

For I was hungry and
you gave me food, I was
thirsty and you gave me
drink, a stranger and
you welcomed me.

- Matt. 25:35



La Posada Providencia

2009-10 Annual Report

Measuring Success One Person at a Time

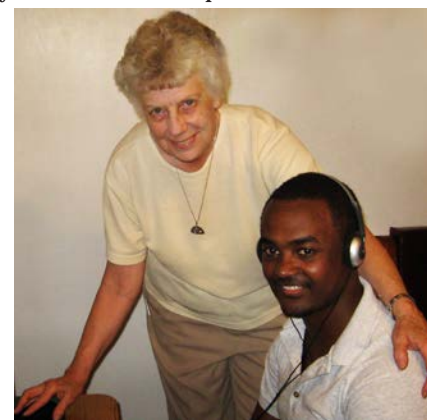
Typically, an annual report is an opportunity to recount accomplishments and changes over the past year. In the case of La Posada Providencia, our accomplishments are not big events. They are the small signs of growth and development that happen every day – not to our programming or facilities – but within the clients we serve.

Our greatest accomplishment during the past year is helping 226 people start a new life.

Two hundred twenty-six men, women and children came to La Posada between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 because they had nowhere else to go. Most of them did not know English. They had no job, no money, very few possessions. Many had endured severe hardships on their journey to the United States: some had walked hundreds of miles; some had been imprisoned, even tortured. All were hungry and exposed to the elements. They were survivors.

While at La Posada, these same people learned the English language, United States currency, customs and skills. They pursued their court cases to remain in this country legally. They studied, sought and gained employment, and saved for the future. They helped one another and the staff at La Posada. They were able to focus on their futures because they did not have to worry about whether they would eat that day or where they would sleep that night.

Their success is our success – yours and La Posada's. This report contains statistics and numbers. We hope you'll keep in mind that these statistics represent real people, real lives and real accomplishments. You've helped 226 people retain hope and begin anew. Thank you.



Sister Zita Telkamp, CDP

Zita Telkamp, CDP
Program Director

Highlights:

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- Profile, page 8

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La Posada Providencia

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San Benito, TX 78586

Tel: (956) 399-3826

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How We Used Your Gifts

Source of Funds

Grants and Contributions
\$155,467



Sisters of Divine Providence
\$48,000

Fundraisers
\$20,165



Rent, Guest Offerings, Interest
\$16,879

How Funds were Used

Client Services



\$204,381



Administration \$31,050

Thank You!

Grants Awarded July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

The Sisters of Divine Providence and the staff of La Posada Providencia thank the following funders who partner with us to "welcome the stranger":

Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation	\$ 2,500
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$10,000
Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL	\$ 5,000
James R. Dougherty Foundation	\$ 1,000
Kenedy Memorial Foundation	\$ 5,000
LCWR Region 12 Border Fund	\$ 3,000
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	\$ 4,950
Porticus North America Foundation	\$21,000
Scanlan Foundation	\$ 7,500
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate	\$ 2,584
Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods	\$ 1,000
Texas Emergency Grant Shelter Program	\$ 46,813
Texas Emergency Grant Shelter Program*	\$ 21,469
Rachael & Ben Vaughan Foundation	\$ 5,500

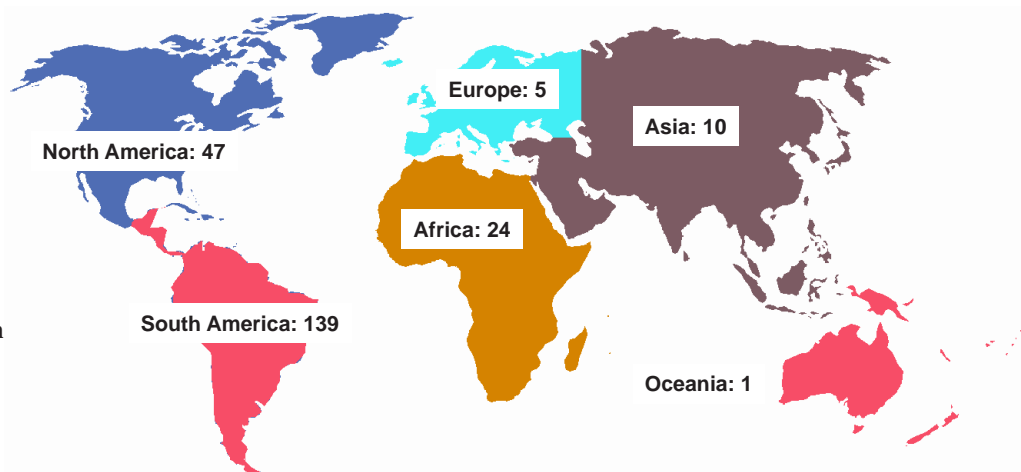
* Additional award subsequently granted

A Glimpse at the People Who Shared their Journeys with La Posada

During the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, La Posada Providencia welcomed 226 men, women and children from 34 different countries. There were more men (109) than women (66), and 51 beautiful children kept us on our toes.

From Bangladesh to Zimbabwe, clients came to La Posada. El Salvador was the country of origin for the highest number of clients, 66, followed by Honduras (32) and Cuba (22).

People came from lands as exotic as Egypt, Uzbekistan and the Marshall Islands and as "traditional" as Ireland and Poland. We welcomed them all with love and compassion, and considered ourselves privileged to play a part in their journey. We are delighted to have helped with the accomplishments listed below.



La Posada ...

- served 16,843 meals.
- logged 4,153 hours of classes. Volunteers gave 14,550 hours in all manner of service!
- referred 100% of clients to appropriate services. (social services, legal-aid, education, and health)
- transported 100% of clients to needed services.

Outcomes

- 80% of clients followed through with their goals during shelter stay.
- 70% of clients showed improvement in job readiness.
- 100% of job-ready clients sought and/or gained employment by end of residency.



- 20 clients received Social Security Numbers.

- 27 clients obtained work permits.

- 7 clients received asylum. (Read Abebaw's story on page eight.)

- 85% of those who achieved asylum began to live independently.
- 4 clients received Permanent Resident Cards.
- 17 clients obtained Texas State drivers license/ID.

La Posada Providencia, Founded 1989

La Posada Providencia celebrated its 20th anniversary during the past fiscal year. Twenty years of providing safe shelter to immigrants, asylum-seekers and asylees who come to our country seeking a better life ... and they continue to come.

The impetus for La Posada came from Lois Lawler, formerly Sister Alice, then the director of a nonprofit organization providing legal assistance to refugees. The agency's clients often arrived in south Texas with

nothing after surviving terror in their home countries and a treacherous journey to freedom. They received legal help from *Proyecto Libertad*, but had no place to stay. "The need was mind-boggling," Lois Lawler now recalls.

Sister Alice put forward a proposal to her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence, to sponsor a shelter to help this vulnerable population. With the sponsorship of the Sisters, La Posada was born, with Sister Carolyn (now Hilary) Hooks as the first program director. In the 20 years since the first client arrived in December, 1989, we have welcomed 5,526 people from more than 70 countries. The mission remains the same: to provide a safe and welcoming home to people in crisis from around the world.



La Posada's first program director, Hilary (formerly Carolyn) Hooks, CDP with some of the first clients.

Thank you to our partners

The Sisters of Divine Providence are blessed to share our ministry with many others who care about our brothers and sisters seeking a new home in our beloved country. In particular, we thank the following who have shared so generously with us during the past fiscal year:

A

Angela Abrego
AEP Texas Central Co.
Norma Iris Alonzo
Ambiotec Civil Engineering Group, Inc.
American Surveillance Co., Inc.
Anonymous
Antonios Mexican Village
Archer Business Systems, Inc.
AT&T (Anonymous Employee)

B

John A. Bachmann
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Gilberto Y. Barrera
Margaret A. Barrett
Mary C. Barrett
Susan Barrett
Janice Beaman
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G

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Jaime Adrian Garcia
Wilmer A. Garcia
Dr. Carmen Garcia-Caceres
Howard Gillogly
Blanca Gonzalez
Jodilyn M. Goodwin

La Posada Benefits the Community



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me ..." (Mathew 25:35)

I feel called by these words from Matthew. I want to share my love of Christ with others, and I enjoy serving others as a way to live my faith. La Posada Providencia gives me one way to do that.

La Posada benefits our community by providing shelter and basic human needs to those in real need. We are called to serve the hungry and the homeless, but practically speaking, our community is a better place when everyone has a safe place to sleep, food to eat and opportunities to work.

*~ Deborah Grayson,
La Posada Program Board Chair*

Matthew Gorges
Mary F. Gough
Debbie Grayson
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H

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Knights of Columbus, San Benito
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Virgil and Mary Jane Koechner

L

LCWR Region 12 Border Project Fund
Marion Therese Lee
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Angelique Lichtenberg
Kenneth & Mickey Linck
Meredith Linsky
John G. Lopez, Jr.

Bearing Witness

I'm very grateful to God that La Posada Providencia is here because of the important example it gives to others in our community. The way they pray together and work together as a community gives witness to others to welcome the stranger. Their witness can encourage others to be hospitable and welcoming.

La Posada is very important for the way it helps individuals become integrated. La Posada builds a bridge by helping clients learn the language and the customs. The support and the encouragement they give is so important.

I am impressed with the set-up of La Posada, by its community, by the way they are respectful to each other. People from so many diverse cultures co-exist there peacefully.

~ Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, Bishop of Brownsville

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Q

Kathleen A. Quinlan

R

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Mary Jerome Roberts, CDP
John James Rodemann
Beatriz Rodriguez
Rosa G. Rosas
Mary [O'Grady] E. Rose
Rev. John C. Rosemeyer
Rue's Sewing Maching & Vacuum
Anna Maria Ruiz



Filling a Critical Need

La Posada fills a critical need in South Texas by providing food, shelter, education and access to religious and social services to a population that is often marginalized and forgotten. At La Posada immigrants and refugees find not only shelter, but a family-like environment where they are embraced by the staff and other residents from the day they arrive. The individuals who reach La Posada have often spent several months in immigration detention centers where they have endured difficult, prison-like conditions. These are people who have fled persecution or other harm in their home countries and are uncertain about their futures. La Posada is a resting stop, a place to recharge and begin to plan for a brighter future.



~ Meredith Linsky, Director, ProBAR

S

Christina & Shaker Sadasivam
St. Francis/Holy Ghost School Fourth
Grade Class
St. Theresa's Church
Violeta M. Discua Salamanca
Salinas Pharmacy
Sylvia L. Sanchez
Scanlan Foundation
Mary Magdalen Schmidt
Roland J. Schoenhoff
Ana Garcia Schulz
Selina D. Salinas Investments, Inc.
Stephen A. Shamlian
Shepard & Walton Life Insurance
Agency
Jane Siebel
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Sisters of Divine Providence
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Sisters of the Holy Spirit & Mary
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Sisters of the Incarnate Word and
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Frank & Agnes Smuda
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T

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U

Sue Underwood

V

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Rachael and Ben Vaughan Foundation
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Dolores Villarreal
Gary P. Vogt
Robert Voss

W

Paula S. Waddle Estate
Virginia B. Waddle
Polly Wand
James R. Weiss
Gil & Teresa Weyhaupt

Jack L. Wilborn
Charles E. Wiswall
Joan Wolf, CDP

Y

Martha Yang, CDP
Rolando Yarritu, M.D.
Danny Ybarra
Mary Ann Young

Z

Norbert E. Zimmermann

In Honor of ...

The following is a list of the people in whose name we received a gift, with the donor's named listed below.

2010 Jubilarians
Joan Wolf, CDP

Otto Fischer
Maurice F. Markway

Jodi Goodwin & Guadalupe Ortega, III
Meredith Linsky

Jubilee of Zita Telkamp, CDP
Diane Bailey

Marcellus Markway
Maurice F. Markway

Emily Meehan, CDP
Barb Lehmann

Margaret Mertens, CDP
Virginia Becker

Ana G. Schulz
Marion Lee

Rosella Uding, CDP
John F. Wand

Mike & Robyn Weibacker
Diane Bailey

There when Needed

I was in Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention for a year and three months. After this time, my deportation officer called ProBAR (a nonprofit legal aid society for immigrants and asylum-seekers) to help me out, since I did not have any family in the U.S. I was released from detention on July 8, 2009 and was brought to La Posada, where I met the Sisters of Divine Providence and was greatly helped by them – clothes and other things were supplied to me.



I was at La Posada for almost 10 months altogether, and finally I won my case. (Not for asylum, but for withholding of removal, whereby I can work freely in America.) Thanks to Sister Thérèse and Sister Zita, who stood by me in my time of difficulty.

May God continually supply their needs according to His riches in glory.

~ Omolara Adedayo, former client

(Omolara was born in Nigeria. She was detained by ICE in Maryland in 2008.)

Thank you to our generous friends who have chosen to remain anonymous. While your name does not appear on these pages, it is recorded in our hearts and spoken in our prayers.

Did we miss you?

We sincerely apologize if your name has been overlooked or listed incorrectly. If we need to correct our records, please contact Colleen Price at cprice@divineprovidencesisters.org or 314-209-9181.

Your information will help us avoid making the same mistake in the future. Thank you!

In Memory of...

My wife, Angeline Baczewski
Frank Baczewski

Eula Imogene Brindley
Ralph H. Brindley

Guadalupe Carranza
Beatris Carranza

Mary C. and Norman Danheiser
Norma Lesko

M. Severine Hennesthal, CDP
Margaret A. Barrett

Rev. Jim Krings
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Payton

Deceased members of the AI and Marie Markway family
Maurice F. Markway

Markway & Winkelman Family
Maurice F. Markway

Bernadette Meyer, CDP
LaVerne M. Sauer

Ferdinand Marie Meyer, CDP
LaVerne M. Sauer

Teresa C. Price
Jessica N. Essex
Jane Siebel
John and Sue Hankey
Imogene F. Hobelman
Mary Ellen Groark
Dolores J. Huddleston
Marcella Sweetin
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Carla Heimburger
Donald S. Elliott, Jr.
Rose Mary Vierdag
Mary F. Gough
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Linck
Communication Workers of America
Local 6300
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Stuart and Mary Birkenmeier
Patricia Malinowski
Judith P. Filter
Kathleen B. Price

Robert Romanic
Helen Romanic

Kathleen (Kathie) Vogt
Therese & Steven Meyerhoff
Gary P. Vogt
Angelique Lichtenberg

Paula Waddle
Virginia Waddle

Tuesdays in Texas

Want to keep in touch with the news from La Posada? Program Director Sister Zita Telkamp sends a brief email each week with just a sampling of the news from the shelter. Some of her messages are funny, some are touching, some will break your heart — all reflect daily life at La Posada Providencia.

To subscribe for the free newsletter, please visit our website, www.LPPShelter.org. Provide the information requested on the home page. (Just your name and email address.) Or contact Therese Meyerhoff at 314-209-9181 or tmeyerhoff@divineprovidencesisters.org.

La Posada Providencia is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Divine Providence.



After a Long Journey, Abebaw Reaches His Goal

Political asylum, according to the dictionary, is the decision by a country's government to allow within its border a person from another country and to protect that person from prosecution and persecution by the other country's government.

Asylum, according to our clients, is a dream come true.

When Abebaw Shiefer Habta talks about his life in Ethiopia, tiny beads of perspiration form on his forehead as he recalls his near death experiences. In 2005, as a 19-year-old college student, Abebaw spoke out against the oppressive government and suffered as a political prisoner for three months. He was beaten frequently, slept on the floor, received food only once a day and had no change of clothes.

He was imprisoned again for a month in 2005 for expressing his political opinion and was released after being forced to sign a document forfeiting his freedom of speech. Later, his mother's house was searched five consecutive days looking for Abebaw. Each time she was beaten, because she refused to reveal his location. His brother was also imprisoned and Abebaw believes he has either been executed or has died from the torture.

On May 29, 2009, Abebaw escaped to Kenya, then on to Mozambique, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, then a Mexican jail before crossing the border into the United States on May 26, 2010. He spent 7 ½ months in detention before receiving asylum on November 4, 2010.

"La Posada gave me food, shelter and love," he said as he prepared to move on. "They helped me speak English better and helped me obtain a Social Security card and work permit ... and lots more."

The next stop on Abebaw's long journey is the East Coast, where he will join a fellow Ethiopian whom he met in detention.

Abebaw is grateful to La Posada for providing him with a welcoming, peaceful place and time to make plans for his future in the United States while awaiting his work permit.



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