

HEALTH

SALUD

'WiseGuys' host Christmas donation drive for children impacted by maltreatment

By Anais Biera Miracle
The Children's Shelter

The jingle, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," is reminiscent of romantic times of loved ones separated by distance, but plan to be home in time for the most festive time of the year.

Unfortunately, hundreds of Bexar County children spend their Christmas morning away from home. San Antonio is a generous community and in the spirit of the holiday season, a local eatery is teaming up with The Children's

Shelter to make the spirits bright for children who will be spending their Christmas away from home this year.

Chicago-native, Bill Nychay is president of WiseGuys, a locally based restaurant specializing in fare that made Chicago famous. In 2009, Bill and his brother-in-law started with a dream and a 1,000 square foot storefront, which has expanded to Florida, Oklahoma, and has opened his fifth store in San Antonio. Bill and his team, which includes owner/operator, Terri Bratton decided to embark on a mission to help those in

need, with a particular interest in children.

After a tour of The Children's Shelter, Bill and his team immediately began to brainstorm how they could make Christmas a special memory for children at The Children's Shelter. They looked within and decided to set-up an online donation platform on their website, www.wiseguyschicago.com, which provides the opportunity for anyone to make an online monetary contribution. Next, they decided to use their restaurants as a drop off donation station for their patrons to bring a new and

unwrapped toy.

All Christmas gift donations raised through December 23, 2015 at WiseGuys will not only put a smile on the face of an infant, child, or youth at our emergency shelter, but will be gifted to our youth who live at our residential treatment center for up to two years and are ages five through 12.

Lastly, The Children's Shelter ensures all children served through our family strengthening programs, foster care program, and the Harvey E. Najim Hope Center receives Christmas gifts.

"Working with select charities is something we have always integrated as a business model in our restaurants, and with WiseGuys being new to the San Antonio market, we thought this would be a great fit for our team. We toured The Children's Shelter and the staff is doing great things in an unfortunate time with these precious children," states Nychay.

Christmas is a beautiful time of the year and children at The Children's Shelter want to have a Merry Christmas, like any other child. At The Children's Shelter we ensure our children dress up

in their holiday apparel on Christmas day and open their gifts. The generosity of local businesses, individuals, groups, and corporations make it possible for all of our children served by The Children's Shelter to celebrate Christmas.

WiseGuys, a Chicago Eatery is located at 441 West Nakoma Drive and donations can be made in store and with every donation, WiseGuys is offering customers a free combo their sandwich purchase. For more information, visit their Facebook page at [Facebook.com/WiseGuysSanAntonio](https://www.facebook.com/WiseGuysSanAntonio).