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
2009 Donations

De Leon, Marty & Thelma
Debus, George & Candace
Disorbo, Shanon & Lori
Dolezal, David & Tracie
Doner, James
Duffy, Michael L.
Dwyer, Eugene M.
Ellison, Robin
Erickson, Jon & Paige
Evans, Penny & Cindy
Evans, Tim & Joy
Evans, Chuck & Mary
Evans, Paul
Faulds, Bo & Brooke
Ferrara, Nick & Mai
Fiore, Jan
Flahive, Catherine
Francesc, Thomas & Ann
Francis, Ann
Geminski, Charles & Dora
Gentile, George & Margaret
Gerber, Rick & Albracht, Roberta
Geroux, Jeffrey
Giles, Carolyn
Gonzalez, Alejandro
Goss, Bernard
Greenlawn, Peter & Abbiniatti, Catherine
Grimes, Andrew & Jill
Groetsch, Sr. Sharon
Groetsch, Ewald
Gucidy, 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
Kiehn, 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
Owney, Liz & David
Paschall, Dusty & Jennifer
Pascoe, Neil & Susan
Paul, Jennifer & Dwight
Paver, Rhonda & William
Pen, Walter
Peters, Frank J.
Petersen, Mary Jude & Ken
Pflager, Mary M.
Pluta, Joseph & Margo
Risher, David
Rye, Vim X & Marian
Sander, Herbert & Doris
Sheridan, Claire
Smith, Eva & Schwartz, Dennis
Streit, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred R.
Wessellman, Sr. Jean

In Memory of
Mattie Baylor
Adela Mescado
Juliana Beuerlein
Gladys Hoppe
Felix W. Jarratt
Helen Anderson
Helen Anderson
Nan Guillahorn
Helen Anderson
James T. Brown
Helen Anderson
Helen Anderson
Helen Anderson
Camille Hamilton
Shirley Wells
Helen Anderson
Dolly Golden
Joyce Gardner
Helen Anderson
Nan Guillahorn
Velma Pearson
Grandparents and Parents of
Liz Owney
Helen Anderson

In Honor of
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn
Breen, Mary
Demkowicz, Stasia & Leszek
Gomez, Comrado

In Memory Donations

Baxter, Rosario & David
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Beuerlein, Steve D.
Bieser, Sharon and David
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn
Bohuslav, Thomas & Kathryn
Carl, Donna M.
Cerny, Karl
Churchill, Eric & Tricia
Cicalese, Carmine
Collins, Thomas
Cook, Stephen & Margaret
Cowperthwaite, Claudia
Cruzcosa, Kimberly A.
Dahmen, Karl & Helene
Daniel, Diane Womack
Dawidzak, Adria & Michael

Donor
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Carl, Donna M.
Clerc, A.H.
Field, Michael & Glicerio
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
Owney, Clifford
Pickerill, Sarah & Phil

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

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Risher, David
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Sheridan, Claire
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Valeria Wimmer
Geneva Oliver
David Risher
Daughters of Charity
Patricia Ford
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 Board of Directors

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Associate Pastor, St. Austin Catholic Parish

Katy Bohuslav – Secretary  
Community Volunteer

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Attorney at Law

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Fr. Bill Wack, CSC  
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Curtis Wren  
Executive Vice President, Omni Bank

2009 Financials

Revenue

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Public Donations</td>
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<td>Rental Income</td>
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<td>Gain on Sale of Assets</td>
<td>$54,409</td>
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<td>Contract Income</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Supportive Housing Program</td>
<td>$615,872</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street Youth Meal Program</td>
<td>$18,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$68,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$733,181</strong></td>
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Supportive Housing Program 84%  
Street Youth Meal Program 9%  
Fundraising 9%  
Administrative 5%
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

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.