

Individual Project Report

Casa De Misericordia Sewing Project

Project Description

1. Describe the project. What was done, when, and where did the project activities take place?

The Casa de Misericordia Sewing Project was a project geared towards Basic Education and Literacy as well as Economic and Community Development as it served to assist Casa de Misericordia in Laredo, Texas by purchasing needed sewing machines, fabrics and other related sewing materials, such as canvas, pattern paper, scissors, needles, rulers, zippers, buttons and other items to enhance and conduct sewing classes for women who find themselves in need of services at Casa de Misericordia due to domestic violence. The goals of teaching and providing sewing skills to these women are for them to acquire skills for personal employment as seamstresses or other sewing related work, to develop and promote team work, which is valuable in work settings, to learn to sew their own clothing (self and children), which saves funds as they rebuild their lives, to build self-esteem and to promote self-sufficiency. At the time of the project implementation a goal was to strengthen the capacity of the Laredo community by enhancing the education of these women by providing the tools for them to have a foundation to improve their lives and in turn their communities. In addition, a goal of the project was to provide these women with the opportunity for productive work and to enhance their entrepreneurial spirit with the hope that they would become contributing members of their communities with their newly gained skills. Personal and community economic development would follow.

As part of this project, soon after receiving confirmation of the grant funds from the District, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak started solidifying the sources for the sewing supplies. Through mutual family and friends of our serving President, Lupita Zepeda, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak connected with Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies ("Golden") of Los Angeles, California, which is a manufacturer and wholesaler of sewing supplies. Golden supplies many customers including in Texas. Through these communications, Golden reviewed our list of desired sewing machines and sewing supplies, and then offered higher quality sewing machines and sewing supplies at a reduced price. The attached Golden Invoices show that the Golden Unit Price (which may be a wholesale price) totals \$13,171.00; however, Golden offered these items to Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak for a flat cost of \$8,000.00. Attached are the copies of the Golden invoices (which items are also listed in this Final Report). These communications with Golden occurred in September and October. Golden gathered the sewing machines and sewing supplies over the course of November. The sewing machines and sewing items were delivered to Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak's possession on December 10, 2015.

In addition, in November, as the sewing machines and sewing supplies were going to take most of our budget, we approached the Lidskys, who had initially agreed to contribute approximately \$1,000 worth of fabrics, for further guidance on the fabric they may be in a position to contribute towards the project to restructure our budget. We began our communications by providing them with the list of fabrics desired by Casa de Misericordia to determine what they may be willing to assist with. At the request of the Lidskys, the Casa de Misericordia and Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak representatives visited with them in mid to late November to pick out the fabrics Casa desired. Over the course of December, information was reviewed and gathered to determine the amount of fabric that would be donated for the project and the funds that would be needed to cover any differences to best serve the needs of Casa de Misericordia. Another visit was done on January 15, 2016 to confirm the fabric items and amount of fabric desired. Around the end of January 2016, the total retail cost of the fabric was determined to be \$9,072.00 with the Lidsky Family agreeing to donate \$5,072.00 in kind. In an effort to obtain the fabric Casa

needed, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak began soliciting further donations to cover the \$4,000.00 difference. As noted in the Financial Report section, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak was able to solicit \$3,500.00 of additional donations (Dr. Al & Tina Trevino, WestWind Homes, an anonymous donor and Rotary Club of Nuevo Santander (Nuevo Laredo, Mexico) since the initial grant proposal was submitted. Further, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak increased our contribution from \$2,000.00 to \$3,500.00.

On January 16, 2016, approximately 15-6 members of Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak participated in delivering the sewing machines and sewing supplies to Casa de Misericordia. As part of this delivery, all sewing machines and sewing supplies were labeled with stickers noting "Daybreak Rotary of Laredo". On February 5, 2016, the fabrics were picked up at Simon Lidsky's fabric shop and delivered to Casa de Misericordia with approximately 5 members of Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak participating.

On February 11, 2016, a formal presentation of the donation of the sewing machines, sewing supplies and fabrics was made at Casa de Misericordia with approximately 15-6 members of Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak and other Laredo area Rotary Clubs participating. On this date, Casa's representatives expressed their gratitude and most moving were the words of one of the women that would participate in the classes. She stated that with our donation, her life would be made better and that she was going to have a skill that would help her with employment and with building her self-esteem to become a greater part of her community. The Laredo Morning Times (newspaper), Pro8News (KGNS television) and Univision Laredo (Spanish television) were present to document the presentation.

In an effort to provide the sewing and fabric items in a timely manner and for the use of Casa de Misericordia, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak had fronted the funds to cover the project. In February and March, Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak followed up with those that had agreed to contribute funds. The final contribution was received on March 23, 2016 and the project completed.

The main objective of this project was to improve the lives of the women who find themselves at Casa de Misericordia. The goal was to provide them with the sewing machines, sewing equipment and fabrics in order for them to gain a skill that will help them in the workforce, to develop and promote teamwork and to build their self-esteem and to promote self-sufficiency. The words of one of the women who found herself at Casa de Misericordia due to domestic violence expressed eloquently how her life would change. Those changes of a better life through gaining confidence and an ability to support herself and her family fit the goals we sought to accomplish. It was a great feeling hearing her words that we had provided her with the tools to change her life for the better.

2. How many people benefited from this project?

There are various women who suffer domestic violence and Casa de Misericordia strives to empower these women and their children to reclaim their lives by receiving comprehensive holistic services as well as long term support. The sewing classes are conducted at the Casa de Misericordia Lamar Bruni Vergara Education Center in Laredo, Texas, under the direction of one (1) dedicated volunteer instructor. The sewing classes serve and will continue to serve an average of about 30 women per semester (15 in beginners classes and 15 in advanced classes), which is almost 60 women per year in twice a week courses for 12 hours per week. In line with the mission of Rotary, service above self, these women and their children may in turn selflessly serve other women who may find themselves at Casa de Misericordia in the future. These women may one day gain the skills to further instruct and train other women.

3. Who were the beneficiaries, how were they impacted by this project, and what humanitarian need was met?

The beneficiaries are various women who suffer domestic violence and find themselves at Casa de Misericordia. Casa de Misericordia strives to empower these women and their children to reclaim their lives by receiving comprehensive holistic services as well as long term support. The sewing classes are conducted at the Casa de

Misericordia Lamar Bruni Vergara Education Center in Laredo, Texas, under the direction of one (1) dedicated volunteer instructor. The sewing classes serve and will continue to serve an average of about 30 women per semester (15 in beginners classes and 15 in advanced classes), which is almost 60 women per year in twice a week courses for 12 hours per week. The goals of teaching and providing sewing skills to these women are for them to acquire skills for personal employment as seamstresses or other sewing related work, to develop and promote team work, which is valuable in work settings, to learn to sew their own clothing (self and children), which saves funds as they rebuild their lives, to build self-esteem and to promote self-sufficiency. At the time of the project impletion a goal was to strengthen the capacity of the Laredo community by enhancing the education of these women by providing the tools for them to have a foundation to improve their lives and in turn their communities. In addition, a goal of the project was to provide these women with the opportunity for productive work and to enhance their entrepreneurial spirit with the hope that they would become contributing members of their communities with their newly gained skills. Personal and community economic development would follow. A woman eloquently expressed her gratitude at the formal presentation and mentioned how she was now going to be able to support her family and herself and how she had long term prospects of employment with her new skill. In line with the mission of Rotary, service above self, these women and their children may in turn selflessly serve other women who may find themselves at Casa de Misericordia in the future. These women may one day gain the skills to further instruct and train other women. We met the Basic Education and Literacy as well as the Economic and Community Development needs of these women and in turn the surrounding Laredo community who will see these women prosper and become greater contributing members of our community.

4. How many Rotarians participated in this project?

Over the course of the entire project, approximately 15-20 members of Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak participated in different aspects of the project. Further, about 20-25 Rotarians participated in the project from the other local Laredo area clubs, including Laredo Rotary, Laredo Seven Flags, Laredo Gateway Rotary, Laredo Next-Generation and Rotary Club of Nuevo Santander (Nuevo Laredo, Mexico).

5. What did they do? Please give at least two examples, not including financial support provided to the project.

The Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak Rotarians wrote the grant and sought the assistance of fellow Rotary Clubs in the community. Then upon securing the grant, the Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak Rotarians purchased the sewing machines and sewing equipment and participated in the process of selecting fabrics. Thereafter, the Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak Rotarians participated in the delivery of the sewing machines, sewing equipment and fabrics to Casa de Misericordia in January and February 2016. While the Rotarians from Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak were the principal participants, we could not have done it without the assistance of Laredo Rotary, Laredo Seven Flags, Laredo Next-Generation, and Rotary Club of Nuevo Santander (Nuevo Laredo, Mexico) who gave funds but also participated in the formal presentation delivery of the sewing equipment, sewing supplies and fabric.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

Casa de Misericordia was the cooperating organization involved. They helped provide information vital to the grant writing process and vital to ensuring we provided them with the sewing equipment, sewing machines and fabric they needed for a success of the sewing classes. They assisted in the selection of fabrics and the coordination and delivery of the sewing machines, sewing equipment and fabrics. As the owners of the sewing machines, sewing equipment and fabrics, they are securing the proper use and maintenance of the sewing machines and sewing equipment and the proper utilization of the fabrics to produce clothing, curtains, etc. that will serve the needs of the women and children who find themselves at Casa de Misericordia.

Note on Invoices:

Attached are the Invoices that list the items donated to Casa de Misericordia. The first invoice for Simon Lidsky is for the fabrics (retail value of \$9,072.00). The second and third invoice is for the sewing machines and sewing

equipment from Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies for (cost of \$8,000.00). Please note that we highlighted the sewing machines at the end of each of the second and third invoice as Golden needed to prepare the invoices this way to send the items. Please note that the initial items listed (Items 1 through 29) on the invoices are the same sewing equipment (it was not double). The second and third invoices are different only at the end (highlighted sewing machines).

Note on Pictures and Media:

Attached is a file with the pictures of the delivery and formal presentation as well as the newspaper and television media stories.

Financial Report

Date	Description	Funding Source	Amount	%		
Aug 24, 2015	Sewing Project	District Grant	\$3,000.00	17.57 %		
Jul 31, 2015	Laredo Under Seven Flags Rotary	Club/Other	\$500.00	2.93 %		
Mar 23, 2016	Rotary Club of Nuevo Santander (Nuevo Laredo, Mexico)	Club/Other	\$500.00	2.93 %		
Jul 31, 2015	Laredo Gateway Rotary	Club/Other	\$500.00	2.93 %		
Jul 31, 2015	The Laredo Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$500.00	2.93 %		
Jul 31, 2015	Laredo Next-Generation Rotary	Club/Other	\$500.00	2.93 %		
Feb 11, 2016	Dr. Al & Tina Trevino	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	5.86 %		
Feb 11, 2016	WestWind Homes	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	5.86 %		
Jul 31, 2015	Simon, Luba & Luis Lidsky (in kind)	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	5.86 %		
Feb 11, 2016	Anonymous donor	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	5.86 %		
Feb 11, 2016	Laredo Daybreak Rotary	Club/Other	\$1,500.00	8.79 %		
Jul 31, 2015	Laredo Daybreak Rotary	Club/Other	\$2,000.00	11.72 %		
Feb 11, 2016	Simon, Luba & Luis Lidsky (in kind)	Club/Other	\$4,072.00	23.85 %		
Total:			\$17,072.00	100.00 %		
Description	Supplier	Local Amount	Currency	Tax	Total	Amount
Fabrics (various types) (see invoice)	Simon Lidsky	\$9,072.00	USD	\$0.00	\$9,072.00	\$9,072.00
Sewing machines and sewing	Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$8,000.00	USD	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
					Total:	\$17,072.00

Description	Supplier	Local Amount	Currency	Tax	Total	Amount
equipment (see attached invoice)						
Pattern Paper	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Zippers	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pin Cushions	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oil Bottles and Oil for machines	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scissors	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buttons	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rulers	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fabric Markers/Pens	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thread	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Measuring Tape	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Needles	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Seam Rippers	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sewing Supply Storage	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Total:	\$17,072.00

Description	Supplier	Local Amount	Currency	Tax	Total	Amount
Compartment boxes	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sewing Pencils	Part of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies	\$0.00	USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Total:	\$17,072.00