

Gifts THAT Give Back



HOLIDAY GIVING GUIDE 2025



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends,

As we enter this season of giving, I'm reminded that donors like you are leaders who fuel immediate impact and lasting change across our community in your support of nonprofits.

I am excited to share the San Antonio Area Foundation's inaugural Holiday Giving Guide, which highlights promising nonprofits working tirelessly every day to strengthen our region.

Each organization featured here is helping to champion the arts, empower youth, care for animals, support older adults, or build more resilient communities, all representing a collective story of hope, dedication, and shared commitment to a stronger San Antonio.

I encourage you to spend intentional time with this guide. Sit with your family, your partners, your grandchildren. Learn about the incredible work happening right here, right now. Reflect together on what moves you most—then, open your hearts to the impact you can make for these organizations.

Your contributions are valuable any time of year, but especially now as we approach the year's end. Your gifts ensure that critical services continue, that creativity thrives, and that opportunity reaches every corner of our extended community.

I invite you to give where your values meet our community's needs. Together, we can make this season one of celebration, transformation, and joy.

Warmly,



Nadege Souvenir
CEO

San Antonio Area Foundation

THE joy OF giving, made simple

Welcome to *Gifts that Give Back*, a thoughtfully curated collection of local nonprofits selected by our philanthropic advisors and community experts. Inside, you'll find 28 promising organizations—many of which may be new to you—all making a real difference in Bexar County and beyond. You'll also find ways to give to areas of greatest community impact through Area Foundation funds.

Whether you're exploring causes that reflect your family's values or discovering fresh ways to give back this season, this guide is here to make giving easy, joyful, and meaningful. *Let's get started!* ►

USING THIS GUIDE, STEP BY STEP

- 1 Start with Curiosity.**
Skim through the sections that catch your eye. Each features nonprofits aligned with the San Antonio Area Foundation's primary impact areas: animals, culture, community, aging, and youth success.
- 2 Explore and Learn**
Read about each organization's impact, and visit their websites to learn more.
- 3 Save Your Favorites**
Make a note of the nonprofits that inspire you, or identify giving opportunities that mean the most to you.
- 4 Make it a Family Tradition**
Gather with your children or grandchildren and use the guide like a map. Let everyone choose an organization to support. Talk about why it matters.
► *Check out the next page for our **family philanthropy toolkit**.*
- 5 Share the Joy!**
Invite others to explore and choose causes that matter to them, because giving is even better together.
- 6 Give Online or via Email**
Allocate a grant through your Donor Advised Fund, make an additional one-time gift, or set up recurring support. [View full instructions on page 17.](#)

FAMILY PHILANTHROPY toolkit

Make philanthropy a shared experience that sparks joy, conversation, and connection during the holiday season.

First, **Set the Stage**

1. Take a moment to consider:
 - What are your reasons for getting your family involved?
 - What do you hope your donation(s) will accomplish?
2. Set a monetary goal or budget that you would like to allocate.

Then, **Find Your Favorites**

1. Sit down for an intentional evening with your family.
2. Explore *Gifts that Give Back* together, making notes of organizations and causes that align with your family's philanthropic values.
3. Decide as a family where to allocate your donation(s).
4. Make your gift(s) online, via email, or via mail. **See full instructions on page 17.**

Did you know?

The San Antonio Area Foundation has staff members who are certified advisors in family philanthropy. To learn how an advisor can work with your family, email DonorServices@saafdn.org.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Choose one or two prompting questions to spark meaningful, age-friendly discussions about generosity, gratitude, and community giving.

Younger Children (Ages 5-10):

- Who or what makes you feel grateful?
- Which group would you like to help and why?
- How do you think their work helps our community?

Tweens and Teens (Ages 11-17):

- How would you describe your family's traditions around giving?
- What problem is this organization trying to solve?
- Does anything about the organization inspire you?
- If you could volunteer for one organization, which would it be and why?

Adults and Multi-Generational:

- Who taught you about giving?
- What values are the most important when deciding where to give? How do these organizations' missions align with our family's values?
- What is the most meaningful gift you've ever made?
- Did different generations in our family choose different or the same favorites? Why or why not?
- How can we make this a tradition? Why should we continue having future conversations about giving?



DEFINING WHAT MATTERS TOGETHER

Let these questions guide you as you reflect on your family's core philanthropic values.

Which experiences in our lives would we like to make available to others?

What is the best thing that someone has done for our family? Describe it with a story.

Consider the phrase: *Our world needs people who* _____. How would our family fill in this blank? How would it influence how people think about our charitable impact in the world?

Would we rather give to immediate needs or address long-term solutions?

How can we help others in non-monetary ways?

What do we want future generations of our family to know about our philanthropy?





EVERY GIFT MOVES MISSIONS FORWARD

28 nonprofits.
\$3,000 each.
One community.

This guide connects you to missions that reflect your values and reveal new opportunities to make a lasting difference.

When you give to a promising nonprofit featured in this guide, you're helping a vital organization meet a \$3,000 goal to carry its mission forward into the new year.

Each gift strengthens capacity, unlocks new partnerships, and fuels lasting change. And that spark between generosity and possibility? *That's holiday magic!*



Giving to the San Antonio Area Foundation's AREAS OF GREATEST IMPACT

This holiday season, you may also consider dedicating a gift through the San Antonio Area Foundation's funds that support local organizations, students, and storytellers doing the work that keeps San Antonio strong.

Support Our Impact Areas

A gift of \$10,000 to our five Impact Area funds—Animal Services, Cultural Vibrancy, Livable and Resilient Communities, Successful Aging, and Youth Success—helps local partners expand programs and deliver measurable results.

Support College-Bound Students

A gift of \$10,000 to the Scholarship Support Fund helps deserving students remove financial barriers and reach their full potential in their pursuit of higher education.

Support Local Journalism

A gift of \$5,000 to the Local News Fund sustains nonprofit journalism and keeps trusted, unbiased news accessible to everyone in our community.

► Learn more about these programs at saafdn.org/giving.

LEGEND

Explore featured nonprofits by impact area, or use the tags to quickly identify organizations that share your interests, focus, or giving priorities.

EMERGING

Nonprofits on the rise with promising missions, growing capacity, and strong potential for community impact.

FAITH-BASED

Organizations guided by faith values that inspire compassion, service, and care for others.

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

Trusted nonprofits providing consistent, high-quality service and support across our communities.

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Groups creating lasting impact and driving progress on our region's most pressing challenges.

RURAL

Organizations serving the seven counties surrounding Bexar County, strengthening close-knit, thriving communities.



IMPACT AREA:
ANIMAL SERVICES

Paw it Forward

Every day, local organizations work tirelessly to rescue, heal, and protect animals in need—providing safe shelter, medical care, and loving homes. Your generosity makes this compassion possible. Support the organizations in this guide, curated by our animal care experts, to give every creature a chance at safety, comfort, and dignity.



Charming Pet Rescue

Boerne, Texas and Kendall County
charmingpetrescue.org

RURAL

Charming Pet Rescue gives dogs and cats abandoned in Kendall and Bexar Counties and the surrounding areas the chance to find their happily ever after. With the help of staff, fosters, and volunteers, more than 1,200 animals each year find safety and second chances.



Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area

*New Braunfels, Texas
and Comal County*
hsnba.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Each year, the Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area provides care, comfort, and compassion to more than 4,000 homeless pets. They provide lifesaving care and medical treatment, reunite lost pets with families, and help adoptable animals find loving homes.

“**Last Chance Forever is doing a wonderful job with the birds they are taking care of. I am proud to help support their efforts and everything they do.**

- L.O.

Last Chance Forever Neighbor



PRIMARILY PRIMATES
A BETTER FUTURE STARTS HERE

Primarily Primates

San Antonio, Texas

primarilyprimates.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Primarily Primates is an animal sanctuary providing permanent, lifetime care for more than 300 chimpanzees, lemurs, monkeys, and birds. They offer safe, dignified homes where animals can heal, form social bonds, and live freely.



Last Chance Forever

The Bird of Prey Conservancy

Last Chance Forever Bird of Prey Conservancy

San Antonio, Texas

lastchanceforever.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

For more than 40 years, Last Chance Forever has rescued, rehabilitated, and released injured and orphaned birds of prey across the nation. Each year, up to 300 hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles receive expert care in their San Antonio center.



Petri's Place

San Antonio, Texas

petrisplace.com

EMERGING

Petri's Place rehabilitates native wildlife and educates the public about the vital role these animals play in our ecosystem, providing hands-on care of opossums and other nocturnal friends, community education, and advocacy.

IMPACT AREA:
CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Culture and HeArt

Creative spirit shapes who we are as a community. By supporting local arts and cultural organizations, you help people find their voices, preserve our shared heritage, and keep creativity thriving in every neighborhood. Support the organizations on this curated list and help ensure that San Antonio's cultural vibrancy shines *por vida*.



Conjunto Heritage Taller

San Antonio, Texas
conjuntoheritagetaller.net

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

Conjunto Heritage Taller preserves, perpetuates, and celebrates traditional Conjunto music through free intergenerational community classes taught by master musicians, immersive workshops, and vibrant public performances. CHT keeps this cherished South Texas sound alive, connecting generations through music, culture, and community pride.

CONTEM PORARY★

Contemporary at Blue Star

San Antonio, Texas
contemporarysa.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Founded in 1986, Contemporary at Blue Star is San Antonio's first and longest-running nonprofit for contemporary art. Through bold exhibitions and free education programs for youth and adults, the Contemporary nurtures artists and invites our community to engage with creativity firsthand.



Magik Theatre

San Antonio, Texas
magiktheatre.org

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

Magik Theatre creates transformative theatrical experiences that spark curiosity, inspire empathy, and nurture a lifelong love of learning in young people. Since its inception in 1994, Magik Theatre has used imaginative storytelling and inclusive programming to empower more than 3 million children, families, and educators to build a brighter, more equitable world.



URBAN-15 is a tremendous asset to San Antonio, providing leadership in recording the vibrant culture and history of the city.

- J.F.
URBAN-15 Neighbor



San Pedro Playhouse

San Antonio, Texas
sanpedroplayhouse.org

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

The San Pedro Playhouse produces professional, transformative theater that reflects and unites our community. As South Texas's longest-running theater, it continues a century-long legacy of championing "theater for all" through powerful performances and arts education.



URBAN-15

San Antonio, Texas
urban15.org

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

For more than 5 decades, URBAN-15 has inspired creativity and connection through music, movement, and media. Blending traditional Latino culture with contemporary art and technology, URBAN-15 cultivates talent, imagination, and inclusion across San Antonio.

IMPACT AREA:
SUCCESSFUL AGING

Thrive at Every Age

Aging is universal—and with care, it is joyful, too! From accessible transportation to social connection, we can help older adults live with dignity, purpose, and connection. Invest in the organizations in this guide to empower older adults, strengthen caregiver networks, and ensure every generation benefits from a true longevity dividend.



I Care San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas

projecttransformation.org/rio-texas

FAITH-BASED

Each year, I Care San Antonio provides comprehensive eye care to more than 2,000 people living in poverty. Guided by a Christ-centered mission, the organization serves children, seniors, and veterans through specialized programs delivered by over 40 volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists, ensuring everyone receives the gift of clear vision and the dignity it brings.



Meals on Wheels SA

San Antonio, Texas

and surrounding counties

mowsatx.org

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

Meals on Wheels San Antonio nourishes and cares for seniors across Bexar and surrounding counties. Each weekday, together with community partners, volunteers and staff deliver more than 4,000 meals—along with companionship, safety checks, and compassion—to help older and disabled adults remain independent in their homes.



Northeast Senior Assistance

San Antonio, Texas
neseniorassistance.org

FAITH-BASED

Northeast Senior Assistance helps older adults live independently by providing free transportation and support services. Providing more than 7,000 trips annually, volunteers reflect God's love through companionship and care by driving seniors to appointments, staying with them during visits, and ensuring they return home safely.



Project MEND

San Antonio, Texas
projectmend.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Project MEND refurbishes and reuses medical equipment to improve the quality of life for people living with disabilities and illnesses. By providing essential tools for mobility and independence, Project MEND helps thousands across Texas overcome barriers to health and self-sufficiency, ensuring access to the equipment they need to thrive.

“NESA drivers share my life with me. They are with me when it's cold, rainy, or if an appointment runs long. This type of care is hard to find, and I'm thankful for it.

– L.C.

Northeast Senior Assistance
Neighbor



Silver Sage Hill Country Resource Center

Bandera, Texas and Bandera County
silversage.org

RURAL

Bandera County's primary food distribution service, Silver Sage delivers nearly 300 meals daily across 81-mile routes while also providing affordable senior housing, healthcare outreach, benefits enrollment, social support, and veterans' services.



IMPACT AREA:
YOUTH SUCCESS

Power of Potential

More than 110,000 children in Bexar County live in poverty, growing up with limited access to opportunity. Together, we can bridge this opportunity gap by supporting organizations that eliminate food insecurity, expand education and leadership programs, and revive community spaces. Champion these expert-curated organizations to help every child learn and grow on their pathway to success.

“This sisterhood is helping me rediscover my true self—the bold, intellectual, charismatic, and brilliant person I was born to be.

– Faith

Lemonade Circle Participant



Empowering families to create **BIG** futures.

Autism Community Network

San Antonio, Texas

acn-sa.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Autism Community Network empowers autistic children and the people who love them to achieve big futures. Through accessible early diagnosis, innovative and evidence-based therapy, education, and community support, ACN is concentrated on helping children and their support systems to reach their full potential in an inclusive and neuroaffirming community.



Lemonade Circle

San Antonio, Texas
lemonadecircle.org

EMERGING

The Lemonade Circle empowers young women of color, particularly Black girls in 5th grade and beyond, to become confident leaders and change makers. Through mentorship, education, service, and personal development, the organization helps girls turn life's "lemons" into sweet opportunities to make a positive impact on their communities.



Project Transformation Rio Texas

San Antonio, Austin, and
the Rio Grande Valley, Texas
projecttransformation.org/rio-texas

FAITH-BASED

Project Transformation empowers children, college students, and communities through faith-based learning and service. Each year, 45 young adults lead literacy and enrichment programs for more than 250 children across South Texas, building confidence and connection.



Teatro de Artes de Juan Seguin

Seguin, Texas
teatrodeartes.org

RURAL

Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin preserves and celebrates Mexican American and Tejano heritage through Ballet Folklórico, Mariachi, and traditional arts. Its educational programs and cultural events foster learning, leadership, and cultural pride across generations and nurture future artists and leaders while keeping rich traditions alive and empowering the community.



Thrive Youth Center

San Antonio, Texas
thriveyouthcenter.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

Thrive Youth Center empowers LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness by providing safe shelter, compassionate support, and resources for lasting independence. With a vision for an equitable community where all LGBTQ+ young adults can flourish, Thrive creates a space where every young person is seen, respected, and encouraged to pursue their future with confidence.

IMPACT AREA: **LIVABLE AND
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

For *Every* Neighbor

Too many of our neighbors face daily barriers to stability: housing insecurity, hunger, and limited access to health and human services. Every family deserves the security not just to survive, but to thrive. Together, we can build more resilient communities by supporting the organizations in this guide that restore dignity, meet urgent needs, and create lasting pathways out of poverty.



Arthur Nagel Community Clinic

Bandera, Texas
nagelclinic.org

RURAL

Arthur Nagel Community Clinic provides low-cost primary and preventive healthcare for low-income residents of Bandera County, offering medical care, behavioral health counseling, prescription assistance, and wellness education.



Corazón
San Antonio

Corazón Ministries

San Antonio, Texas
corazonsa.org

FAITH-BASED

Corazón Ministries serves San Antonio's unhoused and marginalized neighbors with compassion and dignity. Through meals, healthcare, and community connection, the organization meets immediate needs while fostering stability and hope.



Food Policy Council

San Antonio, Texas

foodpolicysa.org

LONG-TERM CHANGEMAKER

The Food Policy Council of San Antonio promotes food accessibility and sustainability by uniting community voices to build a just, healthy, and resilient local food system. They advance policies that support fresh, affordable, and nutritious food for all.

“All too often the homeless population are ignored or denied service at places due to their economic standing, but at Corazón they are truly treated as they should be.

– E.D.

Corazón Ministries Neighbor



Fuerza Unida

San Antonio, Texas

fuerzaunida.org

EMERGING

Fuerza Unida empowers women workers and their families to achieve social, economic, and environmental justice through education, organizing, and advocacy. The organization advances fair labor rights and provides training, support, and community resources to ensure workers have the knowledge and power to build stronger, more equitable futures.



Jewish Family Service

San Antonio, Texas

jfs-sa.org

FAITH-BASED

Jewish Family Service of San Antonio strengthens individuals and families through accessible mental health counseling, social services, and education. Guided by Jewish values of compassion and community care, JFS helps people of all backgrounds improve their well-being and quality of life.

“Grateful for TEAMability.
They are collaborative,
caring, and treat my child
like all people should be
treated, with respect and
dignity. It’s our safe space
and a place my child looks
forward to visiting.

– M.B.
TEAMability Neighbor



San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic

San Antonio, Texas
sachristiandental.org

FAITH-BASED

San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic provides high-quality dental care at no cost to low-income and homeless adults throughout Bexar County. Guided by Christ’s healing mission, the clinic helps restore each patient’s health, confidence, and dignity through compassionate care.



Seton Home

San Antonio, Texas
setonhomesa.org

FAITH-BASED

Through housing, counseling, education, and parenting support, Seton Home empowers pregnant and parenting teen mothers to heal from trauma and form healthy bonds with their children. With compassion and guidance, Seton Home helps break the cycle of abuse and poverty so mothers can create safe, self-sufficient futures.



TEAMability

San Antonio, Texas
teamability.org

LASTING LEADER IN SERVICE

TEAMability empowers individuals with disabilities to reach their potential through collaborative, hands-on physical, occupational, and speech therapy. In partnership with expert therapists, special educators, families, and communities, TEAMability creates joyful, meaningful, and inclusive learning experiences that foster confidence and independence.

Give a gift that gives back.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR DONOR ADVISED FUND

Use your fund to grant \$250 or more to featured nonprofits seeking an additional \$3,000 this year.

ONLINE

- 1 **Login to your donor portal** and select “Gifts that Give Back” from the left toolbar.



< Snap the QR code for detailed instructions.

- 2 **Choose which nonprofit(s) you would like to issue a grant for,** and select “Grant from my Fund.”

- 3 **Enter the amount of your choice** and review your submission.

BY EMAIL

Email DonorServices@saafdn.org with the details of the grant(s) you would like to give to, and a philanthropic advisor will allocate your funds.

BY PHONE

Call 210-782-8118 to speak directly with a philanthropic advisor about allocating your preferred grant(s).

GIVE DIRECTLY TO FEATURED NONPROFITS

If you do not have an established fund with the Area Foundation, you can still give to these promising nonprofits directly.

- 1 **Visit the website listed for the nonprofit** to find the organization’s “donate” link.

- 2 **Or, visit the Holiday Giving Guide online** using this QR code or at saafdn.org/holiday.



- 3 **Give the amount of your choice.** Together, we can help each nonprofit in this guide reach an additional \$3,000 by year’s end.

- 4 **Let us know about your gift.** Snap the QR code to the right or email GiveNow@saafdn.org to let us know which organization you supported.



Interested in learning more about a Donor Advised Fund? Contact a philanthropic advisor at 210-782-8118 or DonorServices@saafdn.org.

thank you

Your generosity wraps this season in kindness and ensures the work of local nonprofits continues all year.



San Antonio
Area Foundation

saafdn.org

GiveNow@saafdn.org

210-782-8118