

West Houston Assistance Ministries, Inc.

WHAM

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WHAM Holiday of Giving

There is a popular holiday song that calls this the most wonderful time of the year. However, for single dad, Maurice and his four children it is a time of great stress.

"It's so hard to tell your little ones that Santa won't be visiting," said Maurice. "I just don't have the money to buy any toys this year."

You can help to make the holidays brighter for families like Maurice and his children. West Houston Assistance Ministries is looking for individuals, businesses, civic organizations and churches to take part in their Adopt a Family program as well as the Holiday Toy drive.

"I think the request for help will be much higher than last year," says Sonya Scott, Director of Client Services at WHAM. "The tough economy is forcing people to seek help more than ever before."

Adopt-a-Family was created to help some of WHAM's most needy families. In the coming weeks, families will be selected for the program and helped with some of their holiday wishes.

Another way you can make the season a little brighter is by donating to the WHAM holiday toy drive. The annual event offers children 10 years and under new toys from "Santa."

Donations of new unwrapped toys and cash will be collected at WHAM offices, 10501 Meadowglen Lane, and at the Second Blessing Store, 3100 Rodgerdale.



Toys needed include: board games, dolls, books, Legos, educational toys, basketballs, footballs, baseballs, bats, coloring books and crayons.

Also needed are \$25 gift cards for kids ages ten and up. The collection for the WHAM holiday toy drive began Oct. 1, 2011.

Last year, WHAM was able to bring joy to more than 739 children, who received toys, thanks to the annual holiday event.

"In the past, the holiday season has brought out incredible generosity from the west Houston community," said Scott. "We are hoping to be able to continue that spirit of giving this year."

For more information on how you can help make the holidays a little merrier for families in Houston, contact WHAM's Care Ministry at 713-977-5522.

The Second Blessing Store Makes Holiday Shopping Easy for Bargain-Hunters

The holiday shopping season is almost upon us. However, shoppers do not have to look any further than Second Blessing Store for great gift ideas at affordable prices. New and gently used merchandise comes in every day.

"You never know what you can find," said Willie Duckworth, Second Blessing Store Manager. "It changes from day to day. Best of all, prices are often 50% to 75% less than department stores."

Second Blessing Store is open to the public and offers shoppers a variety of clothing, house wares, appliances, furniture, and basic household needs for those on a budget or looking for a bargain. The store's changing inventory offers quality fine clothing, exercise equipment, furniture, rare and unusual items for the collector including books, LP records, jewelry, artworks, china, and much more.



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The weeks after Halloween and before Christmas Day are some of the busiest of the year. With the economy taking a bite out of shoppers' wallets, more people are looking for affordable ways to find the perfect holiday gift this year.

That goal is easy to achieve at Second Blessing. Shoppers can decorate their home for the holidays at just a fraction of the cost. Christmas decorations are on sale year round. Bargain hunters looking to spruce up their home can also find new and gently used furniture.

"We get all kinds of furniture donations, from antique to modern style pieces," said Duckworth.

In addition to your home looking festive for the holidays, there are weekly sales on evening gowns and dresses for upcoming gatherings.

"This is the time of year, when people start thinking about Christmas and New Year's parties," said Arlene Flint, Second Blessing Store Clothing Coordinator. "We have a wide selection of costume jewelry, evening gowns and party dresses to choose from this holiday season."

Whether you are looking for unique and affordable gifts for friends, family or yourself this holiday season, Second Blessing Store is the place for all your shopping needs.



Second Blessing Store is located at 3100 Rodgerdale, between Westheimer and Richmond. Store hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information call 713-780-2727.

World Traveler Takes Volunteer Journey to WHAM

Karem "Sam" Sheih goes home each day knowing he made a difference in someone's life. Sam is a volunteer at West Houston Assistance Ministries (WHAM). He has worked in the food pantry at WHAM for nine months.

Sam came to WHAM through a partnership with the Chinese Community Center. After spending more than 35 years working in the restaurant business, the retiree was looking for a chance to develop skills in a new career.

"This has been a good opportunity for me," said Sam. "Some days are busy, but I am getting a lot of experience working one-on-one with people. It is very rewarding."

Sam is from Malaysia and was born in Pakistan. He is also a seasoned world traveler, having visited such far away locations as Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. Despite his journeys, Sam says it is his work at WHAM that has left the biggest impression on him.

"The economy has been tough for a lot of people. It's not unusual for the clients who come to WHAM, seeking help with food and finances, to be very worried," said Sam. "However, I know just the five minutes I spend with them can make a big difference in their day."



Those who work closest to Sam would agree. They say it is volunteers like him that are helping WHAM to fulfill its mission to serve.

"Sam is a huge asset to the food pantry," said Selena Nimchan, Food Pantry Supervisor. "He is a dedicated volunteer, who will come in even on days he is not scheduled to work."

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of Houston families, visit our website at www.whamministries.org or contact Ella Clark, WHAM Volunteer Coordinator at 713-343-0428.

Give the gift of yourself when you volunteer at WHAM! There are several opportunities this holiday season!

- WHAM's Big Fall Cleanup, Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, 9 AM to 2 PM
- WHAM Annual Toy Drive, volunteers needed December 19-22, 2011

Call Ella Clark, WHAM Volunteer Coordinator, at 713-343-0428 or via email at e.clark@whamministries.org for more information.

WHAM Food Pantry Needs Your Help for the Holiday Season

Hunger does not take a break for the holidays. That is why the food pantry at WHAM needs your help in feeding families for the holidays.

You can help by donating:

- Donations of: \$10 Gift Cards from Kroger, HEB or Randall's for meat purchases.
- Mashed Potatoes
- Dressing Mix
- Gravy
- Chicken Broth
- Canned Vegetables and Fruit
- Yams

For more information, please contact WHAM's Food Pantry at 832-553-1675.

Your gift makes a difference in someone's life.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250
Other \$_____

Make your check payable to: WHAM

Please send this form with your check to:
West Houston Assistance Ministries, Inc.
10501 Meadowglen Lane; Houston, TX 77042

Or go to our website www.whamministries.org
to make a donation using PayPal