



**SAINT LOUISE HOUSE**

Build. Believe. Become.

## 2009 Annual Report

### Letter from the Executive Director

In 2010, the families, staff and board of directors of Saint Louise House will commemorate our tenth year of empowering women with children to overcome homelessness. We celebrate a decade of believing in the value of home and family, and we share that celebration with you.

When we were founded here in Austin in 2000, our community expressed a need for transitional housing, so that's what we did. As our families' needs and educational aspirations outgrew our 24-month time frame, and the number of Austin families living in poverty continued to climb, we recognized the need had changed. So we changed with it.

Our local partners supported our decision to focus the Saint Louise House program on providing long-term supportive housing. That's what we're doing today, with a sharp eye on the future.



In September 2009 we purchased a second apartment complex in south Austin, giving us the capacity to grow to 46 families. This property, which opens in September 2010, will continue to enable us to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our Central Texas community.

By empowering women with children to overcome homelessness, Saint Louise House is helping families not just to get by, but to move out of poverty. Saint Louise House families live in a safe community, believe in their own worth, and share a common hope for an independent and self-reliant future.

Thanks to you, our donors, volunteers and collaborators, Saint Louise House—and our whole Austin community—is a better place for families to live, work and grow.

Warmest Regards,

Sharon Bieser, Executive Director

### Our Mission

Empowering women with children to overcome homelessness in Central Texas.

### Our Vision

Saint Louise House believes in the intrinsic worth of every person. We strive to keep families together. Our goal is to be the model for long-term supportive housing in Central Texas.

### About Us

Founded in Austin in 2000, Saint Louise House provides affordable housing and essential services to mothers and children experiencing homelessness in Central Texas. With a deep belief in the power of women to transform their lives, their families and our community, our licensed social workers and case managers partner with our residents to reach their individual goals. In our apartment-style housing environment, families are embraced and encouraged to be a part of our supportive community as they work or attend school. Saint Louise House collaborates with our families, our partner organizations, our donors and volunteers to serve the most vulnerable of our community in their hour of need—and in the months and years that follow.



## 2009 Donations

Akins, Deborah and Darrell  
Alessio, Eduardo  
Alexander, Harriet D.  
Arellano, Elba  
Bailes, Joseph & Yvonne  
Barnes, Jennie  
Barnstone, Anne  
Benge, Linda Teresa & Robshaw, Paul M.  
Benson, Wendy  
Berwick, Mary & Brian  
Besand, Harold & Margaret  
Beuerlein, Steve  
Bigelow, Bruce  
Blazier, John & Christensen, Fleur  
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn  
Brancato, Sr. Doris  
Breen, John & Marian  
Brennan, Fr. Ralph  
Brewer, Jere  
Brinkman, JC & SM  
Brookhart, Carol F.  
Brown, Jeremy  
Brown, John L. & Mary Alice  
Brown, Sharon  
Budde, Barbara Ann  
Cantu, Julie Cisneros & Edward  
Carl, Donna M.  
Carson, William  
Cerny, Karl  
Churchill, Eric & Tricia  
Cicalese, Carmine  
Collins, Thomas  
Cook, Stephen & Margaret  
Cowperthwaite, Claudia  
Cruzcosa, Kimberly A.  
Dahmen, Karel & Hermine  
Daniel, Diane Wommack  
Dawidczik, Adria & Michael

De Leon, Marty & Thelma  
Debus, George & Candace  
Disorbo, Shanon & Lori  
Dolezal, David & Tracie  
Dooner, James  
Duffy, Michael L.  
Dwyer, Eugene M.  
Ellison, Robin  
Erickson, Jon & Paige  
Evans, Kenny & Cindy  
Evans, Tim & Joy  
Evans, Chuck & Mary  
Evans, Paul  
Faulds, Bo & Brooke  
Ferrara, Nick & Mai  
Fiore, Jan  
Flahive, Catherine  
Francese, Thomas & Ann  
Francis, Ann  
Gembinski, Charles & Dora  
Gentile, George & Margaret  
Gerber, Rick & Albracht, Roberta  
Geroux, Jeffrey  
Giles, Carolyn  
Gonzalez, Alejandro  
Goss, Bernard  
Greenlaw, Peter & Abbinanti, Catherine  
Grimes, Andrew & Jill  
Groetsch, Sr. Sharon  
Groetsch, Ewald  
Guidry, Hervin A. & Susan G.  
Haas, Kenneth & Donna  
Hackett, Kathleen O.  
Haggerty Family Foundation  
Hagman, Randy & Rose Marie  
Hanson, Barbara  
Hartnett, Michelle L.  
Havelka, Helen M.

Hervey, Carl  
Hogeboom, Peter & Sarah  
Huffman, Gary & Desiree  
Kichn, Todd & Maria  
Knight, Josie  
Kuhl, Walter  
Landa, Pete & Letty  
Lallanda, P. & M.C.  
Lally, Joseph & Joyce  
Lawler, Alice & Desmond  
Leblanc, Shirley  
Lloyd, Brandon & Lily  
Lockridge, Candace L.  
Loehr, Joan  
Marmonti, David & Mary K.  
Martinez, Rosalinda  
Mazurek, Edwin & Mary  
McAlister, Leigh  
McCarthy, Bishop John  
McDonald, Timothy  
McGarry, Mignon  
Miller, Mollie & Serrano, Edner  
Mullen, Michael  
Murray, Kevin & Hilary  
Myers-Carmouche, Amy  
Nelson, Gregory & Stephanie  
Newman, Barbara  
Nolan, Susan  
Oliver, Russell & Sharon  
Ownby, Liz & David  
Paschall, Dusty & Jennifer  
Pascoe, Neil & Susan  
Paul, Jennifer & Dwight  
Paver, Rhonda & William  
Penn, Walter  
Peters, Frank J.  
Peterson, Mary Jude & Ken  
Pfluger, Mary M.

Pickerill, Sarah & Phil  
Plauche, Breck  
Plummer, Roger D. & Melanie Jo  
Pluta, Joseph & Margo  
Poth, M. Kay  
Rankin Jr., Robert L.  
Reardon, Richard & Audrey  
Reed, Irene  
Robinson, Mary Ann  
Rodriguez, Lupe  
Rohlich, Mary  
Rye, Vim X & Marian  
Schmalz, Kristina  
Schmidt, Kurt & Martin, Sandra  
Scott, Fr. Robert T.  
Solis, Juanita  
Sonnenberg, Ford  
Sonnenberg, John & Catherine  
Stepp, Elizabeth F.  
Strickland, Vance  
Sullivan, James  
Susskind, Rachel & Harold  
Sutherland, Eloise  
Sweitzer, John & Sara  
Valdez, Carlos & Carlotta  
Venuto, Nicholas M. & Judith  
Wesselman, Sr. Jean  
Whisnant, Rodney & Elizabeth Francis  
White, Russell & Elyse  
Wiley, Stephanie  
Williams, Carlton  
Windberg, Thomas J.  
Woods, Lee A.  
Woodson, Lillian  
Worman, Mark & Kristen  
Wright, Frances  
Zacarias, J.L. Jr., M.D., & Esther  
Ziegler, Mary Alice

### In Memory Donations

#### *Donor*

Baxter, Rosario & David  
Baxter, Rosario & David  
Beuerlein, Steve D.  
Bieser, Sharon and David  
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn  
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn  
Carl, Donna M.  
Clerc, A.H.  
Field, Michael & Gliceria  
Foster, Denise  
Gentile, George & Margaret  
Gerling, Pat  
Hans, Harold & Anna  
Jackoskie, Jack & Claire  
Jarratt, Michael & Marcie  
Jarratt, Michael & Marcie  
Kennedy, Kelsey  
Landa, Leticia  
Landa, Leticia  
Landa, Leticia  
McCabe, Geraldine  
Oliver, Geneva  
Ownby, Clifford  
Pickerill, Sarah & Phil

#### *In Memory of*

Mattie Baylor  
Adela Mescado  
Julianna Beuerlien  
Gladys Hoppe  
Felix W. Jarratt  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Nan Gullahorn  
Helen Anderson  
James T. Brown  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Camille Hamilton  
Shirley Wells  
Helen Anderson  
Dolly Golden  
Joyce Gardner  
Helen Anderson  
Nan Gullahorn  
Velma Pearson  
Grandparents and Parents of  
Liz Ownby  
Helen Anderson

Pluta, Joseph & Margo  
Risher, David  
Rye, Vim X & Marian  
Sander, Herbert & Doris  
Sheridan, Claire  
Smith, Eva & Schwarz, Dennis  
Streit, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred R.  
Wesselman, Sr. Jean

### In Honor Donations

#### *Donor*

Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn  
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn  
Breen, Mary  
Demkowicz, Stasia & Leszelc  
Gomez, Comrado  
Hildreth, John Lee  
Kopp, David & Michelle  
McCullough, Walter  
Mikhail, Magdy  
Oliver, Russell & Sharon  
Oliver, Russell & Sharon  
Schroeder, Winona L.  
Seton Fund  
Sonnenberg, John & Catherine

Billie Provost  
Helen Anderson  
Felix Jarratt  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Helen Anderson  
Father Jim Weisner

#### *Honoree*

Marian Rye  
Clara Bohuslav  
Marion Breen  
Stefania Secha  
Patricia Melina & Michael Perry  
Matthews  
Jack & Patti Gullahorn  
Thomas Bohuslav  
Thomas Bohuslav  
Thomas Bohuslav  
Valeria Wimmer  
Geneva Oliver  
David Risher  
Daughters of Charity  
Patricia Ford



## 2009 Donations

---

### **Foundations/Government**

Anonymous  
City of Austin  
Daughters of Charity  
Donald D. Hammill Foundation  
Lola Wright Foundation  
Phipps Family Foundation  
Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless  
Topfer Family Foundation  
Travis County Medical Alliance  
Women's Fund of Central Texas

### **Corporate**

Boldin Insurance  
Combined Federal Campaign  
GT Land, LP  
KB Homes  
Hawkeye Partners, LP  
NRU Brodie Oaks, LP  
Seton Cares Campaign  
Venco Construction, LTD.  
United Way Capital Area

### **Community & Faith-based Groups**

ASID Texas Chapter  
Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas  
Daughters of Charity  
Holy Family Catholic School  
Knights of Columbus #8156  
Ladies of Charity Lake Travis  
Ladies of Charity of Austin  
Scottish Rite Dormitory  
St. Austin Catholic Church  
St. Austin's Paulist Fathers  
St. Catherine of Siena Church  
St. Mary Our Lady of the Lake WG  
St. Thomas More  
TPA

## **I Knew I Wasn't Alone – One Mother's Courageous Story**

By: \*Ashley, Former SLH Mother (\* Names have been changed for privacy.)

After my son was born, my ex-husband became physically, sexually and emotionally abusive toward me. My ex-husband would force me to have sex with him, and I would consent to avoid mistreatment. He used our baby to punish me. When he got angry, he would take my son away from me for several hours. If I tried to get close, he would threaten me.

I stayed because my child and I depended on my ex-husband, but once my son was two, I realized he was old enough to understand the abuse he was witnessing. I could suffer the abuse to protect him, but not if it was going to harm him, too.

I left that day for SafePlace, a shelter for families suffering from abuse, and never looked back. SafePlace referred me to Saint Louise House. I had no idea what a blessing I was about to receive. When I arrived at Saint Louise House, our apartment was fully furnished and decorated. I had no furniture at the time, and I was able to keep everything. There was even food in the refrigerator, a home-cooked meal with brownies for our first night. It really made me feel like my son and I were going to be ok. When I think about it now, it still brings tears to my eyes.

Saint Louise House is a place that delivers help and provides amazing support. I had wonderful relationships with my case managers, Arow and Karen. I called them my angels. In the 18 months I spent at Saint Louise House, I worked through my divorce, found employment for myself and daycare for my son. Arow helped me find the job I have now. Karen was there with me for all of the legal proceedings that accompanied my divorce. They both offered me so much support, assistance and advice. I do not think I would have made it through without them.

I also received a warm embrace of support from the community of mothers at Saint Louise House. The group meetings were really helpful. I always knew I wasn't alone, and that if I worked hard, I would make it.

And I did! Since leaving Saint Louise House, my life has definitely changed for the better. I have stable employment, a nice apartment and transportation. I feel independent and successful, and most importantly, I am able to provide for my child, which is a wonderful feeling.



## Saint Louise House Staff

Sharon Bieser, MSN, Executive Director  
 Rachel Akins, MSSW, Director of Capacity Building  
 Jim Boyle, Facilities Maintenance Manager  
 Helen Eisert, LMSW, Program Director  
 Pilar Halgunseth, LMSW, Counselor/Case Manager  
 Karen Hempel, Street Youth Meal Program Coordinator/Case Manager  
 Jack Hooper, Facilities Maintenance Worker  
 Arow Parsons-Pineda, Admissions Specialist/Case Manager  
 Marisol Vasquez, MTS, Volunteer & In-Kind Donations Coordinator



## Saint Louise House Board of Directors

### **The Rev. Steven Bell, CSP**

Associate Pastor, St. Austin Catholic Parish

### **Katy Bohuslav – Secretary**

Community Volunteer

### **Kristen Goodson Clark**

Attorney at Law

### **Sr. Jean Thomas Dwyer, DC**

Advocacy & Outreach Consultant, Seton Family of Hospitals

### **Chuck Gembinski, LCSW Emeritus**

Training Services Specialist, Texas CASA, Inc.

### **George Gentile – Treasurer**

Owner, Culver's Restaurant

### **Richard (Rick) L. Gerber – Chair**

Business Administrator, St. Austin Catholic Parish

### **Dan Grant**

Consultant

### **Sr. Sharon Groetsch, DC**

Pastoral Associate, St. Austin Catholic Parish

### **Jack Wallace Gullahorn – Past Chair**

Attorney at Law

### **Sarah Evans Hogeboom**

Vice President, Edelman

### **Letty Landa – Chair Elect**

Community Volunteer

### **Liz Ownby, LMSW**

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, Austin

### **Karen Ranus**

Director, Social Justice Ministries, St. Austin Catholic Church

### **E.E. “Jack” Richards, II**

Patent Attorney, Trop, Pruner & Hu, P.C.

### **Donn Schumaker**

Strategic Planning, Mergers & Acquisition Director  
 3M Electro and Communications Business

### **Lynne Wiggins**

Attorney / Investment Advisor

### **Fr. Bill Wack, CSC**

Pastor, St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic Church

### **Curtis Wren**

Executive Vice President, Omni Bank

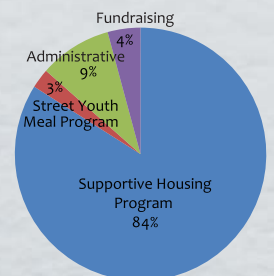
## 2009 Financials

### Revenue

Grants	\$164,586
General Public Donations	\$136,961
Rental Income	\$116,280
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$54,409
Contract Income	\$39,764
Other	\$29,502
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$541,502</b>

### Expenses

Programs:	
• Supportive Housing Program	\$615,872
• Street Youth Meal Program	\$18,330
Administrative	\$68,185
Fundraising	\$30,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$733,181</b>







## The Heart of Saint Louise House

By: Ana Brandz, SLH Volunteer

After moving to Austin last year, I began to search for a place where I could volunteer. I found myself pondering one question: which organization? I can't explain why, but many of the organizations I looked at didn't feel right; they weren't what I was looking for. One day, at church, I signed up for volunteering and a week later Saint Louise House contacted me. I went to the information meeting and fell in love with the work they were doing. I liked that Saint Louise House was not just about giving people what they needed, but teaching them how to get it on their own. The program was about helping beautiful human beings work toward their fullest potential, which was something I wanted to be a part of.

In November, I started helping out with childcare, playing and taking care of the children while the mothers were in their weekly meetings. My experience at childcare was better each time I attended. The children became used to seeing me and trusted me a bit more each day; they opened up and I got to know the different personalities of these wonderful kids. It became obvious that despite their past situations, they were now recovering and were genuinely happy.

Currently, I work in the office one afternoon per week giving support to the case managers on various tasks. As far as my work at the office goes, I consider myself very lucky to work with the Saint Louise House staff. The staff members are so intent on making everyone feel safe and comfortable. It's no wonder all the program participants look so at ease. I also deem myself privileged to be a part of this organization that, in my opinion, plays such a wonderful role in giving these families the tools they need to restart their lives.

All in all, I am really happy to be a volunteer at Saint Louise House and I look forward to keep helping Saint Louise fulfill its mission: empowering women with children in Austin to overcome homelessness.

## Program Highlights

- Since 2001, 109 families have called Saint Louise House (SLH) "home"
- In 2009, 31 families, including 59 children and 2 grandmothers, received housing & services
- 83% of families who exited SLH in 2009 moved into safe and stable housing
- Nearly 50% of mothers living at SLH in 2009 advanced their education
- 100% of mothers received weekly case management
- SLH acquired a 24-unit apartment complex with City of Austin GO Bond funding, increasing our housing capacity to 46 units
- More than 900 meals were prepared and served by volunteers to homeless youth through the Street to Youth Meal Program hosted at St. Austin Catholic Church
- \$10,000 in Austin Energy Customer Assistance Program funds was distributed to individuals in the Austin community in need of utility assistance

## Volunteer Impact

- Volunteers contributed 1,983 hours to Saint Louise House in 2009 equaling to \$41,345 \*
- Services provided by volunteers include apartment set up, painting, cooking & serving meals, babysitting and specialized skills in the areas of medicine, accounting, technology, landscaping and graphic design
- At Saint Louise House, we have volunteers of all ages, and include both men and women
- Volunteers regularly commit between 1-8 hours a month

\* The estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2009 is \$20.85 per hour. Independent Sector. "Value of Volunteer Time." (2010).





---

**SAINT LOUISE HOUSE**

---

2026 Guadalupe Street  
Austin, Texas 78705



---

**SAINT LOUISE HOUSE**

---

Build. Believe. Become.

**Welcome Home to Saint Louise House**

...empowering women with children to overcome homelessness.



*Thank you for your generous donations in 2009. Your gifts have made it possible for Saint Louise House families to secure jobs, advance their educations, eat healthy meals around the table as a family and sleep safely in warm beds at night.*