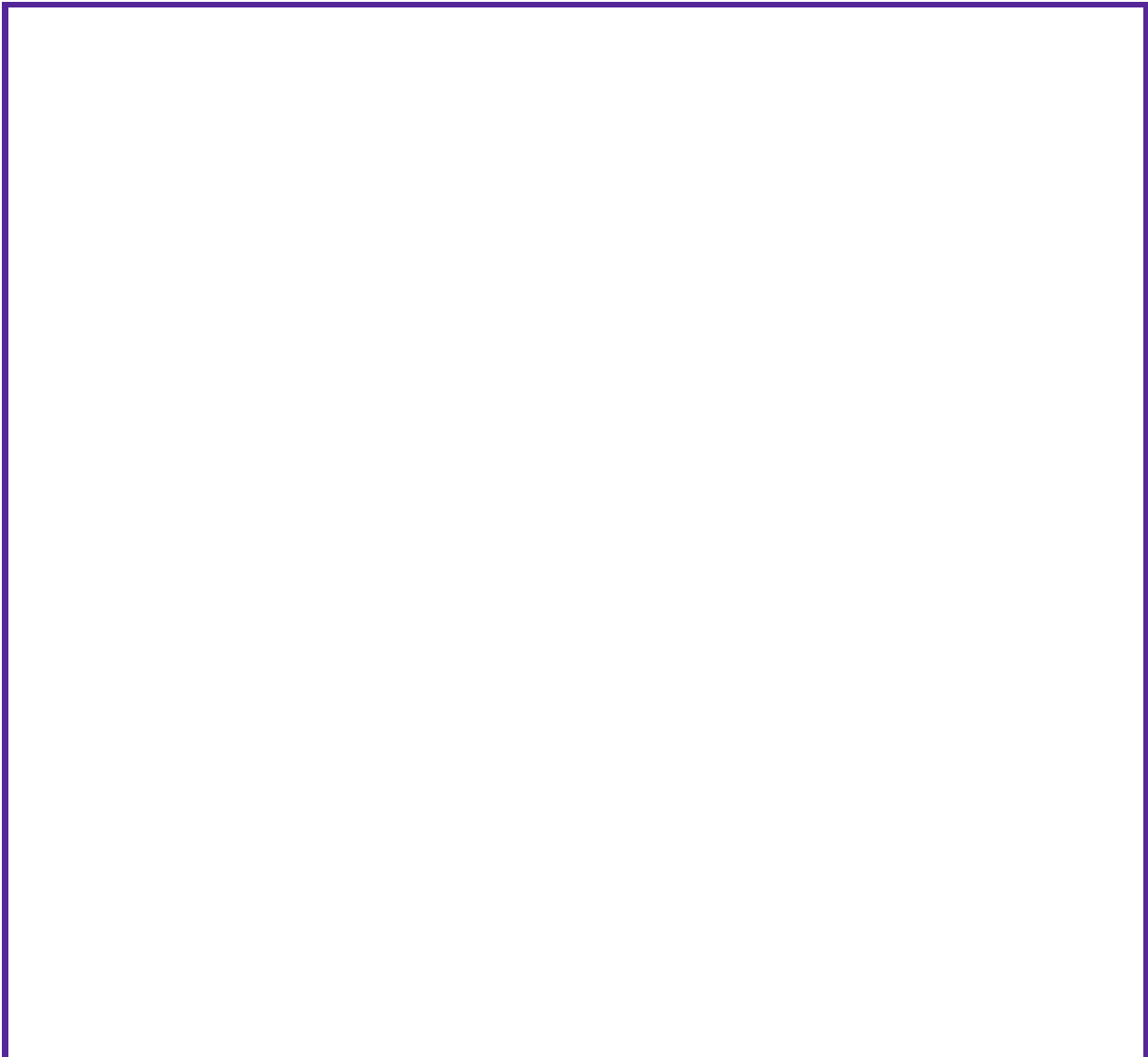
participated in a race to help raise funds for MS research. YAC hosted the opening shift for rest stop #6, where they passed out hydration packs and gave words of encouragement to all riders participating in the 100-mile race. YAC also sold concessions at this year's Fright Night, where they raised funds for future YAC service projects.

Youth Case Management Highlight

This month, Youth Case Management has focused on connecting our families with Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas. We have registered eight parents and 18 youths for the mentoring program, and each parent has been dedicated to the various steps it takes to register and match within the program. We are grateful to BBBS for meeting our parents at Good Sam and not allowing transportation to be a barrier for our families to this amazing program.

We would also like to highlight our Case Manager, Yoly Vazquez, for leading our Raising Highly Capable Kids parenting class that has 13 parents currently enrolled. These parents meet weekly to discuss and share insight into what it means to be a parent and how to navigate parenthood. YCM currently hosts two social skill groups focusing on anti-bullying and healthy relationships. These groups are lead by our Master's in Social Work interns and Youth Case Managers. We are proud of our youth as they continue to work with their case managers towards goals that help them grow up to be resilient, successful individuals.

Upcoming Events



HOLIDAY BAG DRIVE



**DROP OFF BY
DEC. 1ST**

Please place all items in a reusable
grocery bag and drop it off at

**1600 Saltillo St.
San Antonio, Texas 78207
between
8:30 AM - 5:30 PM**



ITEMS REQUESTED:

- 2 Cans of corn
- 2 Cans of green beans
- 1 Can of sweet potatoes
- 1 Box of mashed potatoes
- 1 Box of stuffing
- 1 Jar/Package of gravy
- 1 Can of cranberries
- 1 Package of plates
- 1 Package of napkins
- 1 Boxed dessert mix
- 1 Small family gift (board game, book, etc.)



Thank you for helping us feed more than 400 families!



Save the Date

for the 15th Annual

Mums & Mimosas

February 1, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

San Antonio Country Club

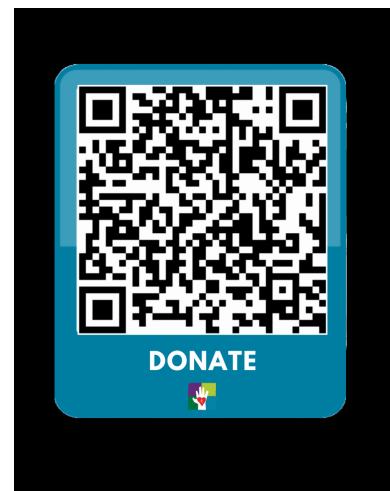
Mums & Mimosas 2024

WHO: Everyone is welcome!

WHERE: San Antonio Country Club

WHEN: February 1st, 2024 | 11:30-1 p.m.

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