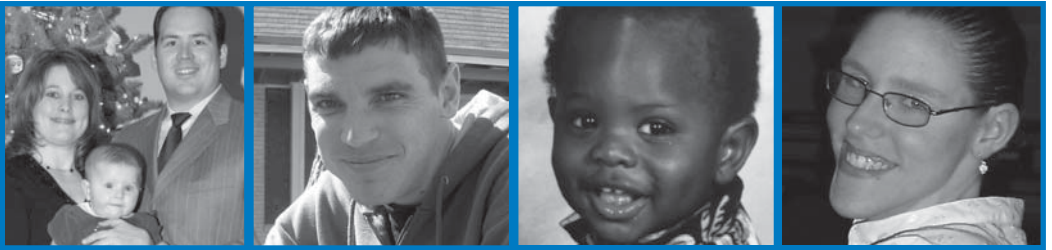


Blue SKIES

SUMMER 2009



Methodist Mission Home

Giving God's Children a Faith, a Family, a Future

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Sharing his bright outlook on life

Jeffrey Bohan succeeds at the Southwest Center for Higher Independence

Jeffrey Bohan was never the kind of kid who needed a lot of help from grownups. Born and raised in San Antonio, Jeffrey remembers how much he loved riding his bicycle around the neighborhood and mowing the grass on his family's riding lawnmower.

When Jeffrey was 12 years old, doctors diagnosed him with muscular dystrophy (MD). MD is a genetic muscle disease that gradually weakens the muscles of the body. Jeffrey didn't feel the effects of MD until he was 14. He fractured his leg and spent six weeks in a cast. Jeffrey lost so much leg muscle strength he was unable to walk when the fracture was healed. It was a tough challenge knowing he wouldn't be able to do the things he once enjoyed. "It was difficult to accept at first," Jeffrey said. "But once I accepted it, I learned to live with it."

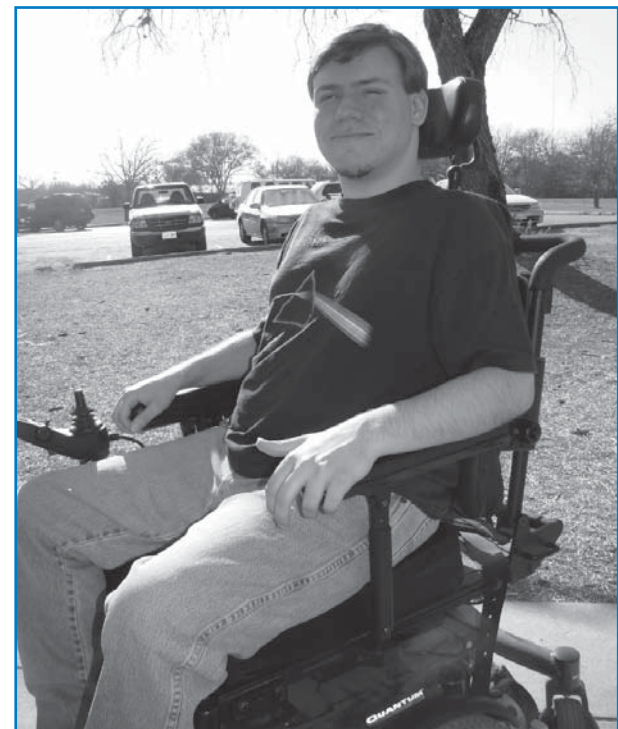
Despite his positive outlook, Jeffrey knew it was going to be harder to be as independent as he once was. Yet, he was confident he could learn to get around just as well as before and not have to rely too much on others.

"My family had to help me with quite a few things," Jeffrey said. "But I never used my disability as an excuse."

After graduating from New Braunfels Canyon High School in 2005, Jeffrey wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do with his life. He liked being at home, but found it a bit tedious after a while and wanted to do something to better himself.

Through his counselor at the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Jeffrey and his family learned about the Southwest Center for Higher Independence (SCHH) at Methodist Mission Home. At SCHH, young adults with disabilities are offered vocational and life skills training so they can learn to live independently.

"I get along with everyone really well, so it seemed like I would fit in," Jeffrey said. "I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I was excited."



Jeffrey Bohan enrolled in the Southwest Center for Higher Independence in May 2008. He's never let his muscular dystrophy hinder his positive attitude and willingness to work hard.

In May 2008, Jeffrey enrolled in SCHH where – for the last 10 months – he has excelled in everything from basic work skills in the Work Training Center to washing clothes and figuring out the bus routes around San Antonio.

"I like being independent," Jeffrey said. "I don't like relying too much on other people. The classes at SCHH have a lot of good information I can apply almost immediately."

His overall personality is what helps him succeed at SCHH, says Workforce Development Director Joann Schmidt.

"Jeffrey is very polite and kindhearted," Joann



Privacy Policy

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See Muscular Dystrophy...Page 2

MMH ADMINISTRATION

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Executive Director

HELEN RUTTENBERG
Family Services Director

DENNIS TUCKER
SCHI Director

CATHERINE WALKER
Development Director

MIKE COUNTRYMAN
Planned & Major
Gifts Director

KIKO MARTINEZ
Marketing Director

SAREN SPICER
Development Coordinator

REV. GINA SYMONS
Chaplain

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- A. RAY STEPHENS
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- CINDY VANOVER
- ABEL VEGA, JR.
- KAREN WELLS

FROM MY HEART

Hope fills our Home and our hearts. Our ministry is built on a foundation of Hope. Hope is the key to our ministry's success.

SCHI students like Jeffery Bohan exude hope through their optimism and desire to overcome the challenges of a disability. Their aspirations of achieving a personal level of independence through SCHI are an inspiration.

Adoptive families like Jaime and Yolanda Flores rely on faith as they trust MMH to help them realize their dream of adopting a child.

Churches, large and small, realize their gifts open doors of possibility for people who may have lost hope.

People like you give generously and fulfill your wish for a better world.

May our expectation of hope continue to guide our Home.

With a hopeful heart,

Jennifer Sample
Executive Director



Muscular Dystrophy doesn't stop Jeffrey



Jeffrey tosses a frisbee during the SCHI Olympic Games last year.

said. "A lot of the staff really cherish him. He is very special. He is an individual who really wants to become more independent."

Currently, Jeffrey is working with an SCHI Job Coach to find a position as a Customer Service Representative. "I've never had a real job before," Jeffrey said. "I'm ready for it, but I'm a little nervous at the same time."

He also has aspirations to attend college at San Antonio College in the fall, major in Engineering, and move into his own apartment. "It's really been helpful here at SCHI," Jeffrey said. "Everyone's been really nice and I've made a lot of friends."

Blue Skies is the official newsletter of Methodist Mission Home. Your comments, suggestions and ideas for future issues are most welcome!

Please write:

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E-mail

kiko@mmhome.org

Or visit us on the Web at:

www.mmhome.org

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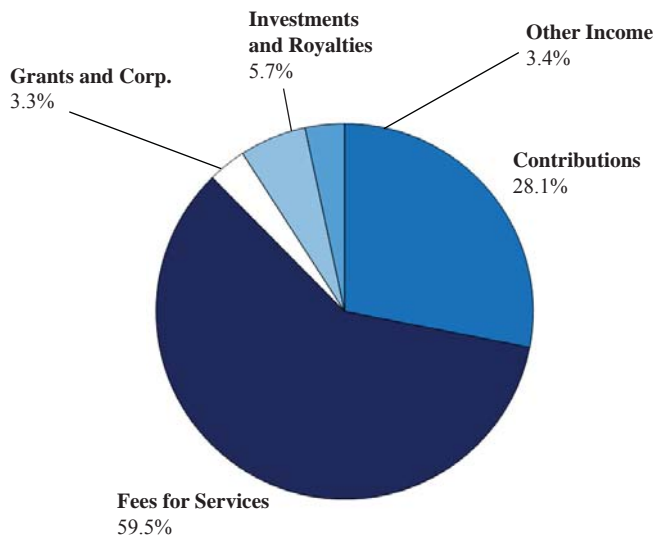
Methodist Mission Home
Giving God's Children a Faith, a Family, a Future

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

2008 Donations

Church donations by Conference

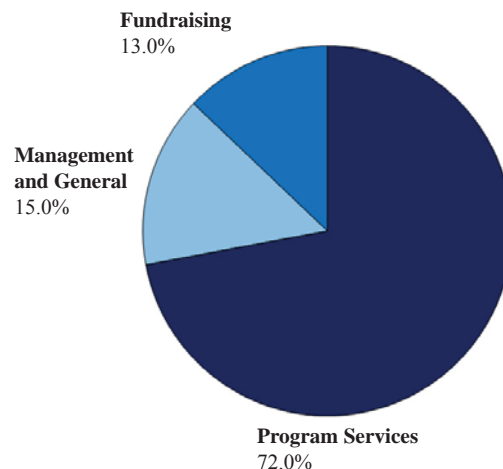
Southwest	76,010
Texas	74,271
North Texas	37,178
Northwest Texas	31,187
Central Texas	26,602
New Mexico	11,859
Rio Grande	1,581
Church Total	258,688
Indiv. Gifts/Board	539,061
Foundations/Corps.	100,343
Bequests	61,000
TOTAL DONATIONS	959,092



MMH does not receive apportionments

Sources of Revenue

Contributions	858,749	28.1%
Fees for Services	1,821,878	59.5%
Grants & Corp.	100,343	3.3%
Investments & Royalties	175,535	5.7%
Other Income	103,637	3.4%
TOTAL REVENUES*	3,060,142	100.0%



Expenses

Program Services	2,080,500	72.1%
Management & General	433,849	15.0%
Fundraising	372,270	12.9%
TOTAL EXPENSES*	2,886,619	100.0%

*Includes 84,997 Revenues and Expense for Capital Campaign

2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

- Family Services served 124 pregnant teens and young women inquiring about adoption, 51 enrolled as birth mothers, 19 resided in our Maternity Center. Thirty-four babies and children were placed with loving adoptive families through Domestic Infant, International and Older Child adoptions. Seventy-nine adoptive families were served.
- Post-adoption services were provided to 368 adult adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and other relatives.
- Adoption Education and Outreach services provided information about adoption to more than 250 families, at-risk youth, healthcare professionals, teens and young women.
- Southwest Center for Higher Independence (SCH) provided transitional education, including life and vocational skills to 61 young adults with disabilities. SCH students with disabilities such

as deafness, high functioning MR and autism, Asberger's, cerebral palsy and learning disorders work to overcome barriers and achieve their personal level of independent living.

- The Genesis Cooperative, a self-supporting collaborative of six nonprofits located on the MMH campus, welcomed a new partner, New Life Deaf Fellowship (a ministry serving people who are deaf) to our Chapel. Genesis Coop hosted campus activities including Easter & Thanksgiving church services and Christmas Celebration for women recovering from substance abuse and their children, adults who are deaf/blind, SCHI students with disabilities and pregnant teens and young women, and MMH staff.
- In collaboration with San Antonio Food Bank, we provided basic culinary training to 16 SCHI students, opening the door to a job in a commercial kitchen.

TOP GIVING CHURCHES

TOP 30 CHURCHES WITH LESS THAN 500 MEMBERS

First UMC

Canadian
Rev. Monte Kreis
\$25,000.00

First UMC

Sterling City
Rev. Richard West
\$7,668.00

Calvary UMC

Weatherford
Rev. Rodney S. Corder
\$5,000.00

Franklin UMC

Franklin
Rev. Lindsey T. Smith, Jr.
\$3,730.00

Fellowship UMC

Trophy Club
Rev. Daniel D. Humbert
\$3,294.02

Trinity UMC

San Antonio
Rev. Jeanne D. Devine
\$2,760.35

First UMC

La Grange
Rev. Milburn E. Hazelwood
\$2,366.00

First UMC

Royse City
Rev. Steve Richardson
\$1,821.82

First UMC

San Augustine
Rev. Sara V. Barberee
\$1,800.00

Highland Lakes UMC

Buchanan Dam
Rev. W. Grady Roe
\$1,740.35

First UMC

Lampasas
Rev. George E. Lumpkin, Jr.
\$1,698.50

First UMC

Johnson City
Rev. J. Sidney Spiller
\$1,666.60

Monthalia UMC

Cost
Rev. Paul Smith
\$1,658.00

First UMC

Normangee
Rev. Daniel R. Barrett
\$1,640.00

Friendship UMC

Sherman
Rev. Elizabeth K. Besterfeldt
\$1,616.00

First UMC

Iowa Park
Rev. John Kay
\$1,290.60

Axe Memorial UMC

Garland
Rev. E. Ben Read
\$1,239.34

St. John's UMC

Lubbock
Rev. Archie E. Echols
\$1,137.60

First UMC

Olton
Rev. Larry Holder
\$1,080.00

Covenant Fellowship UMC

Amarillo
Rev. Stephen W. Gaines
\$1,056.00

First UMC

Daingerfield
Rev. Jeffrey S. Stull
\$1,019.19

Coldspring UMC

Coldspring
Rev. J. Larry Smith
\$974.58

First UMC

Pittsburgh
Dr. Richard Heyduck
\$968.38

First UMC

Muleshoe
Rev. Monty J. Leavell
\$874.50

Old River Terrace UMC

Channelview
Rev. Abraham Ramirez
\$859.93

Texico-Farwell Hamlin Memorial UMC

Farwell
Rev. Randall Partin
\$842.50

Crestview UMC

Austin
Rev. Suzanne S. Wells
\$829.00

First UMC

Devine
Rev. Mark A. Brechin
\$817.00

Gaddis Memorial UMC

Comfort
Rev. Jason A. Teague
\$814.00

Aldersgate UMC

Carrollton
Rev. Woody Weilage
\$802.50

TOP 30 CHURCHES WITH 500 OR MORE MEMBERS

First UMC

Gatesville
Dr. Tom Beaty
\$32,960.85

Marvin UMC

Tyler
Dr. John C. Robbins
\$12,993.00

Alamo Heights UMC

San Antonio
Rev. David J. McNitzky
\$12,411.69

Lake Ridge UMC

Lubbock
Rev. Bill J. Couch
\$5,703.34

University UMC

San Antonio
Rev. Charles W. Anderson
\$5,050.00

Trietsch Memorial UMC

Flower Mound
Dr. John S. Allen
\$4,915.07

First UMC

Marble Falls
Rev. Ralph D. Mann
\$4,325.50

First UMC

Fort Worth
Dr. Timothy K. Bruster
\$4,000.00

Coker UMC

San Antonio
Rev. Barbara R. Galloway
\$3,743.23

Friendswood UMC

Friendswood
Rev. James Bass
\$3,441.00

Greggton UMC

Longview
Rev. Jonathan Bynum
\$3,345.00

Tarrytown UMC

Austin
Rev. Robert E. Hall
\$3,161.35

IN HONOR OF

The Nomads: Bob and Linda Good, Tom and Carol Lee Iverson, Dale and Donna Sutton, Jim and Roxie Waters, Mr. and Mrs. Dana Sullivan, and Henry and Diane Hassell
Mr. and Mrs. Dana Sullivan

My daughter, Julie Kathleen Krumnow and grandchildren:

Conner, Michelle and Grayson
Sandra Ellington, M. ED

Pastor Woody Weilage's 60th Birthday
Catherine Rogers

Tim and Elizabeth McWilliams
Patricia McWilliams

Children, Ruth Mills and George Rivers
Patricia and Harvey Rivers

Grandchildren: Daniel and Laura Kogler
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kogler

Fay Lawler, for all the work she does at FUMC Brady
First United Methodist Church;

Monday night small group

Daniel and Laura Kogler
Mr. Rufus Millburn

Liam Candler's 1st Birthday
Beth Ferguson

IN MEMORY OF

Angela Barnett
Carolyn Marcotte
Juanita Kardys
Jesse and Annama Patin
Kathy Blanchard
Sharron Holloway

Bailey Smith
Mrs. Pauline Dietz Talmage

Lorece Harding, my aunt
Carolyn Conyers

Jack Weeren
Haywood J. Perkins
My mother, Eileen Henson
Sonya Willis

Jim Rose
Ira Hailey
Chuck Taylor
Paul Sanders
Susan and Don Belken

N.F. (Buddy) Jones, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Burns, Jr.

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Mr. or Mrs. Ronald Walker
Jeff or Billye Beach
Julie Threadgill
Bishop Joel Martinez
Gary or Sandra Trennepohl
Todd and Lisa Williams
Howard and Peri Ground
Ashley Mock

James Howard Evans
Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Lewis

Michael Henderson
Sandra Ellington, M. Ed.

Lois Gettler
Thomas or Betty Bendall

W.H. Munn
Mr. or Mrs. J. R. Scarbrough

Naomi Eileen Henson
Carol Perkins

My husband, John Grimsley
Pat Grimsley

Stella Ledbetter
Dr. L.T. Montgomery

Joan Beasley
T.F. and Kay Beasley

Bud Jameson
Nancy Grimes

My father, John Doggett
James and Julianne Davis

Angela Barnett
Helen Leininger

Gerald Petty
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Madison

Joe Esquell
Pat Fiedler and Lucy Hart

H. K. (Pudge) Kendrick
Donna and Corky Green

Beulah Pratt
Patsy and Bill Glenn

YOUR LIVING LEGACY



The gifts you make in your estate plan can carry on your charitable support long after your passing. An estate plan allows you to choose the type of legacy you would like to leave. There are several ways you can include a legacy gift to Methodist Mission Home in your estate plan:

- Designate MMH as a beneficiary in your will
- Make a contribution to the MMH Endowment
- Establish a fund named for your family
- Designate a gift of insurance
- Create a charitable remainder trust
- Make a contribution to the MMH Capital Campaign

Please consider making a gift to Methodist Mission Home in your estate plan. For more information contact Mike Countryman, Planned & Major Gifts Director at 1-800-842-5433.

2009 GOLF TOURNAMENT

It was a bright, sunny, and beautiful day on April 3 for Methodist Mission Home's inaugural "Drive 1 Home" Charity Golf Tournament.

The event was held at the Silverhorn Golf Club and sponsored by First American Commercial Property Group.

With the help of avid golfer Landon Kane, who along with his wife Kelly adopted a baby girl from MMH last year, the tournament was a success as 56 golfers came out to play and raised over \$5,000 for MMH.

"We are grateful to everyone who participated in our first-ever golf tournament," said Cathy Walker, MMH Development Director. "Everyone had a great time on the green!"

MMH is looking forward to our 2nd Annual golf tournament next year. For all you golfers out there, we hope you can participate.



(Top left) SCHI students Evan Petty and Timothy Miranda volunteer at the inaugural Methodist Mission Home Golf Tournament last month by passing out goodie bags to the players. (Above) Methodist Mission Home Board of Trustees member Kenner Coon poses with his birthmother Susan at the Silverhorn Golf Club. (Left) Landon Kane, with his daughter Harper in his arms, talks about his experience with Methodist Mission Home. Landon and his wife Kelly adopted Harper through MMH last year.

TOP GIVING CHURCHES (cont.)

White Rock UMC

Dallas
Rev. George C. Fisk
\$3,070.00

First UMC

Lake Jackson
Rev. Charles G. Geller
\$2,328.08

St. Paul UMC

Abilene
Rev. Greg Kennedy
\$1,933.80

First UMC

Athens
Rev. John L. Matkin
\$1,480.00

First UMC

Boerne
Rev. Fred E. Martin
\$2,840.44

Kingwood UMC

Kingwood
Rev. Jimmy M. Welch
\$2,296.00

Cedar Bayou UMC

Baytown
Rev. Thomas E. Lyles, Jr.
\$1,853.16

Crosby UMC

Crosby
Dr. Barbara G. Harrelson
\$1,398.50

First UMC

Gonzales
Rev. Pamela Kilpatrick
\$2,700.00

Windcrest UMC

San Antonio
Rev. Lonnie B. Phillips
\$2,165.00

St. Mark's UMC

El Paso
Rev. Thomas E. Nagle
\$1,745.90

First UMC

San Angelo
Dr. Ricky L. Burk
\$1,380.00

Memorial Drive UMC

Houston
Rev. Charles B. Simmons
\$2,500.00

St. Stephen's UMC

Houston
Rev. Cramer D. Johnson
\$2,020.24

Plymouth Park UMC

Irving
Dr. William E. LaBarr
\$1,534.00

First UMC

Perryton
Dr. Ed Williamson
\$2,390.00

First UMC

Georgetown
Dr. James R. Porter
\$2,000.00

First UMC

Jasper
Rev. Richard P. White, Jr.
\$1,533.00

For more information on how to make a donation to Methodist Mission Home visit www.mmhome.org or call 1-800-842-5433

Taking a Leap of Faith

Jaime and Yolanda Flores' hope helped complete their family

Growing up in big families, Jaime and Yolanda Flores knew they wanted to have one of their own. Yolanda, however, could not have children and *in vitro* treatments were not working. After 14 years of marriage, the Floreses remained childless. They decided to take a different route to make their family a reality.

They chose Methodist Mission Home (MMH) to help them adopt a child they would love for a lifetime.

“Our ultimate goal was to have a child,” Yolanda said. “We had been praying about it and decided to adopt. We thought we would take a leap of faith and knew that God would guard our hearts. It ended up being the best thing we could have ever done.”

While the Floreses were nervous about the adoption process, they found comfort at MMH because it is a faith-based agency.

“At MMH, we felt comfortable in what they stood for,” Yolanda said.

In April 2008, the Flores family was chosen by a birthmother. Two months into the process, the birthmother decided to parent. It was a tough time for the Floreses, but they found the faith to continue on their adoption journey.

“It was devastating, but we prayed about it some more and decided to keep going,” Yolanda said. “We knew at the end, the child we would adopt would be the one we were supposed to have. This baby just wasn’t meant to be ours.”

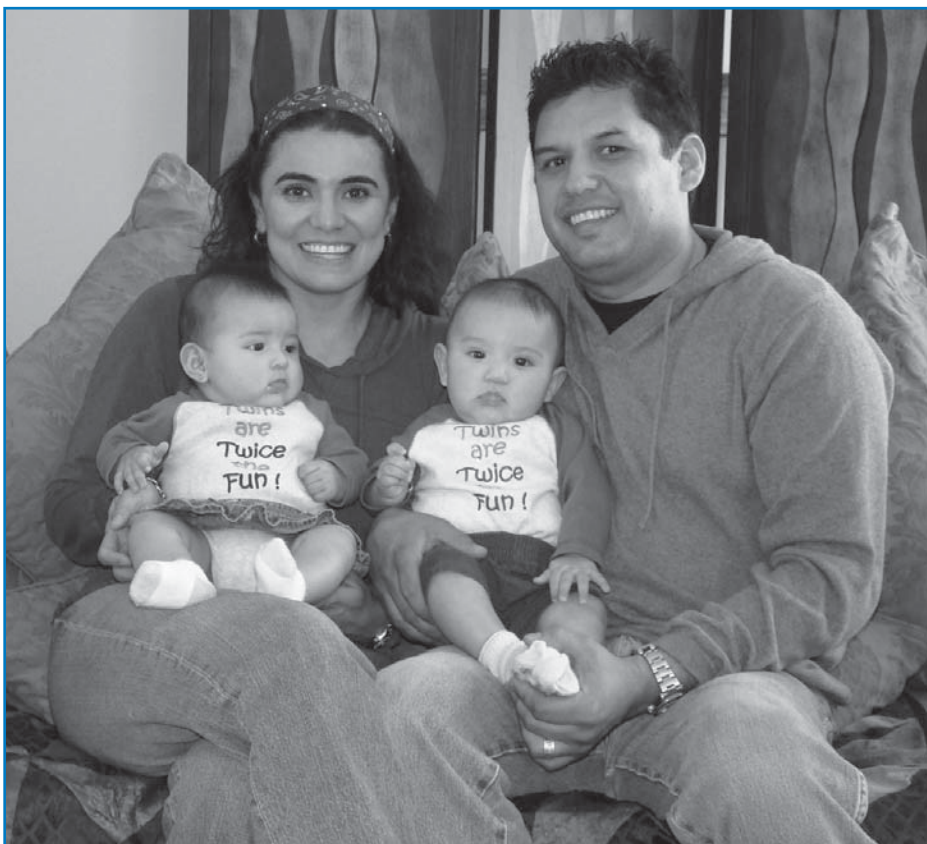
Weeks later, Jaime and Yolanda received a call from MMH. Another birthmother had chosen them as the adoptive parents. And this time it was twins.

“I thought one would be great, but when we found out it was two, it was awesome,” Yolanda said.

The birthmother, a 24-year-old woman with three children, told Yolanda she couldn’t imagine adding a set of twins to her situation. She confided in Yolanda she even went as far as going to an abortion clinic. She changed her mind when she found out she was having twins.

“She couldn’t go through with it,” Yolanda said. “She went to a pregnancy resource center, and they told her about adoption. She had never heard about people actually waiting for children.”

Six months later, Jaime and Yolanda received a call in the evening from the birthmother. She told them she was at the hospital getting ready to deliver. She asked Jaime and Yolanda if they wouldn’t mind waiting until the morning to see the babies. She wanted the birth to be private. The Floreses understood the delicate situation and were fine



Yolanda and Jaime Flores with their twins Jacob Andres and Abigail Judith at their home in Boerne, Texas. The couple adopted Jacob and Abigail from Methodist Mission Home in October 2008.

with that, although they didn’t sleep a wink that night.

“We came home and were tossing and turning and wondering if they were already born,” Jaime said.

On October 26, 2008 around 5 a.m. twin siblings Jacob Andres and Abigail Judith were born. Yolanda and Jaime rushed to the hospital to see the birthmother and the babies.

“I think the minute I saw them I felt like they were my babies,” Yolanda said. “When you see them and they’re so vulnerable and so tiny, you immediately form a bond with them.”

Today, six-month-old Jacob and Abigail are happy babies living with their new parents in Boerne, Texas. Yolanda says the twins are very passive. She is always complimented on how well they behave. She urges other couples who are thinking about adoption to look at the big picture and have faith that God has a special plan for every couple.

“Each day that passed was a day closer to my babies,” Yolanda said. “Just feel and know your child is just around the corner. I think the things you wait for the longest and are harder to obtain are also the sweeter victories. You just have to keep hope.”



Methodist Mission Home

Giving God's Children a Faith, a Family, a Future

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AROUND CAMPUS

Chaplain Gina Symons retires after long history with MMH



Gina Symons, described as “the spark of creativity” at Methodist Mission Home, will retire in June.

Their relationship with Methodist Mission Home began 42 years ago when Gina Symons and her husband Pat adopted their son Russell from MMH. Years later, while she was working as the Education Director for Trinity United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Gina was invited to preach during a morning service at MMH.

Soon, she was holding Bible studies for the young women staying at the Maternity Center. The initial invitation to the campus blossomed into a full commitment when Gina joined the

staff in September 1996.

“That’s when I could minister to everyone on campus and start developing more relationships,” Gina said. “My position expanded to Coordinator of Religious Activities and then I became Chaplain.”

After 12 years as part of the leadership team (during which time she learned American Sign Language to communicate with the deaf students of the Southwest Center for Higher Independence), Gina will retire at the end of June. Upon retiring, she looks forward to spending time with her husband as they start a small business venture in West Bexar County by opening a conference center for day retreats and a Bed & Breakfast. It’s a new endeavor Gina should thrive in. Executive Director Jennifer Sample describes her as “the spark of creativity at MMH.”

“She makes employee meetings and pot lucks fun,” Jennifer said. “She develops games and puzzles to teach our SCHI students and birthmothers Bible scripture. Her personal experience as an adoptive parent helps her connect with birth mothers.” Jennifer also thanks her for the creation of the Walk with Jesus retreat she started back in 1997, which has led to “a spiritual awakening for hundreds of SCHI students.”

When asked what she will miss most about MMH, Gina’s answer is simple: “The people,” she says. “I have some really dear friends here and have been blessed by so many. I have had the opportunity to see the students come [to MMH] so in need of help in some way or another. I’ve watch them grow and graduate and get ready to take on the world. It’s also nice that I could work at a place where I can express my faith.”