



VICTORIA GABRIEL PROJECT

Protecting the unborn by providing emotional, material and spiritual support for pregnant women and their families in need.

P.O. Box 345, Victoria, Texas 77902-0345 www.victoriagabrielproject.org 866.627.9243

SEPTEMBER 2018 | VOLUME 18:2

MY SUMMER PROJECT

By Michelle Babb

I remember when I was little, everyone would ask on the first day of school, "What did you do this summer?". I would hear stories of fishing, camping, Disneyland and road trips. Sometimes I could match those trips with a big one that my family took. Not this summer. I re-organized the storage room at the Gabriel Project office this summer.

Two years ago, I was asked to take over the storage room. My official title is "Storage Room Coordinator". That means I purchase mother and baby supplies, car seats and pack and play cribs, collect and sort donations, wash and store baby clothes. All the while, I keep asking, "How can I make this process easier for the angels to come in and pickup what they need for their mothers?"

I also ask, "What do these mothers need?" I don't want the mothers to be stressed because they don't have the essentials for their baby. I believe if the mother is stressed, the baby will also be stressed. By providing items that she and the baby can use, we are saying, "Thanks for choosing life and not aborting your baby".

My family helped a lot. My mother, Karen Huvar, and my children Alex, Megan and Micheal helped assemble the racks and sort clothes. Scott, my husband, also helped with the assembly of the heavy clothes racks and bins. Tweedie DeLa Garza, my trusty assistant, was invaluable. Through the efforts of all these people, we got it done!

On September 11th at 6:30 p.m at our office on 101W Convent St., we will have our Storage Room blessed by Father Jasper Liggio. He will also bless us as we start another year. Please join us!

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 11

6:30 pm

General Meeting

101 W. Convent St.

Blessing of the Storage Room

by Fr. Jasper Liggio

(all are welcome, dinner provided)

Saturday, October 6

10 to 12 noon

Angel Update Brunch

101 W. Convent St.

(all are welcome, brunch provided)

Contact Stacey Ontai 361-703-

2268

Tuesday, October 9

6:30 pm

General Meeting

101 W. Convent St.

(all are welcome, dinner provided)

Contact Lisa at

lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com

for more information on events

DONATIONS WANTED

-Maternity clothes new or gently used (sizes L & XL)

-Diaper bags

Contact Michelle Babb

michelle_babb@yahoo.com



10 NEW BABIES WILL BE BORN IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER!

VOLUNTEERS REMINISCE ABOUT THE CHANGES OVER THE YEARS

When I first met this couple, I was struck by Barbara's quiet yet joyful demeanor. She and Dan were sitting at a table at one of our appreciation dinners. This couple has volunteered with the Victoria Gabriel Project since 2006. Stefani Spears our Director of Communications notes that Barbara is a very dedicated and dependable volunteer who is always willing to help cover other shifts besides her own. Dan helps her with picking up donations and the delivering items to the mothers.



Barbara and Dan Respondek

Stefani remembers going with Barbara to Corrine Dum's house for phone training where the

Gabriel Project phone line was first located. In the beginning, Corrine herself answered the phone. As the number of calls increased others stepped in to help. The phone line was transferred to whoever was on call that day and continues to be answered that way. Eventually, it was moved to our current location on Convent Street.

In those days, when a phone call came in the operator was responsible for delivering requested baby items, picking up donations and finding an angel (mentor) for the mom. Today we have coordinators that help find angel mentors for the moms and volunteers to deliver items to the mother.

In the early days, the larger baby items (i.e. cribs, car seats, strollers, high chairs, walkers and play pens) were stored in a shed in Leona Hagel's backyard. The smaller items (clothes, bibs, diapers and smaller items) were at a rented storage unit across from HEB. In 2009, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word of the Blessed Sacrament leased us our current space where we keep all our supplies.

Through all the changes in locations and operations, Barbara has been faithful in answering the phone. She knows that she is usually the first contact the caller has with the Gabriel Project and is loving and non-judgmental as she listens to the mother's story.

Dan and Barbara have been married for 61 years and have four children, Jacquelyn, Russell, Patrick and Thomas, and 6 grandchildren. One of their grandsons is adopted. Her daughter, Jacquelyn, adopted a baby boy through the Lutheran Services. After seeing the process and the effect on everyone involved, Barbara noted, "that's why I feel for these mothers and their babies".

Barbara and Dan represent the kind of volunteers we have at the Victoria Gabriel Project. We are fortunate to have them.



November 2nd & 3rd, 2018

Nov. 1 Setup
Nov. 2 Garage Sale
Nov. 3 Garage Sale

Contact Lisa Kainer
lisa_kainer@yahoo.com

**810 Gardenia Lane
7:30 to 3:30 pm**



___ I support the ministry of Victoria Gabriel Project.



Here is my donation: ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___Other

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please make your tax-deductible gift to VPG and mail to:
Victoria Gabriel Project
P.O. Box 345
Victoria, TX 77902-0345