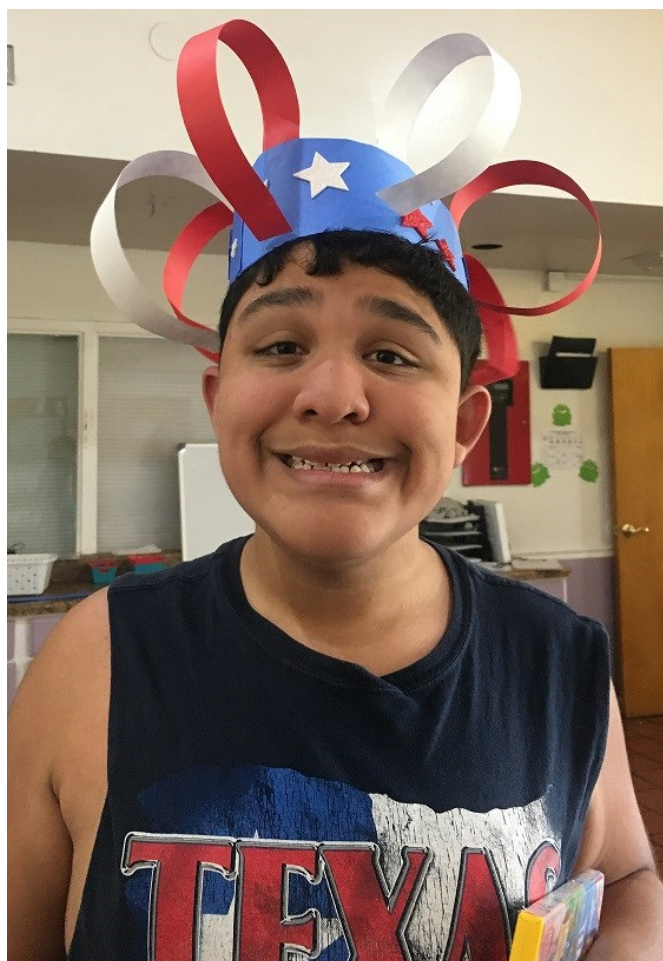




MISSION ROAD

MINISTRIES



Mission Road Ministries.
Helping people with special needs
be productive, INDEPENDENT
and included in the community.

July 2019

Helping one boy = Helping his whole family!



Mission Road Ministries has become a vitally important support organization for my family. **My son, Rodrigo, is 16 years old with autism** - a neurological disorder that makes it impossible for him to participate in summer programs for typically developing kids. If it wasn't for Mission Road, it would be impossible to place him at a safe, loving camp for him during the summer or holidays.

Mission Road offers their **S.O.A.R. - Summer Outreach and Recreation Summer Camp** for 9 weeks each summer; and **Mom's Morning Out** one Saturday each month. Last fall, Mission Road started their **holiday day activity program** for my son and 10 other children with special needs to help families like mine during these stressful times. Plus they offer much needed respite for my wife, Mari, and me along with meaningful volunteer opportunities for my entire family.

As a volunteer at Mission Road, I learned seven years ago that the S.O.A.R. program was going to begin allowing children from homes in the community to benefit in this important

Summer program. S.O.A.R. has **helped my son be more independent** in a wide open campus setting that allows him to go swimming, do out-door recreation activities, arts and crafts, interact with his peers, visit Morgan's Wonderland, the Witte Museum and other fun field trips. With trained staff supported by volunteers, many positive summer experiences have helped Rodrigo have a quality, fun-filled summer along with many other children from throughout the city.

Rodrigo is a 10th grader at Harlandale High School, and his sister, Marisol, is in 11th grade at Burbank High School. Marisol worked and volunteered at Mission Road last summer and is deeply influenced by her brother's neurological challenges. Marisol would like to be a Medical Research Neurologist. She has been accepted into a summer internship at the UT-Galveston Medical Branch. Mission Road is influencing her to work with individuals with neurological challenges allowing her to develop her focus on a career that will help benefit individuals with special needs for generations to come.

Mission Road **serves 900+ individuals each day** who live in **community (group) homes, apartments**, and they have stellar **day activity programs** both at Unicorn Centers in the Medical Center area and on their Southside campus. Unicorn Centers offers adults with neurological challenges the opportunity to develop **critical vocational and life skills** supported by **job coaches**, to integrate them into **community jobs** at employers such as Whataburger, H-E-B, and many other compassionate businesses in San Antonio.

The support from Mission Road is important for the continuum of care for families like mine and would not be available to us from any other place. Supporting Mission Road means helping families that require unique care for their own disabled children who receive no government financial support. As a city employee, I am humbled from the generosity of people throughout San Antonio who give financially to help a family like mine. Thank you!

Armando Cortez, Arborist, City of San Antonio

We are grateful to Armando Cortez for his **expert advice on trees** and landscaping on our campus through which he has helped to create a **tranquil**, colorful and joyful environment for 240 children and adults with special needs who live and/or participate in our day activity program at our campus every day. He also helped us plant our 250-tree olive orchard. Armando also serves as a respected leader on our **Mission Road Board of Directors** and serves as a com-

Ruth Washington

Get to know our People

Ruth attends our Free To Be Day Activity Program, and she is one of 19 people we serve who are also part-time employees on our campus. We asked Ruth to tell us about her job. "I use a walkie talkie. I call the teachers in the classrooms and let them know when a van or bus arrives. I go into the classroom and help my friends to the car and even push my friends' wheelchairs. The most important thing I do is to make sure everyone gets in the right car."

Ruth has lived at our Mission Road Independence Square apartments in semi-independent living since 2011. Who was your favorite roommate? "Her name is Monica. She is friendly. She helped me go places like shopping at the mall. Sometimes she would take me to her church. She would buy me gifts like a sister would."

Tell us about a recent experience that makes you proud and happy? "Last week at church I did the Food Bank all by myself. My friend, Mike, had pneumonia, and I told him to go home. He was supposed to be in charge of our church's food bank, which gives food to the homeless and other people who can't afford to buy food. I told him to go home and get well and that I could do the Food Bank all by myself. And I did!"

What is your most unusual talent? "Serving God. I do for other people. I think of them first and think of myself last." What's your favorite thing to do just for fun? "Go swimming. It makes me cooler, and I get to relax. I swim at the Mission Road pool. It is safe, and it has life guards. And my friends are all there!"



Rita Sanchez

Rita serves at Mission Road's Coordinator for our Home and Community Services Non-Residential Program.

Rita supervises our Adult Host Home Companion Care program (formerly foster home).

Tell us about you. I recently got baptized Jan. 14, 2018. I serve at my church, Grace Point, faithfully. I co-lead a class - Identity Groups. I am a proud grandmother of 3 beautiful grandkids - Mia (8), Joshua (3) & Luna (1).

What is your most unusual talent?

Ha!!! I can touch the tip of my nose with my tongue

You are the ultimate party hostess. Tell us about that. Our favorite was the Fiesta party for our nephew who is in the Air Force. He was coming home to visit. We had all the traditional San Antonio food and Mariachi's!

What makes me feel happy? Serving... my church, my family, my community, my job, my friends. I also love to host and cook. Cooking and baking relaxes me.

What is the funniest thing you have seen your kids do? Our home is filled with love, laughter, music and dancing. We speak Spanish (so that our kiddos won't understand). We have had our two Host Home (foster) boys for 7 years, and now they understand Spanish. One day I was speaking in code (Spanish), and I was telling my husband that I was going to get the kids Christmas gifts. By the time I went to the living room, both of them were dressed in winter jackets, shoes on and had my car keys in their hand by the door. HA!!!!

Why do you love working at Mission Road? I love working here. I love being a host to two amazing young men. Working in this program has helped me learn about resources and how to advocate for those we serve. Being a Foster/Host mom and a mom to my own son with a disability has given me the opportunity to let the families we serve know that I do understand. I know the struggles of being a Mother/Host/Foster parent to kids with special needs. I am able to share my challenges, my victories, and my stories (some funnier than others). I am able to say to them "Yes. I do understand you and what you are going through."



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Save the Date: 40th Annual Grand Western Shindig
Friday, November 15, 2019 (Earlier!) ☆ Witte Museum, Mays Family Center
Secure your table. Contact Lynette Farrimond ☆ (210) 334-2455 ☆ info@mrmsat.org

Mission Road - by the #'s



900 people served every day

24 adults with IDD live in our homes who are also blind & deaf



2,152,128 hours of care every year

58 adults with IDD are residents in our 3 apartment complexes



302 professional, trained caregivers

285 adults have fun each day in our Day Activity Programs



20 residential community homes serving 106 adults

240 adults are in job training to work in the community



93¢ of every \$1 donated goes directly to client care

100 adults with IDD are employed in the community



Do you know someone who needs our help? Contact us any time!

Visit: www.missionroadministries.org Email: info@mrmsat.org

Call: 210.924.9265 Tour: 8706 Mission Road, SA, TX 78214