

Madonna Neighborhood Center



In 1939, the Sisters initiated The Girls Club to provide young women and girls with job training and personal and social development. Begun in a two story house close to down town it moved twice as it grew in number of clients and services as its westward journey eventually ended in a new building. It was 1956, the name was changed to Madonna Center and Sister Immaculate Gentemann became the Executive Director. The approach that she took to helping the people was to help them understand the causes of their needs and then do something about them cooperatively. Services included household needs, personal development programs, and activities for children and seniors, aid to families in crises, and services of case workers to help identify and solve the problems of

clients “cooperatively.” The success of Madonna Center is evident by its longevity. Today a governing board (which includes some Sisters) continues to contribute to the citizenry of San Antonio’s Westside.



(Photos: top--Sister Immaculate Gentemann; below--Sister Constance Christopher)