



HUMAN SERVICES
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Compassionate San Antonio

Department of Human Services' Faith-Based Initiative
Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report



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This report was prepared by the Department of Human Services.
It can be viewed on-line at:

sanantonio.gov/humanservices/FaithBased
[#CompassionateSA](https://twitter.com/CompassionateSA)

✉ FaithBasedInitiative@SanAntonio.org



Learning & Leading with Compassion



May 1st Tricentennial Anniversary Celebration held on Main Plaza in front of San Fernando Cathedral. Leaders from 24 diverse spiritual, faith and religious expressions led the celebration in words, blessings and candlelight.

The June 2017 City Council Resolution as a Compassionate City:

Recognizes our City as compassionate while encouraging the learning of compassion among all ages

Supports initiatives that make our city more compassionate while accepting support from other organizations

Records San Antonio stories of compassion while leading others through the modeling of actions.

San Antonio is the first Compassionate City globally for its civic leaders to participate in a systems based compassion training for policy and decision making. The Mayor, the City Manager's offices and the Department of Human Services as well as three council offices have participated in compassion integrity training.

Since those resolves and in FY2018:

12 Compassionate Cities have come to San Antonio to learn in like manner.

32 San Antonians are now in the certification process as Compassion Integrity Training facilitators.

Our Lady of the Lake University is reviewing all curriculums for adherence to compassionate systems.

4000 SA-stories of compassion have been recorded from within local media and can be found at: sanantonio.gov/humanservices/FaithBased

Compassion indexing via a 20-item survey across the city indicates greater compassion towards others than self.



HUMAN SERVICES
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

MISSION

The Department of Human Services exists to improve the quality of life for San Antonio's most vulnerable residents.

Department of Human Services Long Term Outcomes:

Children and Youth are safe, healthy, resilient, and ready to succeed in school and life
Individuals and Families are financially secure and in stable housing
Seniors are healthy, engaged, and independent
Homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring



MISSION

Improving the lives of families and communities most in need through compassionate actions

VISION

Compassionate equity being shared and experienced via intentional partnerships between the faith community, government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups across all of San Antonio.

Community Concerns engaged in Action Plans that maximize DHS' Long Term Outcomes:

Generational Poverty
Homelessness & Hunger
Immigration & Refugees
Literacy
Children & Foster Care
Mental Health
Public Health
Religious Discrimination

Improving the Lives of Families and Communities

\$13,000

of food cards for immigrant families* due to new Urgent Action Alert network

1,000

donated fans for Seniors*

200

installed smoke detectors

210

ID recoveries among the Homeless*

19

tons of new blankets and winter wear donated

32

local compassion facilitators trained

650

more families* being fed via new food pantries

4

new food pantries opened in congregations

1

DHS Faith-Based Initiative



"Life is pretty much impossible once someone loses their ID or has it stolen. You can't get a job. You can't rent an apartment. The process and path can be daunting. Our congregational volunteers go out almost daily finding people living there without this type of life access. And, almost daily we're able to help at least 1 person reclaim their ID. We fill out paper work. We drive them to the places they need to go for paperwork. We usually share a meal as the process takes time. We get to know each other. We form a relationship. They get on a path out of homelessness. It's pretty simple. The really wonderful thing is how this inspires people in our congregation."

- An Initiative Volunteer

***Maximizing DHS Long Term Outcomes for Children, Youth, Seniors, Homelessness, and Families.**

Co-Laboring through Relationships



1,000

faith leaders in
the Initiative's
network

700

registered in
Urgent Action
Alert texting
system

100

skilled residents
and volunteers
serving in **12**
Action Teams

64

congregations
within **4 of 10**
Council Districts
partnering together
as resourcing
centers

*"Participating in the Faith-Based Initiative...
... allows our congregations to meet and more fully participate
with other charitable organizations in the City.
...broadens our understanding of organizations and initiatives
going on in our City.
...helps us to empower our own faith communities in
responding to the urgent needs of others."*

-Members of the Initiative's Working Group, a representative sampling of leaders
from within San Antonio's diverse faith traditions and religions

Activating Partnerships & Networking Services

"They handed us this map the first time we gathered together as congregations and we knew instantly what was needed, and where. We could also see who we needed to work with just down the street or across the way. I never met this guy before and now we're partnering, the services that we offer into our neighborhood, planning together, and even better we are friends! We weren't even colleagues before."

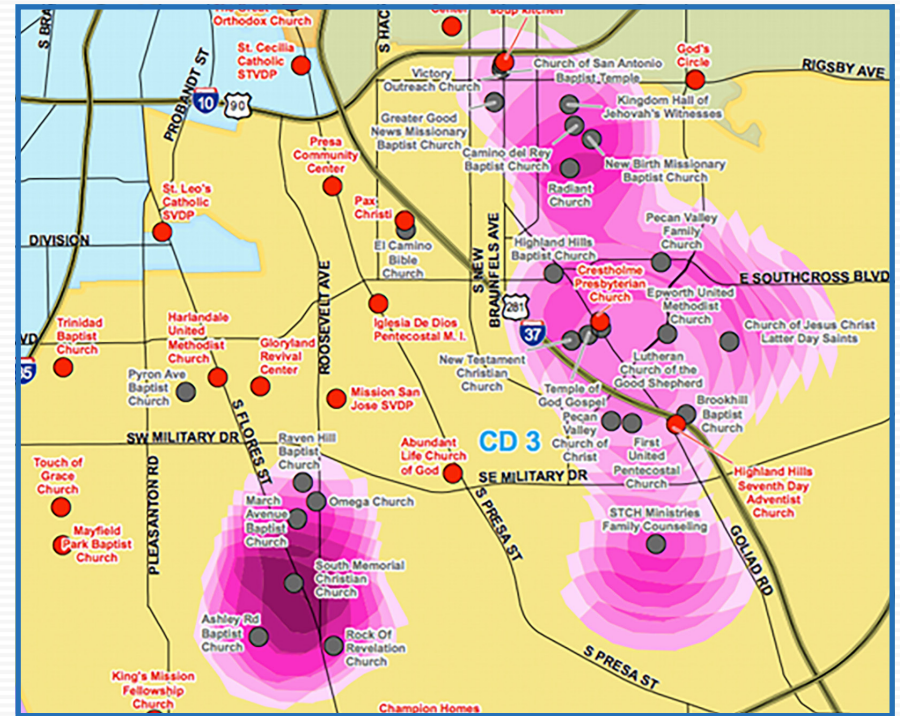
- One District 3 clergyman pointing to another clergyman

The Initiative activates partnerships between congregations, government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups. Each Action Team contains several partnering entities with these as working examples to relationships through service:

Community Concerns Action Plans

- **Generational Poverty with Head Start***
(Grand-parent campaign)
- **Homelessness* & Hunger with the San Antonio Food Bank**
(establishing food pantries)
- **Immigration & Refugees*** with the Interfaith Welcome Coalition
(bus station and airport)
- **Literacy with San Antonio Youth*** Literacy
(reading buddies)
- **Children* & Foster Care with the University of Texas San Antonio**
(teens transitioning out of foster care)
- **Mental Health with National Alliance on Mental Health***
(offering Mental Health 101 in congregations)
- **Public Health* with University of Texas Health**
(initiating maternal health groups in congregations)
- **Religious Diversity with SA300** (May 1st interfaith celebration)

***Maximizing DHS Long Term Outcomes for Children, Youth, Seniors, Homelessness, and Families**



Data map of District 3 areas of high need (pink), congregations within those high need areas (gray dots) and food pantries throughout District 3 (red dots).



Serving Locally & Participating Globally



Interfaith Welcome Coalition providing backpacks and presence as families transition through the bus station on their way to their future home.

Participation grew from **464** San Antonio faith leaders in 2017 to **1000** serving together in 2018! The Urgent Action Alert network did not exist in 2017 and in 2018 there are **700** participants! **73%** of participants agree that the Faith-Based Initiative is making a difference in San Antonio. **60%** agree that San Antonio is becoming a more compassionate community.

San Antonio is one of 400+ Compassionate Cities internationally and recognized as a leading model.

University of Texas San Antonio is performing mental health research within congregations.

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute researched all faith-based mental health initiatives in San Antonio and Bexar County.

New York University facilitated a pilot project with San Antonio faith leaders in terms of civic engagement and now taking on the concerns of affordable housing in the City.

Auburn Seminary is researching the Initiative's interfaith model in terms of potential among immigrants and refugees.

Key Priorities

Priorities for the Faith-based initiative in FY 2019 include:

- Engaging compassion in broader and more visible ways throughout San Antonio
- Establishing the resourcing directory into a viable platform of sustainability
- Formulating replication and expansion strategies from Community Concern Action Plans for deeper implementation throughout City (Year 3 of 5-Year Plan)

“What is happening in San Antonio and at the intersection of faith and society is quite stunning. There is nothing else like the San Antonio Pathways to Hope Mental Health Conference across the U.S. This city’s full engagement of the Charter for Compassion International is unprecedented at this level of leadership. Like other cities, San Antonio can learn from others but other cities can definitely be learning from San Antonio’s leaders.”

- Ben O’Dell, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Faith-Liaison



Nineteen tons of donated new blankets and winter wear due to one Urgent Action Alert text.

Looking Forward & Preparing for 300 More Years

Faith-Based Initiative 5-Year Plan

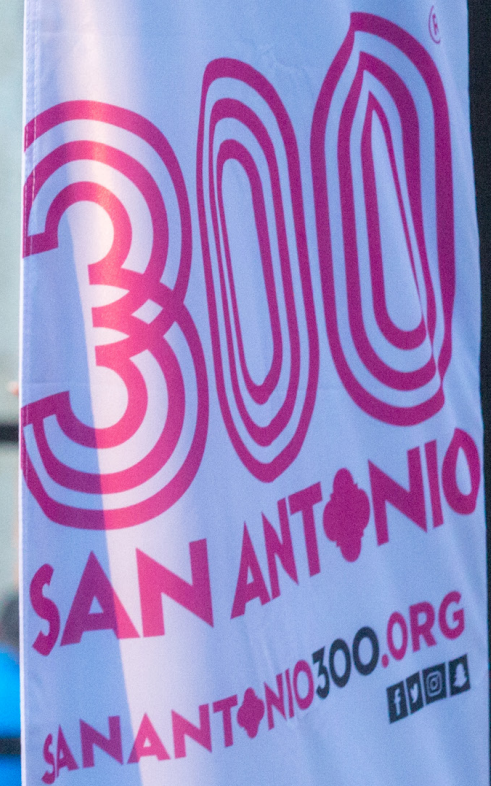
Implementation towards sustainability and scalability:

- 2017** Assess and engage faith community participation in overall Community Concerns and Initiative plans
- 2018** Implement action plans towards replicable models & measurable baselines
- 2019** Engage replication and expansion strategies for deeper implementation throughout the City
- 2020** Implement further adjustment and replication strategies based on metrics
- 2021** Faith-based initiatives established in areas of need across the community, towards sustainable growth within the City's projected population growth



“These Missions, and San Antonio, are a work in progress. More challenges await us. Be part of the next phase of our history. Commit to getting involved in making this community the best it can be, where everyone is valued and our values guide our common life. Be a positive person. Live a positive life. Always remember, we are in this together.”

Father David Garcia, Director of Old Spanish Missions of San Antonio



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