



San Antonio Housing Authority
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News Release

Date: Nov. 16, 2009
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VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED SAN ANTONIO RESIDENTS

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority’s (SAHA) Education Investment Foundation (EIF) hopes to make the upcoming holiday season a little more festive for more than 1,000 elderly and disabled residents through its 12th annual Golden Gala and a holiday gift drive.

The annual Golden Gala is an opportunity for elderly and disabled residents living in public housing to enjoy a meal, entertainment and gifts. Nearly 1,000 residents are expected to attend this year’s event Dec. 18 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Approximately 55% of SAHA’s clients are elderly or disabled.

“For some of our residents, this annual event is the only celebration they will experience during the holidays,” said Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA President and CEO.

For residents unable to attend the gala, the EIF and volunteers are collecting gifts to distribute. Currently, they are seeking monetary donations as well as new gifts, including books, toiletry items, blankets, sweaters, board games, dishes, and other items residents may enjoy.

In addition, the EIF is also seeking volunteers to assist with the Golden Gala and collection and distribution of gifts.

“Events like the Golden Gala provide an opportunity to bring residents and staff together to celebrate the holidays as a community,” said Castro Ramirez. “But we can’t do it alone. Our partners and the generosity of individuals in our community help make our efforts a success.”

All money and gifts collected for this effort will benefit the Golden Gala and the holiday gift distribution. To volunteer or provide monetary or gift support, contact Lisa Ballesteros at (210) 477-6031 or lisa_ballesteros@saha.org.

Sponsors for this year’s Golden Gala include Cima Hospice, Dominion Care Home Health, House Call Doctors, Southern Medical Equipment, Valero, and WellMed.

In addition to organizing the Golden Gala, the EIF provides educational opportunities for the residents of SAHA’s housing programs through college scholarships and perfect attendance awards. Since 1998, the Foundation has awarded 314 students with \$471,000 in scholarships.

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