

International Studies Internship Fall 2011
Intern: Drew De Los Santos

Organization: Baptist Child Family Services (BCFS)
International Children's Services
Supervisor: Lupe Fernandez, *Community Support Coordinator*

The goals and objectives of the BCFS International Children's Services are: to house, clothe, feed, educate, and prepare for entrance into and success in American culture illegal immigrants, specifically boys from ages 12-17, while they go through the process of obtaining a visa to stay in the United States. The boys come from several different countries, including but not limited to, Mexico, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, China, and India. There is also a juvenile girls' home on the property.

My main duties as an intern include, but are not limited to, organizing volunteer groups to visit the shelter, updating volunteers through the use of the Google group, organizing holiday events, organizing visits to sporting events, music events or other appropriate cultural events on Trinity's campus or in the San Antonio area, organizing cultural enrichment presentations, and helping the Community Support Coordinator (Lupe) with professional letters, formulating ideas/possibilities, and what ever he asks, within reason. It is the responsibility of the intern to maintain communication with Lupe, and keep up with various events as they happen, otherwise there may be miscommunication concerning what the shelter has available for use or what exactly will happen when the event takes place. As well, some things are time sensitive and it is the responsibility of the intern to remind Lupe of this and that they themselves also be aware of time sensitive events.

There is a lot of promise within the shelter and Lupe is really looking to expand what is available to the boys and how involved the San Antonio community is with the shelter. Slowly but surely, the Trinity community is helping with this. The main problem concerning Trinity is the lack of volunteers going to the shelter, especially Spanish speaking volunteers. I would suggest to the intern(s) to make connections at the beginning of the semester, or right before, in order to secure place in the calendars of large groups (Alpha Phi Omega, various fraternities/possibly sororities, Delta Sigma Pi-business fraternity, Latino Exchange, International Students Association, and/or any other possibly interested parties). Perhaps looking into TUVAC week of volunteering or Sigma GIVE day, whatever is the Spring equivalent to either. As well, there is opportunity for musicians to get involved at the shelter, artists, math tutors, computer enthusiasts, any sports team whether collegiate or intramural, so perhaps using contacts or resources in those areas would be a good idea. I would also suggest putting an ad in Lee Roy. Another outreach tactic could be an article in the Trinitonian. Any outreach should emphasize need, possibility for diverse volunteers, and encourage Spanish speakers to come.

