



# City of San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative



Artwork Courtesy of San Antonio Artist Christopher Maroney

## Third Convening of the Faith-Based Initiative Summary Report, September 27, 2017



HUMAN SERVICES  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO



## Executive Summary

Following the on-going relational and educational development of the first two Convenings, the Department of Human Services held the Third (Fall 2017) Convening of the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative on September 27, 2017.

The primary purposes of this convening were to:

- **End of FY2017 Report.** Give full account and affirm the many actions that occurred within the first nine months of the Initiative.
- **Fiscal Year 2018 Goals.** Receive direct and immediate insights of those gathered about those FY2017 accomplishments and FY2018 Goals.
- **Initiative Metrics.** Open up the door to the importance of measurements within the mutual work in showing progress as well as significant information to guide further progress.
- **Relational Commitment.** Continue to model the awareness of the San Antonio community at-large and active partnerships that are relationally committed to the Initiative.

**Held at the UIW Campus at Brooks**, the Fall 2017 Convening once again and intentionally moved attendees into yet a different part of the City. As a direct action of relational commitment, UIW Osteopathic provided the space at no-cost and UIW Center for Civic Leadership hosted the refreshments at no-cost, as a sign of hospitality. It was a very rainy San Antonio evening and it impacted attendance to 109 participants, but it also raised the Initiative's participant totals for the year to 131 congregations, 120 non-Profit Organizations, and 64 other agencies. A grand total of 315 in nine months, ~35/month or +1/day.

**Real-time polling via smart phones** was utilized during the power point presentation on FY2017 accomplishments and FY2018 goals. Action Team Leads engaged the attendees during the presentation by reporting via a 60-second Mission Minute about their mission-within-the-Mission and potential action steps to engage that mission. Accomplishments and goals, insights and input from the polling along with the Mission Minutes are found in the following detailed report.

**Molly Cox of SA2020** listened carefully throughout the 2017/2018 report, polling and Mission Minutes. Strategic statistics that were directly connected to the Community Concerns were shared with attendees causing some direct inspiration to move on their actions and informing those actions.

***"There are 2.5 congregations in San Antonio for every 1 child needing foster care."***

- Molly Cox, SA2020

Next steps in the Initiative's developmental process are the activation of Teams' Action Plans and Steps. At earliest, the next Convening will be a January/Winter 2018 Convening to share in action engagement and education.





## Convening Overview

Communications networks within the Faith-Based Initiative continue to grow – between convenings and following convenings. On-line invitations were sent to 730 and since the Fall 2017 Convening that number has grown to 815.

### Compassionate San Antonio

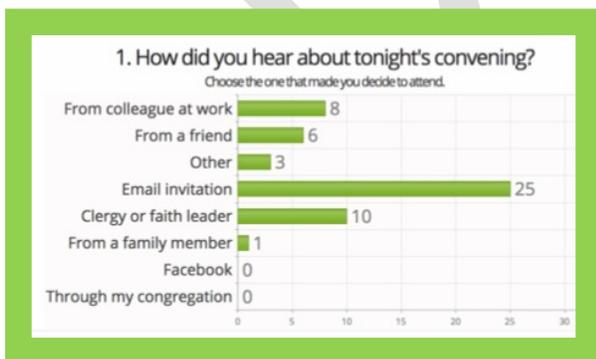
This was the first convening post-signing of the Compassionate San Antonio resolution on June 22, 2017. A display was set-up that included a signed copy of the resolution. Each participant received a copy of the Compassionate San Antonio booklet. It includes a the resolves of the SA resolution, a concise history of the Compassionate Cities within the International Charter for Compassion, participating countries, participating cities, Ethic of Reciprocity/Golden Rules found within all world religions and the words of the Charter.

During arrival and pre-Convening, 150 San Antonio compassion stories that include photos, headlines and media sources were scrolling on the screen to the music of “We are the World.”



### Real-Time Polling

To quickly engage, people were invited into the utilization of Voxvote.com on their phones with two trial questions:





# Convening Content: Where We've Come

Appropriate and well-received welcomes followed from the City and UIW Osteopathic. These provided contextual information and insights into geography, setting and related missions.

A participant-engaged presentation on the FY2017 accomplishments and the FY2018 goals then followed:

## Where We've Come!

**Purpose. Power. Progress.**  
FY2017

**From**

**TO**

### VISION

Collaboration & Active Partnerships  
Faith Community + government agencies  
+ nonprofits + community groups  
*Improving the Lives of Families and  
Communities in Need*



### MISSION

Collaborate through relationships, partner  
in actions and network our services  
*between*  
San Antonio faith community, government  
agencies, non-profit organizations and  
community groups  
*toward*  
**Improving the Lives of Families and  
Communities in Need**

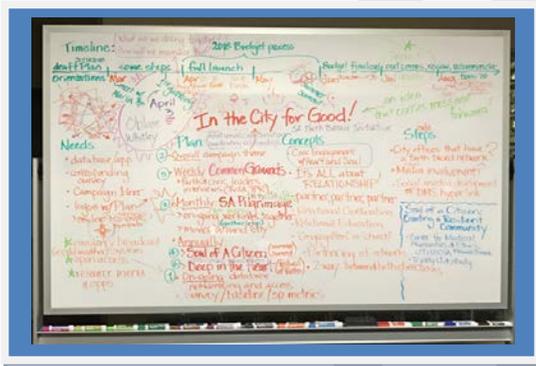
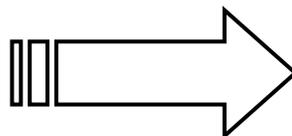


### 1<sup>st</sup> Year GOALS – Fiscal 2017 (Oct-Sept)

- ✓ Employ Liaison – Feb 1<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ Develop Relationships
- ✓ Survey Leadership
- ✓ Create a Network
- ✓ Facilitate Common Vision
- ✓ Build Capacity



### 3. In which districts do you spend the most time?





**Where We've Come!**  
**Purpose. Power. Progress.**  
**FY2017**

**From**

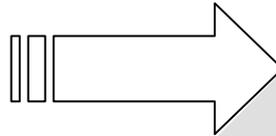
**TO**

**Convenings and Surveys**

*Community Concerns and Strategies*

- 1) Generational Poverty
- 2) Homelessness & Hunger
- 3) Immigration & Refugees
- 4) Literacy
- 5) Children & Foster Care, Mental Health, Public Health, Religious Discrimination

*How do we make this work?*

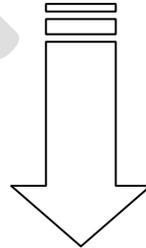


**Working Group**

*Sampling of faith communities and religions that make up San Antonio's diversity and leadership based on size and longevity of presence in San Antonio and/or interfaith networking.*

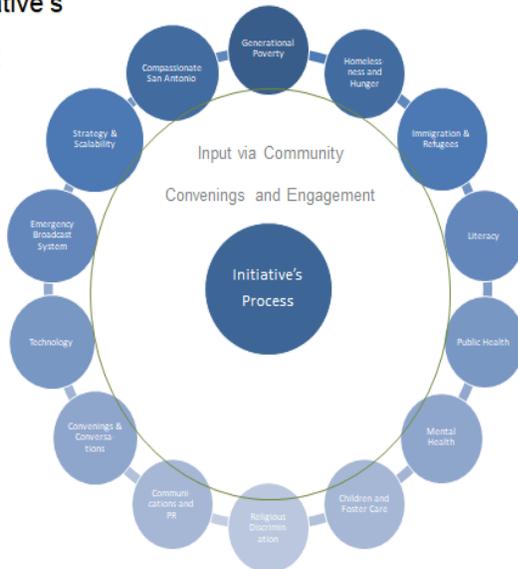
*Can less than 20 people do this?*

**A diagram of the Faith-Based Initiative structure and process was provided:**



**CoSA Faith-Based Initiative's**

**Strategic Process:**



**14 Action Teams**

8 Community Concern Teams and 6 Supportive Resource Teams



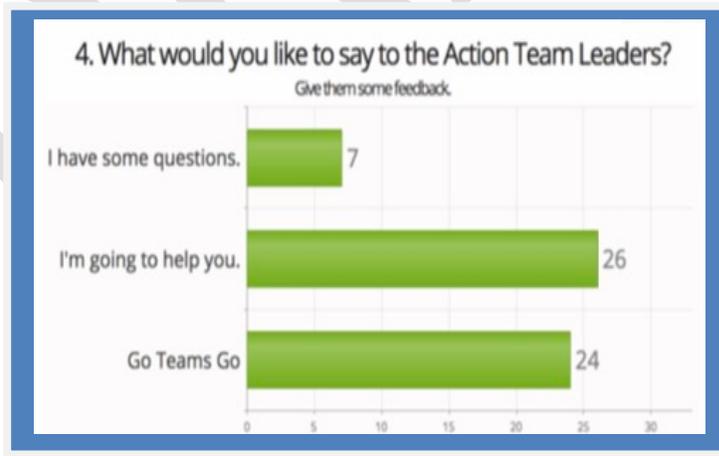
## Where We Can Go!

### Partnerships. Passion. Potential. FY2018

While pointing to the previous diagram on-screen as learning enhancement, Action Team Leads were invited to stand throughout the participants as a model of sharing in leadership with everyone present and healthy community organizing. The following Teams presented their Mission Minute and potential Action Plans:

- **Children & Foster Care** – *bridging the service gap between children in need with adults who care via the undergirded expansion of fostering through the congregational directory (2.5 congregations/child)*
- **Compassionate SA** – *exploring the meaning of compassion to deepen community capacity via community conversations, compassion indexing and signing-on Compassionate Congregations*
- **Generational Poverty** – *building the capacity as well as equipping the faith community into daily critical thinking via education, sound curriculum and local expertise of human resources*
- **Homeless & Hunger** – *developing collaborative and localized efforts to decrease effects via navigation centers(with pantries in food deserts) in congregations -- Meaningful Change investment campaign*
- **Immigration & Refugees** – *cultivating good will towards effective welcome via survey of needed resources for at-risk with follow-up prep of resources made available to San Antonio congregations*
- **Literacy** – *strengthening and expanding of literacy understanding and impact in San Antonio via the intersecting of faith community volunteers with current and effective local efforts (SAYL, Libraries)*
- **Public Health** – *bringing awareness of spirituality and cultural diversity into public health implementation via compassionate/companionate care within maternal mortality & opioid crises*
- **Technology** – *providing supportive tools toward effective communications and efficient service resourcing via data directory, website/pages, wiki resourcing, mapping, partnering with existing tools*

Throughout the presentation, real-time polling continued:



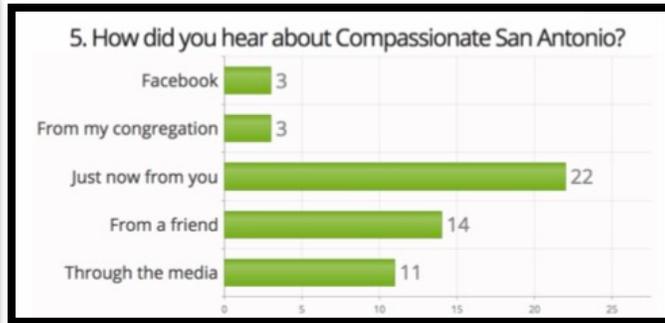
Updates of progress with example stories were shared for partnering purposes, inspiration and potential engagement by the Convening participants and the faith community at-large.



# Convening Content: Compassionate San Antonio

## Compassionate San Antonio

as an overall lens to the Faith-Based Initiative:



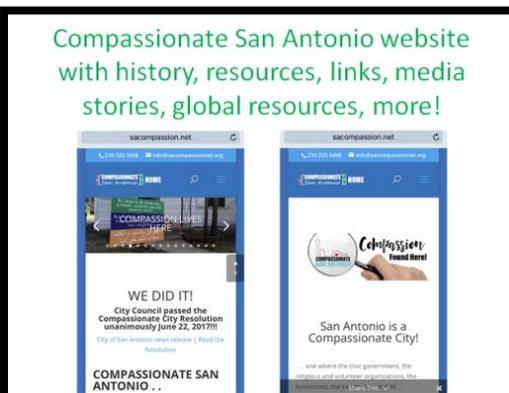
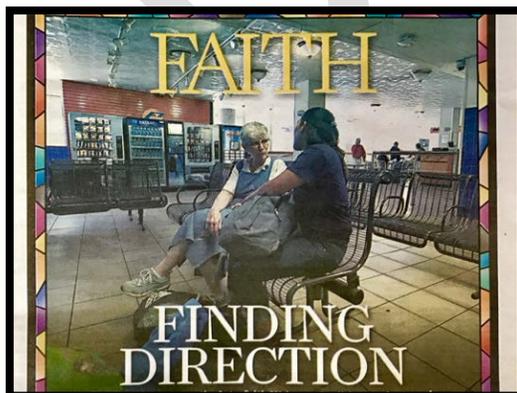
## Spiritual Caregiving Training during Harvey

as an exponential example of the Faith-Based Initiative:



## Stories of Compassion in San Antonio

being collected and where to currently find them:

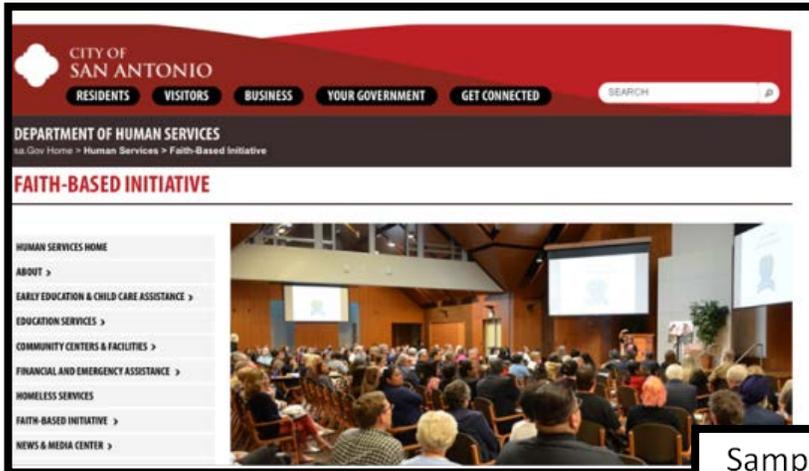




# Convening Content: Technological Advancements

## Technological Advancements

that undergird the work of the Faith-Based Initiative include:

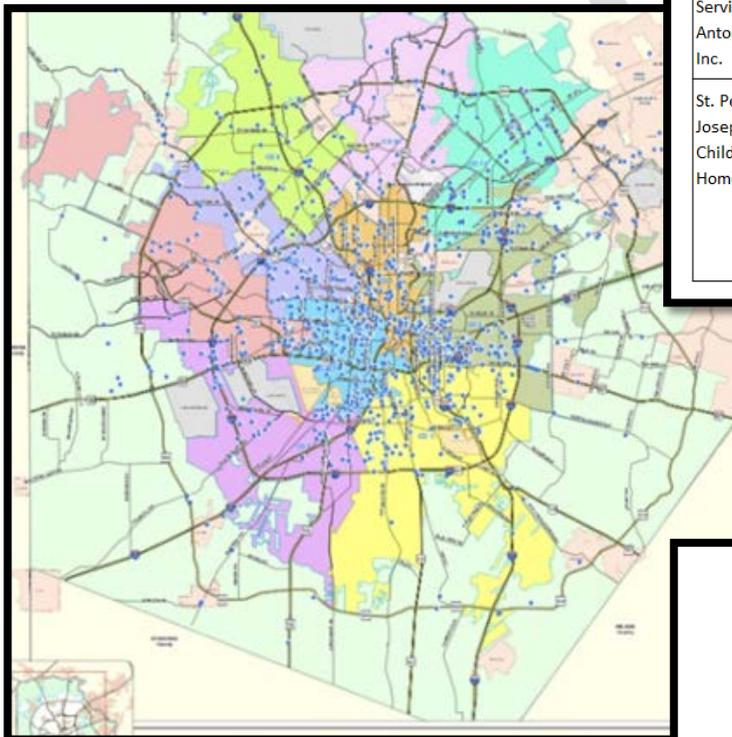


**Webpage with Info, Reports, Links, and Resources**

**Resourcing through City Partners**

### Sample United Way 211 - Service Provider inquiry

Agency Name	Address	Service Categories	Service Description
Jewish Family Service of San Antonio Texas Inc.	1151 Mission Rd 78210	Anger Management	Helps clients address anger and the impact uncontrolled anger has on the individual at home, in school, and in the workplace.
St. Peter - St. Joseph Children's Home	919 Mission Rd 78210 210-533-1203	Crime Victim/Witness Counseling	Attempt to reduce the long term life-altering effects of trauma through therapeutic interventions with victims and their families, development of necessary life skills, and collaboration and linkage with other appropriate victims services.



**Data Directory with Mapping Capacity**

**Urgent Response Text Notification System**

**Text Compassion to 55000**

A text messaging alert list for **Congregations/organizations and Individuals** to help provide assistance in the event of a social emergency/critical need

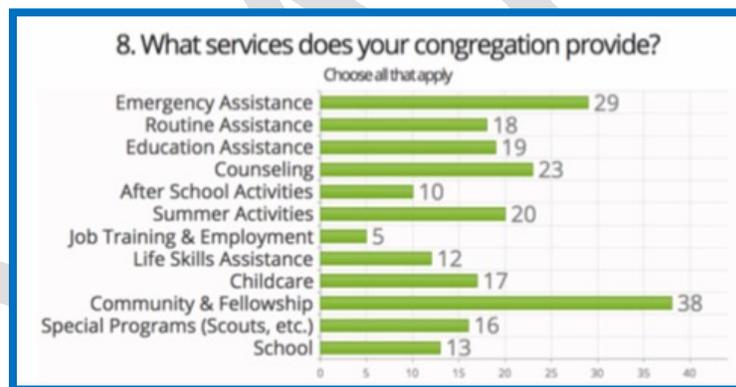
## Next Steps



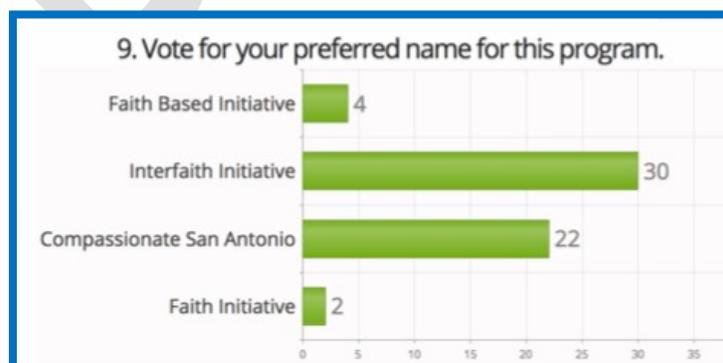
We then articulated our next steps and continued polling attendees' opinions and preferences:



One of the FY2018 goals with an investigative task force is a major surveying of services from within congregations that are provided to and among the community beyond their buildings. The below is simple sampling among those present at the Convening.



Discussions among many have also been occurring around the name of the Initiative, with the majority of polled attendees preferring a name change:





**SA2020** tied it all together by modelling the importance of community listening, partnering with the Initiative and cross-entities, and sharing of their valuable resources of information directly applicable to the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative:

- **2.5 San Antonio congregations per every 1 child in need of foster care (from research by Trinity Lutheran University and Theatre for Change, 2014).**
- **1 in 5 live in poverty.**
- **Our community will grow by 1 million people in the next 25 years.**
- **Unemployment rates have reached an all-time low, while underemployment rates remain stagnant**
- **There is a 20-year life span difference for people who live on the northside and southside of San Antonio (from the Community Health Improvement Plan, 2017).**
- **We are both one of the top cities for college-educated millennial growth and the most economically segregated city in the United States.**

And yet...we know where we want to go because we defined it together in 2010...

“Our residents are amongst the **healthiest** in the nation with access to **quality education and economic opportunity**. San Antonio is the **safest big city** in the U.S. with connected neighborhoods and residents that are engaged civically. The city is growing, but is sustaining its natural resources as a **respectful steward**. San Antonio has public transportation that is recognized as a model of efficiency, a **vibrant downtown**, a **diverse and thriving** creative community, and a local government that’s responsive and accountable. Our entire community takes responsibility for our collective well-being.”

**SA2020**<sup>®</sup>

