



MISSION ROAD

MINISTRIES

The Road to Independence, Productivity and Inclusion



EARNING A COLLEGE DEGREE

And Learning to Brush His Teeth...

Cheers!

He's an amateur software developer ... *who is still learning to brush his teeth.*

He earned a Presidential Scholarship to St. Mary's University ... *and flunked everything but calculus.*

He can operate a computer as easily as a toy ... *but can't be trusted with money.*

Chris is a study in contrasts. When you first meet him, you're impressed by his intelligence. Then you notice that his speech is halting and infused with anxiety. But if you look past the hesitation and avoidance of eye contact, you're again impressed that his conversation is advanced, insightful and introspective.

He is conscious of the myriad medical diagnoses that impede him and talks openly of his challenges, and confidently of his achievements.

Unlike most of Mission Road's clients, Chris does not have mental retardation, but he is burdened by a combination of mental, physical and emotional forces that make it difficult for him to function on his own. "I need the structure here," he says of Mabee, an independent living home operated by MRM. "Moving here was the best thing that's happened to me."

He leads an active life — working on an architectural drafting degree at St. Philip's College and hanging out with friends at Our House (a clubhouse for people with mental health issues). In between, his schedule revolves around the medications he must take to control conditions that include Asperger's syndrome, hypothyroidism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, bipolarism, anxiety, anger, pervasive development disorder and diabetes insipidus.

One of the cruellest issues that plague him is uncontrollable gluttony. "I have a food obsession," he says. "I can eat two Hungry Man TV dinners, get sick, and go down the street to an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet and gorge myself until I'm sick again."

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FREE HUGS — Chris wears a "Free Hugs" sign on behalf of the Free Hugs campaign that is practiced in many cities. The campaign offers hugs as an antidote to the social disconnection and lack of human contact that often mark modern life. Offering his hugs in front of the Alamo, Chris gleefully announces his record: "61 hugs in one hour!"



DECEMBER 4, 2008

6:30 - 11:00

LEON SPRINGS DANCEHALL

24135 I-10, OFF BOERNE STG RD

29TH ANNUAL GRAND WESTERN SHINDIG

The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation presents

“Boot Scootin’ Down the Road”

Calling all cowboys and cowgirls! Let’s have a whole heap of fun and help more than 680 children and adults with mental retardation boot scoot down the road to independence, productivity and inclusion in the community. Come on along... enjoy the toe-tappin’ tunes of Rick Cavender; the auctioneer skills of Rick Shaw; bang-up live, silent and country store auctions; portraits by Paul Overstreet; and great gourmet fixin’s from Black Tie Affairs Catering.

Kick back with friends and raise those bid cards high for these live auction items:

- A series of chef-prepared dinners for eight in your home, paired with a shopping spree at Julian Gold.
- A custom-designed, hand-painted children’s room mural complete with a party at The Candy Lounge for five kiddos.
- Round trip airfare for two and a seven-night stay at your choice of three Condé Nast Gold Hotels in Calgary, Lake Louise and/or Banff, Canada.
- Four nights in a luxury four-bedroom beachfront villa for eight guests in Los Cabos, Mexico overlooking the Sea of Cortez at the renowned Villas del Mar of Palmilla Resort.

Visit shindig.missionroadministries.org for details, restrictions and to see all of the live

auction packages with photos. You can also find information on the Super Silent items, silent auction items, menu, parking and more! If you can’t be with us for Shindig, you can still participate in the live auction! At shindig.missionroadministries.org, click on “Auction” and “Absentee Bid Form” to participate in absentee bidding. A representative will bid on your behalf up to your designated highest bid.

For more information on underwriting or table sponsorships, contact Melanie Cawthon, Associate Development Director, at 210.334.2455 or mcawthon@mrmsat.org.

A special thank you to our event underwriters:

**as of October 29, 2008*

Presenting Sponsor

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YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT ...

Love, Joy, Hope (and some very ordinary things)

This holiday, we hope you'll give a gift to Mission Road Ministries in honor of your friends and family. We'll send you inserts to place in your holiday cards that read, "In the spirit and joy of the season, a gift has been given in your name to brighten the holidays for the children and adults of Mission Road Ministries."

It's an easy, shopping-free and thoughtful way to let others know you support the work of MRM. You are the extended family that clients rely on for financial support, friendship and prayer. Your contributions bring shelter, food, education, laughter and life to the 52 children and hundreds of adults in our family.

And your gifts help supply some very ordinary things, for which we thank you ...

\$ 25 Socks and underwear for one child

\$ 50 School supplies and a backpack for one child or games for an adult home

\$ 100 Shoes and a winter jacket for a child or adult

\$ 250 One month of arts & crafts supplies for all five MRM children's homes

\$ 500 One year of birthday celebrations for one campus home or a stationary bicycle for an adult

\$ 1000 Special adaptive equipment for clients with physical disabilities

For every \$10 gift to MRM, we'll send you one acknowledgement insert to enclose in your holiday cards. Checks may be made to Mission Road Ministries and mailed to: Mission Road Ministries, Development Office, 8706 Mission Road, San Antonio, Texas 78214.

Make your gift today! Use the envelope provided in the newsletter and note 'Holiday Gift'.

EARNING A COLLEGE DEGREE

(continued from cover)

Nancy Guenther, QMRP, Mabee, is one of the staff that works with Chris. "We issue bus passes and gift cards to Chris rather than cash," she explains, "because when he gets any money at all, he spends it on food."

And he tells us in his matter-of-fact delivery: "Asperger's and bipolar are a disastrous combination. When my meds aren't balanced, I'm out of control."

Nancy says his anger issues have abated with diligent oversight of his medication and that for months he has been operating on green level. That's the highest level residents can achieve and it means they're abiding by house rules, being cooperative and helpful and living in relative harmony with others in the group home. Infractions can lead to yellow or red levels and a reduction in privileges.

Despite his complex health issues, Chris leads a happy and productive life and his future outlook is positive. He expects to earn a degree and get a job. He sees his family often and they are enormously supportive. His mom, Charleen, says, "Mission Road provided Chris with peers and that's something we could not do. We're very thankful." Strengthened by his family of origin and his new family at Mabee, Chris is confident that he can control the forces that challenge him.

Chris is a 24-year-old resident of Mabee, one of 10 community group homes operated by Mission Road. In these nurturing homes, MRM gives residents the tools and support to lead independent, productive and socially inclusive lives. During the past two years, Chris has assimilated into the Mabee family, along with five other men ranging in age from 22 to 74, and a dedicated staff that acts as mother, father, nurse, guardian, counselor, cook, chauffeur, housekeeper and friend.



8706 Mission Road
San Antonio, Texas 78214
(210) 334.2454

www.missionroadministries.org

A (Very) Good Thing For Your Wallet, Heart and Peace of Mind

Are the returns on your investments down? Would you like a new stream of income you can count on? You can accomplish your financial, tax and giving goals with one wise investment: a charitable gift annuity.

With a charitable gift annuity to Mission Road Ministries, you can enter into a contract that states this: If you make an irrevocable donation to Mission Road, we will pay you a fixed dollar amount for the rest of your life. You will also get an immediate charitable tax deduction for a portion of your gift. Currently, if you are 75 years old, the fixed amount is 6.7% of your donation. If you are 80 years old, it is 7.6%. For more information, phone Suzanne Letch, Vice President-Development at 210-334-2453.



On October 11, SEA (Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association) of San Antonio partnered with NuStar Energy to host KidsFish for the Mission Road children. The kids headed for Corpus Christi by bus where the day began with a tour of the Marine Development Center. They toured spawning tanks, the incubator room and outdoor ponds — and were treated to some great catch-and-release fishing. The day wrapped up with lunch prepared and served by SEA San Antonio. Thank you to SEA San Antonio and NuStar Energy for this wonderful opportunity for our children.