



VISION

"Transforming lives through simple, decent and affordable housing"

A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SAN ANTONIO PUBLICATION • ISSUE 32 • MAY 2007

Poverty Strikes Bexar County at Higher Rate Than Rest of Nation

Across the nation, 12.7% of the population lives in poverty. In Texas, that number jumps to 16.2%. Once in Bexar County, that number rises even higher to 17.3% living in poverty, as depicted in the bar graph. According to the US Census Bureau's 2004 statistics, Bexar County is suffering from greater levels of poverty than the rest of the nation and even the rest of Texas.

The low-income residents of San Antonio are affected in every aspect of their lives by poverty. According to povertyusa.com, hard-working families living below the poverty line will run out of income before they can pay for even basic expenses including rent, utilities, and food.

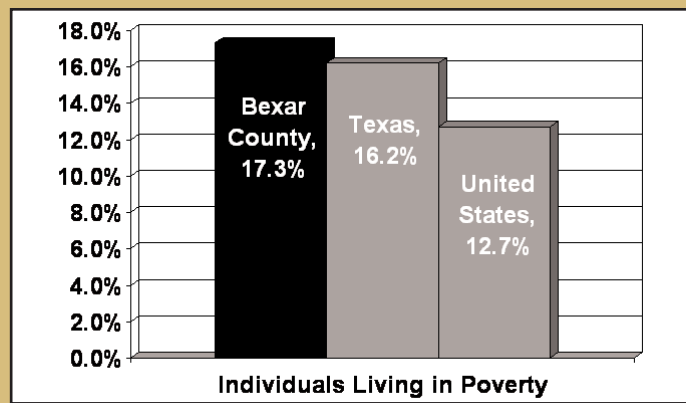
Depicted in the chart is an example of a single parent of two who earns \$11.50 an hour, well above minimum wage, and spends money on only basic necessities. This single parent winds up in debt for the year before having the opportunity to purchase items such as school and household supplies or cover any medical or other emergency expenses.

This is why programs like Habitat are so important. Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio is playing a part in eliminating poverty housing in Bexar County with the help of countless volunteers and donors. Through our program, qualified families pay 0% interest mortgages for quality homes

Annual Budget for Single Parent (Earning \$11.50 per hour with two children)

- \$23,920 ~ Annual income (before taxes)
- 1,829 ~ FICA taxes (Social Security taxes)
- 8,580 ~ Fair Market Rent (2 Bedroom)
- 2,350 ~ Utilities
- 4,852 ~ Transportation
- 4,800 ~ Food
- 1,200 ~ Health insurance
(with employer contribution)
- 2,030 ~ Childcare for two children
(with a substantial subsidy)
- \$1,721 ~ Shortfall**

*Figures based on national averages for low income Americans and 2000 US Census data. Fair Market Rent figure from HUD Final FY 2007 Fair Market Rent Documentation System for San Antonio (\$715/month).



with adequate space for families. An average Habitat homeowner pays approximately \$400 for their monthly mortgage payment, which includes taxes and insurance. This totals \$4,800 a year - much less than fair market rent.

Habitat truly enables families to get ahead. Visit our website at www.habitatsa.org to learn more about our mission in San Antonio and how you can help families in need of decent and affordable housing.

Special Thanks to Our Summer Sponsors

Miller Family/Barnes Partners Ltd./Mission Restaurant Supply
Friends of Habitat



Habitat Debuts New Model Home Floor Plan

With much assistance from the community, Habitat is proud of our accomplishments and of the 500+ families we have served in the past 30 years. In order to continue our successful growth, we are constantly seeking ways to improve both our systems and our final product. Just recently, we updated our floor plans to provide the most efficient and affordable home design possible.

Due to this change in floor plan, we

decided that we would update our full scale model home in our Home Center at 311 Probandt. Built by volunteers,

the Fabian Dale Dominguez Correctional Unit and construction staff, this house was completed in January of this year.

The peach colored house is hard to miss – it is at the very end of the center isle of the store. It serves to educate Home Center customers. Large signs in the windows tell more about the mission of Habitat and encourage people to apply.

Most importantly, the model home is a great tool for Habitat as we work with prospective families, showing them the standard features of our simple and decent homes. Additionally, Hab-i-tour participants tour the home as the last stop of our one-hour tour. If you'd like to visit the model home, see the back of this newsletter for a schedule of upcoming Hab-i-tour dates.

Dennis L. Bechhold, CEO, shows future Habitat homeowner Danielle Alvarado the new floorplan (top) and the Thursday Crew takes a break from construction to admire the work they put into the model home (left).



AmeriCorps 2007-2008

Join Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio as an AmeriCorps member for the 2007-2008 term! The following positions are available:

- Construction - 1
- Faith Relations - 1
- Family Services - 1
- Volunteer Services - 1

To apply, fax your resume to Emily Cronenberger at 210-223-5536



FAITH *builders* luncheon

Faith community members interested in learning more about Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio - or becoming more involved - are invited to attend.

RSVP to Jennifer Gonzalez at 210-223-5203

First Presbyterian Church, 404 N. Alamo

May 16, 12:00-1:00 pm

Who Do You GoodSearch For?

There is a new and easy way to raise money for Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio just by searching the Internet! GoodSearch is a new search engine like Google, Dogpile, or Ask – it's actually powered by Yahoo.

Raising funding is simple. Go to GoodSearch.com, enter 'HFHSA' in the charity selection field, then search away! With GoodSearch, you get reliable results and approximately one penny is

raised for Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio with every new search.

Since every penny counts in the fight against poverty housing, we hope Habitat supporters will use GoodSearch as their main search engine – and also pass GoodSearch and HFHSA on to friends and family. The more people we have searching, the more money Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio earns to build homes. Every little bit helps!



Marissa, pictured above, from Montana State, spent her Spring Break working at the Palo Alto construction site with nine other students from her university. Students from Montana State, Virginia Tech and the United States Air Force Academy joined Habitat for Collegiate Challenge in March.

View Points Thoughts from Habitat Homer

You may recognize me from my many celebrity appearances – I'm Habitat Homer, HFHSA's friendly mascot! Whenever special occasions pop up, I take a break from my duties in the Habitat office to show our volunteers and supporters just how much we appreciate them.

You can see me most often at my favorite event – House Dedications! We usually have four dedications a year where our newest homeowners receive a bible and a toolbox. The special ceremony marks the beginning of their lives in the homes they helped build. While I like to meet our generous donors and volunteers, I have to admit my favorite part of the dedication is always when the children show me their new rooms. They don't want to let go of me as they show me where they'll put their swing sets and toys.

No less exciting are our volunteer appreciation events. I've raced around

Wolff Stadium on the back of a truck with my good friend the Missions Baseball mascot, the Ballapeño, at our Missions Pack the Park night. I've also made appearances at a few Home and Garden shows when my co-workers from the Habitat Home Centers have exhibit booths. Our Anniversary Picnic last November to celebrate 30 years in San Antonio was also a big day for me to mingle with volunteers and homeowners.

Nothing beats getting to see our littlest supporters, though. In February, I made a special trip out to Colonial Hills United Methodist School to visit the preschool through kindergarten students who raise money for HFHSA every year. With their Pennies, Nickels, Dimes and Quarters Campaign, the



Students from Colonial Hills School and new friend Habitat Homer.

students deserved a great, big thank you – which I was happy to give! The students and teachers even sang me a special song before I left.

If you haven't had the chance to meet me yet, don't be a stranger to HFHSA's events. I'll be looking for you the next time our homeowners, volunteers and sponsors get together!



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Join Habitat at a
MISSIONS GAME!
See the insert inside for more information.

Events Calendar

Tuesday, May 1, 6:00 p.m.
Volunteer Orientation
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
No RSVP Required

Wednesday, May 16, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Faith Builder's Luncheon
First Presbyterian Church
404 N. Alamo
*RSVP to Jennifer Gonzalez

Friday, May 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Hab-i-tour
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
*RSVP to Melissa Sparks

Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.
Volunteer Orientation
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
No RSVP Required

Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.
Pack the Park Volunteer Event
Missions Baseball Game
Nelson W. Wolff Stadium
*RSVP to Leandra Garcia

Friday, June 15, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Hab-i-tour
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
*RSVP to Melissa Sparks

Saturday, June 16, 10:00 a.m.
House Dedication
Palo Alto Community
No RSVP Required

Tuesday, July 3, 6:00 p.m.
Volunteer Orientation
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
No RSVP Required

Tuesday, July 10, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
F.I.A.T. (Faith in Action Team)
San Pedro Presbyterian Church
14900 San Pedro Ave.
*RSVP to Jennifer Gonzalez

Friday, July 20, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Hab-i-tour
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
*RSVP to Melissa Sparks

Tuesday, August 7, 6:00 p.m.
Volunteer Orientation
Habitat Office
311 Probandt
No RSVP Required

**Please RSVP to 210-223-5203*

VISION

newsletter of
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Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio
is an ecumenical, Christian organization working in partnership with God's people in need to build simple, decent and affordable homes without interest or profit, thereby witnessing God's love in action.