

**San Antonio Community of Congregations
Summary Report
2011**

Mission Statement:

The mission of the San Antonio Community of Congregations is to facilitate the unification of the faith community in ministry and service to the benefit of our greater San Antonio community.

Forward progress in 2008:

Our Infant Formula Program has grown ten-fold. We supply formula to high risk infants as well as infants not at risk but needing help. We supply formula not only to WIC families, but also to infants and mothers in crisis through the Healthy Start Program. Our client base has grown 42% this year.

The city of San Antonio identified a gap in the disaster response/recovery system. SACOC was asked to fill that gap. We spearheaded the creation of the San Antonio Long Term Recovery Group (SALT Recovery Group). This organization is in place and plays a unique role in emergency response, harmonizing programs with community and regional development, respecting the equality of all persons and searching out needs of vulnerable populations. SALT is called upon to give support to over 400 families in Bexar County impacted by Tropical Storm Erin.

The 2008 CROP Walk for Hunger was our most successful to date! We broke through our \$60,000.00 goal (we have reported contributions of over \$62,000). Twenty five percent of the money raised stays in San Antonio to support the San Antonio Food Bank and other local agencies.

We have initiated an effort to supply literature to congregations concerning prayer in public schools. We have partnered with The First Amendment Center to help inform and educate parents and teachers on this continually controversial issue.

We have finalized our efforts to become an interfaith organization. While we maintain our Christian character and convictions, we choose to dialogue with and include other faith groups in our membership for our mutual benefit. We have changed our name to the San Antonio Community of Congregations as of February 1, 2008.

SACOC was awarded a \$50,000 grant to facilitate the new initiative by the Texas Health and Human Services commission called "Twogether in Texas". This program will promote free, skills-based marriage education and provide couples with the tools they need to manage the challenges inherent in relationships. Research has shown that couples who receive premarital and marriage education improve their communication skills and increase their marital satisfaction which benefits child well-being. Classes will

benefit couples who are seriously dating, engaged to marry or married for any length of time.

Forward progress in 2009:

Our Infant Formula Program has grown by 45%. We continue to provide infant formula to families on the WIC program and those associated with Healthy Start. We receive referrals from the San Antonio Food Bank, the San Antonio Independent School District, the United Way via the 211 system, and several other non-profit agencies.

The 2009 CROP Walk was held on Sunday, March 1, 2009. We had a record attendance this year and raised \$58,000.00.

In early 2009, the San Antonio Community of Congregations was contacted by the head Chaplain for the San Antonio Police Department. He asked SACOC to spearhead a program to provide Bibles for every police officer in San Antonio. We are currently engaged in this program and, to date, have raised \$1,350.00. Our goal is \$4,500.00. We have given out 25 Bibles so far, and have another 50 on order.

Forward progress in 2010:

So far this year, we have taken a key role in the Texas Hunger Initiative. Bexar County has been chosen as a model to become the first county in Texas to be food secure by 2012. We are moving toward expanding feeding sites for middle school and elementary school children by this summer.

The city of San Antonio has tasked SACOC with training persons to be spiritual and emotional support providers in city run shelters for disaster evacuees. We have partnered with Methodist Healthcare, the San Antonio Baptist Association, US Army North, and the SAVOAD.

Beginning in March of 2010, SACOC has assisted Haven for Hope by facilitating meetings with over 50 different feeding organizations that minister to the homeless population in San Antonio. SACOC is key in bringing together feeding ministries, Haven for Hope, and city officials to exchange information and help the transitional opening of Haven to be as efficient and smooth as possible.

Forward progress in 2011:

The problem of human trafficking and its place in the immigration issue is becoming more complex. SACOC has been asked to play a key role in forming a grass roots organization to compliment the Southwest Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The organization being built has begun to present educational programs concerning human trafficking in churches, colleges and other places in the community.

The American Veterans and Families organization has partnered with SACOC to bring more organization and clarity to the many services available to veterans and their families here in San Antonio. The motto of “No Wrong Door” will help veterans, their families, and retirees and their families navigate the system with more efficiency.

And, as always in our 68 year history, we continue to be the voice for the faith community here in San Antonio. We stand together for doing good in the community and respecting every person’s right to worship as they see fit.

We continue to support our current programs, which are:

- The Infant Formula Program
- The Police Bible Program
- The 9/11 Keeping Faith Keeping Freedom Program
- The Crisis Response Training Program
- The Texas Hunger Initiative
- The CROP Walk

Please visit our website at www.sacoc.info. We maintain a relationship with approximately 150 faith organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Goodlin
Executive Director
SACOC