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**For Immediate Release:**

**San Antonio Conservation Society names recipients of  
2011 Community Grants Program**  
*Society has awarded nearly two million dollars since 2000 alone*

Using the proceeds from its 2011 presentation of “A Night In Old San Antonio<sup>®</sup>” (NIOA<sup>®</sup>), the San Antonio Conservation Society has awarded \$85,000 this year in grants to 13 historic preservation and educational projects that fulfill its purpose to “preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and all that is admirably distinctive to our State.”

Since 1990, the Society has provided grants in the San Antonio area for the restoration or rehabilitation of residential and commercial historic structures that are at least 50 years old. Since 2000 alone, the Society’s grants program has awarded nearly two million dollars to individuals and organizations.

After a lengthy review process, a total of \$75,000 was awarded to the following 13 individuals and organizations:

- 1) Mary Chevront, for roof replacement at the 1858 John Gawlik Home in Panna Maria, Texas. Panna Maria, 55 miles southeast of San Antonio, was the first Polish settlement in the United States, and the John Gawlik Home (named after the stone mason who built the house) was the first permanent stone dwelling constructed there.
- 2) Josephine Mendoza, for repair of exterior walls at the caliche dwelling at 9143 Espada Road. The land on which this house is located was granted to the owner’s great, great grandfather, Domingo Bustillos in 1855, and the house was built in 1857.
- 3) The Land Heritage Institute, for roof replacement on a portion of the Presnall-Watson House, which was constructed in 1853, with additions to the house in 1883. In the future, the Institute plans to use the house and its surrounding farm buildings as part of a living history center.
- 4) The Reuter Building Joint Venture, for exterior limestone repair on the Alamo Plaza façade of the Reuter Building. This structure was designed by architect James Wahrenberger for William Reuter and was constructed in 1891.
- 5) The San Antonio Mennonite Church at 1443 S. St. Mary’s St. for window restoration. Built as the Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1899 with Spanish Colonial Revival additions in 1928 and 1948, the building was sold to the San Antonio Mennonite Fellowship in the mid-1980s.

- 6) Marylinda Rios, for roof restoration at the 1925 Parkmoor Building at 1909 Fredericksburg Rd. Over the last 20 years various owners of the Parkmoor have tried to demolish the building, but were prevented from doing so by preservationists. The new owner plans to use the structure as a dance studio and performance hall following renovation.
- 7) Gary Hudman, for steel casement window restoration at 250 Mary Louise Drive. This house was designed by architect Frost Carvel and built in 1928 in what is now the Monticello Park Historic District.
- 8) Rick Carabetta, for roof repairs at 2502 W. Travis St. The structure was built in 1906 in the Prospect Hill neighborhood on the west side of San Antonio.
- 9) Andy Castillo, for storefront restoration at 2800 W. Southcross. This commercial building, constructed in 1918, is located in the South San Antonio area. The structure is one of eight in “downtown South San” whose owners are planning to restore their storefronts to their original appearance.

In addition to building grants, the Society also awarded \$10,000 in educational grants to the following organizations:

- 1) NOWCastSA, for the creation of a multi-media map of San Antonio that connects stories of each featured location on the map to video.
- 2) S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization), for the purchase of materials and equipment for students to use in rehabilitating homes in inner city neighborhoods.
- 3) Texas Public Radio, for the creation of features focusing on preservation in the San Antonio area, to be broadcast on its station.
- 4) The Wilson Pottery Foundation, for videotaping interviews with descendants of Hiram and James Wilson, freed slaves who established the Wilson Pottery Company in Guadalupe County after the Civil War.

“Our Community Grant program is a unique way for the San Antonio Conservation Society to partner with residential and commercial property owners as they work to preserve and protect their historic properties,” says Conservation Society President Nancy Avellar. “This year, a record number of Community Grant applications were received by the Society: 54 structure applications and six educational applications. The response to this program was gratifying, with so many historically and architecturally significant structures and worthwhile educational projects being considered for a grant.”

The grants program occurs annually; applications for the 2012 grant program will be posted on the website at [www.saconservation.org](http://www.saconservation.org) in late August 2012, or are available by calling the Society office. For more information, contact the Conservation Society at (210) 224-6163 or [conserve@saconservation.org](mailto:conserve@saconservation.org).