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WINTER 2022

# HORIZONS

A Publication of Planned Parenthood South Texas



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Planned Parenthood South Texas

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*We provide and protect the  
health care and information  
people need to plan their  
families and their futures.*

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Planned Parenthood

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS

The work of Planned Parenthood South Texas is made possible by support from you and from institutional partners, including:

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Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation

# Message from the President



**Dear friends,**

I've just concluded my first three months of service as President & CEO of Planned Parenthood South Texas. As I reflect on what I've learned, and imagine the years to come, I do so against the backdrop of the midterm elections which have just concluded.

I am thrilled that in the five states where abortion measures were on the ballot, reproductive freedom won. But I am dismayed that so many anti-abortion extremists were victorious in Texas. Clearly, we continue to face strong headwinds, despite recent polls showing that support for legal abortion here in Texas and nationally is at an all-time high. As we prepare for the Texas legislative session to begin in January, we are bracing for more attacks on women's health care, LGBTQ+ rights, immigrant rights and more.

This is going to be tough. But this is why I decided to move to Texas to work at Planned Parenthood during one of the worst attacks on bodily autonomy in 50 years. **This is where the fight is.** This is where I can do the most good. **And this is where we all must hold the line.**

Despite the midterm results, my spirit is buoyed by the fierce loyalty of our patients (imagine having to brave protestors to get your dental cleanings!), the passion of our staff and the relentless support of friends like you. Patients... staff... supporters... we work together beautifully, and so effectively, to serve the needs of the community.

Despite constant challenges, we are delivering high-quality health care with compassion and kindness to

***Patients . . . staff . . .  
supporters . . . we work  
together beautifully,  
and so effectively, to serve  
the needs of the community.***

tens of thousands of patients every year. Together, we are making a real, tangible impact on public health in San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley. The midterm results don't change that.

The midterms don't diminish my excitement about some of the growth opportunities in front of us. We have a chance to rebuild a robust education program, for instance. We'll serve even more patients by expanding our scope

**Politicians and judges**

**come and go, but**

**PPST is here for good.**

of care and our outreach efforts. And – I promise – we will continue to fight to restore abortion access in Texas. Planned Parenthood has survived 14 presidential administrations, increasingly hostile state leaders, contentious elections, and declining levels of government funding. But in the face of political vagaries, we continue to remain steadfast, so that our patients can rely on us. We have delivered on our mission since 1939.

**That's not going to change.**

Politicians and judges come and go, but PPST is here for good. **Your support is always a sound investment in our community.** Your donations, advocacy and volunteer hours help South Texans move their lives and their families forward.

Now is not the time to give up. Family planning has never been more important. Fighting for traditionally marginalized communities has never been more important. Let's be relentless, secure in the knowledge that we are on the right side of history.



*Laura Terrill*

Laura Terrill

**Laura Terrill with the Community Engagement staff and journalist Paola Ramos**



# Building our future: Our newest health center

## Planned Parenthood South Texas is opening new doors to care.

In early 2023, we will welcome patients to a new health center we're constructing on the Far West Side of San Antonio, relocating the health center currently housed in a rented space on Marbach Road.

We're building from the ground up, carefully designing everything from the waiting room to the exam rooms with patient experience and clinical efficiency in mind.

"Our patients deserve both quality care and a great experience," said Candy Padron, Center Manager at the Marbach health center. "We are looking forward to serving them in a new, upgraded space."

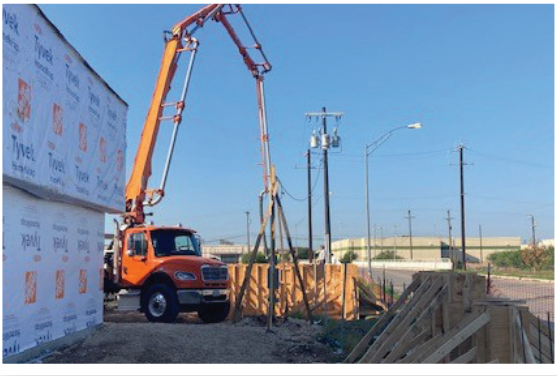
This building will double the capacity of the current clinical space, allowing us to serve more family planning

## ABOUT THE GARDEN

This new health center will feature a beautiful enclosed courtyard for patients and staff to enjoy. We're naming this space **Jeffrey's Garden** in appreciation of the 23 years that Jeffrey Hons fearlessly led this organization before his retirement in 2022. If you would like to contribute to Jeffrey's Garden, please contact Angela Koester at 210-262-2499 or [angela.koester@ppsouthtexas.org](mailto:angela.koester@ppsouthtexas.org). Contributors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on permanent plaques in the garden and will receive an invitation to the ribbon-cutting. Gifts of any size are deeply appreciated, and everyone who contributes will be invited to a christening of the new space.

patients. It's located in a booming area of the city with a fast-growing population. The current location served 3,530 patients in 2021; our goal is to increase that by at least 14% in 2023.

The Marbach clinic began receiving Title X federal family planning funds on June 1. At Title X sites, patients who



live at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level do not pay any fee for their care. As a result, we are seeing increased demand from patients with low incomes. From June through September 2022, visit volume was 25% higher than the same time period in 2021.

In addition to a clinical space, the new building will feature a training and education center, a dedicated area for clinicians and Patient Experience Specialists to receive training on clinical procedures. This training will continue to ensure we provide the best possible care for our patients.

***“Ultimately, this will broaden our educational reach throughout the community and allow us to have an even larger impact on public health in Bexar County”***

Soon we will begin using the training and education center to instruct community health workers from other agencies as well as PPST volunteers on sexual and reproductive health topics, so they may provide education in the community.

“Ultimately, this will broaden our educational reach throughout the community and allow us to have an even larger impact on public health in Bexar County and beyond,” said Valerie Mascorro, Associate Vice President for Operations and Growth.



# Texans need a Plan B

## It's never been more important to prevent unplanned pregnancy.

That's why all Planned Parenthood health centers are currently providing over-the-counter emergency contraception at no cost to patients. No appointment or prescription needed.

Also known as the "morning-after pill" or Plan B, this pill reduces the risk of pregnancy up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. The earlier you take it, the more effective it is.

"EC can be too expensive at the drug store for many of our patients," said Toni Herrera, Center Manager at Babcock health center in San Antonio. "So offering it for free means more people can access it. That's really important now that we can't offer abortion care in Texas."

**We encourage the use of regular birth control during sex, but sometimes people need emergency contraception.** This can happen after unprotected sex or sex during which birth control fails (such as a condom



### FACTS ABOUT EC:

- EC pills are not the same as medication abortion. If fertilization and implantation have already happened, EC pills will not end the existing pregnancy.
- In addition to over-the-counter EC, PPST also provides Ella, which requires a prescription but maintains effectiveness through 120 hours after unprotected sex.
- The copper intrauterine device can also be used as emergency contraception. It is more than 99% effective if placed within 120 hours of unprotected sex and continues to provide this protection for up to 12 years.
- Weight affects how well EC works, so be sure to speak to your provider at Planned Parenthood about which kind of EC is right for you.

## The morning-after pill.



### For life's unexpected emergencies.

Accidents happen. That's why, for a limited time, Planned Parenthood South Texas will be offering free over-the-counter (OTC) emergency contraception, also known as the morning-after pill. The OTC morning-after pill works best when you take it within three days after unprotected sex. Just walk in to our health centers during business hours and request it over-the-counter.

breaking) or is used incorrectly. **People need access to emergency contraception after sexual assault.**

Planned Parenthood South Texas received a generous \$2,500 award from the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio's Community Responsibility Endowment Fund to support the distribution of free EC at our five San Antonio health centers.

"We're grateful for the community support that helps our patients who can't afford to buy emergency contraception," said Tonie Tercero, Patient Advocate. "This will help a lot of people who rely on us for health care."



# The truth about fake clinics

So-called crisis pregnancy centers have long been a damaging presence across the nation. Since Texas and several other states have criminalized abortion after Roe fell, these centers are expected to increase in number and cause even more harm.

Crisis pregnancy centers are fake clinics that serve to dissuade people from having abortions. These include Gift of Life Pregnancy Center in Brownsville, Pregnancy Resource Centers in Harlingen, and A Woman's Haven, Life Choices Medical Clinic, Any Woman Can, Resources for Women, and San Antonio Pregnancy Care Center in San Antonio.

These fake clinics claim to help people who are facing unplanned pregnancies, often using manipulative tactics such as providing them with diapers, clothes and parenting classes, as well as very limited medical services such as ultrasounds.

But their real purpose is to prevent people from having abortions, and they'll use any means necessary – including lying and manipulation.

"Fake clinics can't be an afterthought when we talk about abortion bans and the threat they pose,"

Shireen Shakouri, deputy director of Reproaction, told Jezebel this summer. "They're the eyes and the ears, arguably the backbone of the anti-abortion movement."

**These centers, often faith-based, share many common tactics. These include:**

- Posing as medical clinics so people with unplanned pregnancies believe they are speaking with trained health care providers;
- Lying about gestation so a person thinks they have plenty of time to make a decision about their pregnancy, so they are often too far along in their pregnancy to access legal abortion;
- Claiming that they provide unbiased counseling on a range of pregnancy options, but instead seek to shame and stigmatize abortion care;
- Falsely claiming that abortion causes physical and emotional harm, which has long been debunked by research from leading medical organizations;
- Manipulating Google search results so that when people look for "abortion clinic near me," they



are served with listings and ads for fake clinics;

- Collecting data of the people seeking information about abortion so they can target them with misinformation;
- Standing outside abortion clinics and passing out harmful misinformation about abortion in general and providers such as Planned Parenthood (A Woman's Haven, located a few hundred feet from Planned Parenthood on Babcock Road in San Antonio, harasses our patients daily).

**Ultimately, crisis pregnancy centers do not seek to provide science-based information to empower people to make their own decisions about their pregnancies.** They take a paternalistic, "we know better" stance to trick people into continuing pregnancies they do not want.

There are about three times as many crisis pregnancy centers as abortion providers in the United States, according to CBS News. Experts expect this ratio to get worse as abortion clinics are forced to close and fake clinics gather more power.

Many Republican-led states actually fund fake clinics. For example, last

year the Texas Legislature approved \$100 million for the state's Alternatives to Abortion program over two years. The funds are distributed to four organizations that allocate it to fake clinics across the state.

At the same time, Texas leaders continue to erode reproductive rights and funding for family planning. **This wastes taxpayer money and leaves tens of thousands of people without care.**

By contrast to these fake clinics, Planned Parenthood South Texas believes in non-directive pregnancy options counseling. This includes providing science-based information and referrals for prenatal care, adoption agencies, social services, and abortion care (only where allowed by law). Also, Planned Parenthood clinics are tightly regulated as health care providers, while anti-abortion fake clinics are often unregulated.

To find out more about crisis pregnancy centers and find a national database of these fake clinics, check out Reproaction, a national organization committed to increasing access to abortion and advancing reproductive justice, at [reproaction.org](https://reproaction.org).

# Partner spotlight: Friendship of Women

The work towards eliminating sexual and domestic violence and violence against women and the work to advance reproductive justice are inextricably interconnected.

That's why Planned Parenthood South Texas partners with Friendship of Women, Inc., which works to empower and promote safety, health, and the overall well-being of adults and children impacted by family and sexual violence.

Founded in 1977, the Brownsville-based nonprofit provides emergency temporary shelter and other supportive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, Friendship of Women operates the Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program for people who batter.

## **What are the services that you offer and why is it important to have these services here in Brownsville?**

**Evonne Lopez, Social Change Services Manager:** My role at Friendship of Women is really being that connector for the community to provide access to education and information about the services that we offer to survivors and their families that have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault, along with the different types of violence throughout the spectrum. It is important because one of the tactics of abuse is isolation, so being able to have the type of services that Friendship of Women offers allows people to connect with others that have been trained to provide these services as well as being understanding and compassionate about what their healing journey will be.



## **Karina Vega, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Advocate:**

I provide resources to survivors of abuse: men, women and children. I connect them to community resources here in the community or in another city if they choose to move to another location. It is important to have these services so that survivors can have access to a nearby place. Some survivors that live in rural areas have to travel, and sometimes they don't have transportation to go to court, the police department, or medical exams for sexual assault.

## **How many people do you serve?**

**EL:** Last year, in 2021, we served 854 people. Between September 2019 and September 2022 we provided 19,297 shelter night services to our clients. Our 24-hour client hotline also received 32,710 calls between the same time period,



which is an average of about 11,000 calls a year.

**What are some of the values that Friendship of Women shares with Planned Parenthood South Texas that you think are important?**

**EL:** We are both social change agencies and have a deep commitment to our community. We know people need to have access to these services, access to support care, as well as education, information and advocacy.

**KV:** Both agencies have a commitment to the community to provide resources and information to our survivors.

**Do you have a favorite story at Friendship of Women?**

**KV:** We have a lot of favorite stories that we can share, but recently a survivor got justice for a sexual assault case. The family got serviced at our emergency shelter, so they got to be serviced through all of our programs: Emergency shelter, assistance through individual counseling provided at our agency, a housing program and accompanying them to court. She was able to face her aggressor in court and found justice and closure. Her aggressor is now serving 25 years in prison.

**EL:** When I used to do child advocacy, one of my favorite stories was from a mom who was staying at the shelter with her family. One time, she came up to me and told me, "This one-on-one time that I've had with my children has been something I haven't been able to do in a very long time because I am always stressed out or worried about what the situation will be" when the person who was causing her harm would be coming home.

**How can people support Friendship of Women?**

**KV:** They can support Friendship of Women by simply providing information to anybody that they know that is going through abuse. They can also provide assistance through monetary donations. We are trying to build a bigger shelter with Project Hope.

**To donate, visit [fowinc.com](http://fowinc.com)**

**WORKING TOGETHER**

As part of Planned Parenthood South Texas' Partners in Health program, Friendship of Women provides their clients with vouchers to obtain health care at Planned Parenthood at no cost to them. Planned Parenthood South Texas is honored to provide the compassionate, confidential care that Friendship of Women's clients need to move their lives and their families forward.

In 2021, PPST secured a Latino Community Investment Grant to support Friendship of Women's two-day virtual summer camp for teens focusing on consent, boundaries, youth leadership, LGBTQ+ rights, and activism. Friendship of Women worked closely with its Youth Advisory Committee to plan the camp. Giving the opportunity to young people to develop organizing and mobilizing skills and inspire them to become activists around issues that matter most to them is necessary to build a movement and create safe communities.



# Holding the line

Mary Urech Stallings/@Houston Chronicle.  
Used with permission

***During increased attacks by extremist politicians, we speak of “holding the line” in regard to abortion rights and reproductive health care in states like Texas. Laurie McGill, a Canyon Lake resident who worked at Planned Parenthood South Texas in the 1970s and Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast from 1988 to 2013, was reminded of a similar time 30 years ago when abortion rights advocates came up with ingenious solutions to hold the line.***

A few weeks before the Republican National Convention was held in Houston in 1992, anti-abortion zealots such as Operation Rescue came to town to announce their plans to shut down all the abortion clinics in the area during the convention.

This was during the era that anti-choice groups barricaded the entrance to the clinic, chained themselves to the front door, invaded the clinic waiting room with bicycle locks embedded in concrete blocks which they locked around their necks to disrupt patient care, and threw foul-smelling acid on restroom walls that

required stripping them down to the studs to remove the odor. Once they attempted to burn the building down by climbing on the roof to start a fire (the guy was caught after leaving his wallet at the scene). They even drove a van through the front glass entryway into the lobby, missing the receptionist by inches.

In response to the threats to shut down Houston clinics during the convention, a well-organized clinic defense effort was put in place with the help of national groups like the National Organization for Women and the Feminist Majority Foundation. The defense strategy was multi-faceted and included the “lasagna” defense.

This tactic consisted of layers of defenders, arms locked, in front of the clinic entry. Patients were met by staff at an undisclosed location and given a clinic defender vest to wear. They were then absorbed into the layers of people gradually until they were at the front door, unbeknownst to the anti-abortion protestors, welcomed in, and provided with the care they needed. This is how we kept the clinics open all over Houston as the attacks continued for days.

Clinic defenders not part of the lasagna defense were sent across the street with pro-choice signs to circle the anti-choice pastors who were kneeling and praying for the cameras. The photo (on Page 10), from the

*Houston Chronicle*, shows the lasagna defenders lined up in front of the entryway. I’m in that group of sign-holders with my back to the camera, about in the middle of the group.

Unbeknownst to Operation Rescue, Texas law prohibits interference with a business. **We took the protestors to court, showed the video we made of them bragging about closing our business, and won a judgment that made the front of the New**

**York Times.** The police raided their headquarters in Dallas and took all their assets to auction off towards the \$100,000 fine.

This event was transformational for the community supporters, board members, and non-clinical staff who participated. They still talk about it to this day.



**Laurie McGill**

***In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed into Law the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which made it a federal crime to use force, the threat of force, or physical obstruction to prevent people from accessing or providing reproductive health services. This has greatly reduced but not eliminated such tactics by the opposition.***

***The story of this brave stand in Houston 30 years ago reminds us we must continue to fight to restore and protect abortion access, no matter what.***



# Lunch with Gloria Steinem & Alexis McGill Johnson

*"Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning."*

— Gloria Steinem

**On September 23, two feminist icons** helped us imagine a better, more equitable future. And YOU helped us set a record for attendance (1,400!) and dollars raised (\$1M!!). This growth in support for our annual luncheon mirrors the growth in demand we are seeing for our services. Trust that the funds you so generously contributed will be put to immediate and good use providing patients with birth control, free emergency contraception, cancer screening and treatment, gender affirming hormone treatment, primary care and more. We know that these services are essential to our patients in South Texas who are dreaming and planning for their own lives.



**A young feminist visits with  
Joan Wyatt and Gloria Steinem**



Hearing abortion stories at the story lounge



San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg

*"Generations upon generations of San Antonians have benefited from Planned Parenthood's presence here, and they have contributed so much to what makes San Antonio a wonderful place to live. Nothing in this state, nothing out there in its 83 years has stopped this organization from serving San Antonio. And thanks to supporters like you, nothing ever will."*

— Mayor Ron Nirenberg



Jeffrey Hons and Laura Terrill, immediate past and current President & CEO of PPST

We were so gratified to hear PPFA President Alexis McGill Johnson praise the staff of Planned Parenthood South Texas, saying "Since SB8, you are the pioneers in this new reality. You are the very best of our mission and the very definition of what we mean when we say Care. No matter what." But we know that this praise belongs equally to you. You make every bit of compassion we show our patients possible. Alexis went on to challenge us all to be the "leadership" of this cultural moment and this movement. We must hold the line, we must get people to care and care to people, we must



**PPST 2022 Luncheon Chair, Danna Halff**

demand accountability – and collectively we must save democracy from the tyranny of the minority.

Challenge accepted. We'll move forward with hope, because we agree with Gloria's assertion that "if we don't have hope in our minds and in our hearts and among our friends to help support it, we've given up already." We'll never give up on the people who need us.

**Onward!**

*"For all of us, men and women, to have decision making power over our own bodies is the fundament of democracy."*

– Gloria Steinem



**Luncheon volunteers**



**Singer and songwriter Rachel Laven**



**Gloria Steinem with Planned Parenthood supporters**



**Supporters from the Rio Grande Valley**





Three generations of supporters



Gloria Steinem and fierce feminist friends

**Planned  
Parenthood®**  
Planned Parenthood South Texas



PPFA President Alexis McGill Johnson and feminist legend Gloria Steinem

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend but would still like to donate, text RESIST to 50155

Or scan this code:



# Honoring Rosie

For Día de los Muertos, **Planned Parenthood South Texas** commissioned **Bonnie Cisneros** to create altar art entitled *Recuérdela* dedicated to Rosie Jimenez, a 27-year-old McAllen, Texas student and single mom who died from an unsafe abortion in 1977. Rosie is the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment – a cruel policy that prohibits people from using Medicaid to pay for abortion care.

Cisneros and her mother, **Ilza Villarreal Blankenship**, who is also from the Rio Grande Valley, teamed up to research Rosie's legacy and design an altar comprised of a framed photo collage, archival mother/daughter cositas, Padre Island sand and seashells, San Juan holy water, citrus fruit, a Spotify playlist of songs from 1977, thrifted 1970s furniture painted by **Carlos Sanchez De La Garza**, and Blankenship's 45 crocheted roses in Valley sunset hues representing the number of years that Rosie and her daughter, Monique, have spent apart. Cisneros also designed a keepsake memorial card to help people remember Rosie's story.



*“45 years of minuscule and monumental moments were taken from a mother and her hija because someone named Hyde decided to strip working class women of quality healthcare...by choosing to end her pregnancy, Rosie WAS choosing life. No one from a migrant farmworker family, raising a child alone, putting themselves through school, and choosing the path of Special Ed. Teacher with no silver spoon, nor safety net can ever know the amount of love and work it takes to keep it all going.*

*Rosie was working for a better life, she was going to have her own classroom, she would probably have had more kids, and... even if she wasn't or didn't, it was her right to choose when to bring life into the world. Or not.”*

*Bonnie Cisneros, excerpt from Artist Statement*

Gracias to Esperanza Peace and Justice Center for giving the altar a home at the Casa de Cuentos during their Día de Muertos Celebration on November 1.

**In matters of motherhood y justicia,  
WE ARE ONE.**

To read the full artist statement visit  
[www.bonniecisneros.com/altar-ing](http://www.bonniecisneros.com/altar-ing)  
or click on the  
QR code with  
your smart phone  
(in camera mode).



*In Brownsville, Planned Parenthood South Texas partnered with the Carlotta K. Petrina Cultural Center to honor and celebrate Día de los Muertos. Our altar, which was open for the community to place their own photos, featured Rosie Jimenez, Frida Kahlo and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.*



## Special event: The Beautiful Bowl



**Staunch Planned Parenthood supporter and talented artist Dr. Dudley Harris will once again open his beautiful studios for a benefit sale!**

**Stroll through Dudley's urban oasis with its multiple Japanese-inspired studios, learn about pottery throwing and glazing, and buy a piece ... or a dozen ... for holiday gifts or your own kitchen.**

**As always, Dudley will generously donate 100% of the proceeds from the event to Planned Parenthood South Texas. Every gift you purchase for yourself or someone else translates into the gift of health care for a patient.**

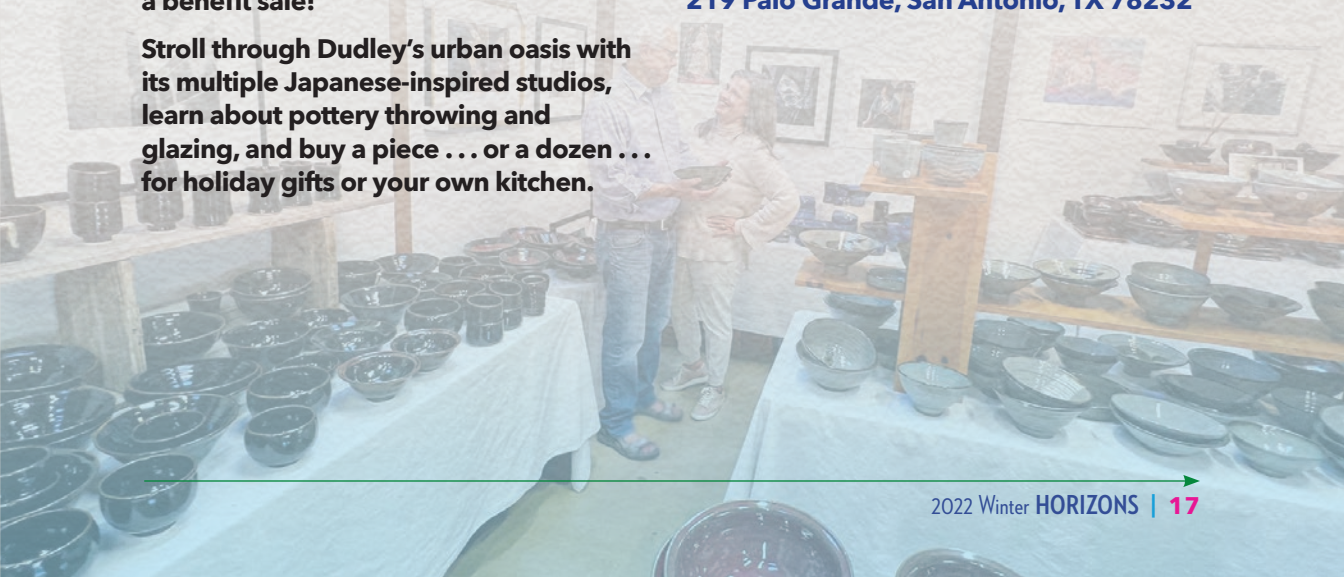
**Learn more about Dudley's pottery here:  
[www.TheBeautifulBowl.com](http://www.TheBeautifulBowl.com)**

**Annual Studio Open House**

**Saturday, December 10**

**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**219 Palo Grande, San Antonio, TX 78232**





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**We're here for good.**

