

**MCKENNA LEGACY FOUNDATION  
NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MCKENNA LEGACY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**New Braunfels, Texas** - McKenna Legacy Foundation awarded more than \$850,000 in strategic grants to respond to community needs for youth risk reduction and access to quality and healthy food. Communities in Schools of South Central Texas (CIS) will receive \$335,000 for after-school enrichment programs at Canyon, New Braunfels and Oak Run Middle Schools. San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) will receive \$525,000 to establish a client-choice food pantry in New Braunfels.

According to Tim Brierty, President and CEO of McKenna System, both organizations provided an excellent approach to address these significant needs. "We evaluated needs identified in the Comal Community Assessment and studied nation-wide, best-practice solutions to meet those needs. We developed a request for proposal in February and sent it to the community. Following initial responses, several organizations were asked to submit full proposals and the board selected the proposals from Communities in Schools and San Antonio Food Bank", Brierty said.

Community in Schools' After School Enrichment Programs will include transportation, academic support, recreational and social activities, healthy snacks and dinner three days per week from school dismissal until 6:30 PM. The 2008 Comal Community Assessment reports that nearly 1 in 4 students spend between two and five hours alone at home each day, while approximately 1 out of every 8 students report being home alone for 5 hours or more.

Chris Douglas, Communities in Schools of South Central Texas Executive Director stated that youth risk reduction is a priority need in our community. "Through the support of McKenna, this program will serve a minimum of 180 youth in our middle schools during the grant period. National statistics show that most teenage at-risk behavior occurs between 3 and 7 PM. If we can engage our kids in after school recreational activities and academic support, we can decrease at-risk behavior and provide greater opportunity for success," Douglas said.

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Client choice food pantries allow people with food needs to use vouchers to shop for food, similar to a grocery store. This model has proven effective by less waste, addressing individual and family needs and promoting dignity.

According to Brierty, while there are other wonderful food assistance programs doing their best to address hunger in our community, the current demand requires the service of several organizations and a variety of food distribution methods. “According to industry formulas, our community would need 2.5 million pounds of food per year in order to completely end hunger. Currently approximately 750,000 pounds of food are distributed through the diligent work of community organizations and volunteers. Because of the tremendous additional need, the McKenna boards chose to support expanding food services within our community,” Brierty said.

Eric Cooper, Executive Director of San Antonio Food Bank estimates during the three year grant period, the local, client-choice food pantry will provide 2.6 million pounds of food to the community. The investment of \$525,000 by McKenna will return the equivalent of \$4.5 million in food dollars through this partnership. “In addition to the client-choice pantry, our organization will provide nutrition and financial education, social services, computer work stations and bulk produce and dairy distributions in partnership with other area agencies,” Cooper said.

Strategic grants are a unique opportunity for McKenna Legacy Foundation to enhance programs which will expand over time and provide greater benefit for the New Braunfels area. The grants awarded by McKenna in 2009 were responsive grants aimed at supporting local not-for-profit organizations impacted by the economic downturn which resulted in increased demand for services and decreased funding. In the future, McKenna Legacy Foundation will continue to provide both strategic and responsive grants to enhance the well being of the community.

The sale of McKenna Memorial Hospital in January of 2008 created the funding source for McKenna Legacy Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to enhance the well being of the New Braunfels community through not-for-profit support services and grant funding. For more information about McKenna Legacy Foundation visit [www.mckennalegacyfoundation.org](http://www.mckennalegacyfoundation.org) or call (830) 606-9500.