

# Public Safety

*Investing in initiatives for the well-being of our residents and all who visit*

Whether it was fighting the city's first known four-alarm fire to combating neighborhood crimes like graffiti, keeping our neighborhoods and streets safe remained a top priority for the City of San Antonio in 2008.

- The San Antonio Police Department responded to almost one million calls for service in 2008.

- The Police Department's Tactical Response Unit and the newly created Violent Crime Apprehension Team continued to serve as effective forces against combating crime and keeping San Antonio safe.

- The San Antonio Police Department commissioned the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to review some of the department's high risk policies such as use of force and training practices. The PERF report was released in 2008 and provided the department with new direction to review its policies and make necessary changes to improve training and police services.

- The San Antonio Police Department appointed the first female Assistant Chief in the City's history.

- In Fiscal Year 2008, the City added 80 new uniformed police officers to neighborhood patrol.



life support paramedic equipment and supplies for each fire engine and Truck Company. The ALS-equipped units responded to 25,941 calls in FY2008.

- Together with various departments, the Office of the City Attorney initiated the Dangerous Assessment Response Team (DART) which addressed over 20 properties considered serious nuisances. Through legal efforts or negotiated compliance, owners have initiated or completed clean-up of the properties.

- The City's Housing and Neighborhood Services ramped up its graffiti enforcement. Through these efforts more than 2.9 million square feet of graffiti was removed from City streets.

- The City of San Antonio received \$8.5 million in homeland security grant funds for training, planning, and equipment geared toward the prevention of terrorism and designed for response, recovery and mitigation of emergencies and disasters.

- The San Antonio Fire Department responded to a total of 167,382 calls, 77 percent which were medical related.

- In Fiscal Year 2008, the San Antonio Fire Department promoted its first female Assistant Chief and two female District Chiefs.

- The Firefighting Division Advanced Life Support (ALS) program was implemented during Fiscal Year 2008 to provide advanced



# Emergency Operations

*Opening our hearts to our Gulf Coast neighbors*



- The San Antonio Municipal Court joined more than 150 Texas agencies in the "2008 Great Texas Warrant Roundup". The state-wide roundup coordinated the efforts of various agencies to resolve delinquent traffic and City warrants. Locally, the Municipal Court, Police Department, Volunteers in Policing, Communications and Public Affairs and Community Link Centers worked together to resolve these delinquent warrants. During the Roundup period, the San Antonio Municipal Court cleared and closed 18,576 warrants and collected more than \$2.7 million in fees and fines.

- The City celebrated the grand opening of the \$24.5 million Emergency Operations Center bringing together City of San Antonio and Bexar County emergency management offices into one shared facility. Within this new state-of-the-art center, personnel are able to gather, evaluate, and distribute critical information and implement responsive actions during a significant weather event, a major hazardous materials incident and other natural or man-made emergencies or disasters.



In 2008, the nation watched as three hurricanes devastated the Gulf Coast leaving millions displaced from their homes. In true Texas fashion, San Antonio opened its heart and doors to transform vacant buildings and local schools into mini cities providing temporary shelter from the storms. The City of San Antonio also sent City crews from the Fleet and Maintenance Operations, Police, Public Works and Solid Waste Management Departments to the Houston area to help rebuild their community during recovery efforts.

