



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANCTUARY INCORPORATED CELEBRATES NOVEMBER AS SANCTUARY MONTH AND LAUNCHES ITS NEW PROGRAM, “GUAHAN YOUTH INITIATIVE”

WHO: Sanctuary, Incorporated of Guam

WHAT: Celebrates November as Sanctuary Month and Launches New Program, Guahan Youth Initiative (GYI)

WHEN: Month of November 2024 (Events listed in release)

WHERE: Sanctuary, Inc.

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PHOTOS: For additional photos, please send a request to info@sanctuaryguam.com

Sanctuary, Incorporated is celebrating 53 years of empowering Guam youth and families during the month of November. Established in 1971, Sanctuary Inc. provides critical services including emergency shelter to youth ages 12-17 and a residential treatment facility for youth struggling with substance use and abuse—the only provider in the Micronesian region. **Sanctuary also strengthens its commitment to serving youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness through its newest program, Guahan Youth Initiative (GYI).**

Sanctuary Month

In celebration of Sanctuary Month, Sanctuary Inc. is excited to host several events throughout the month of November. In addition, the organization will host a month-long **Home Goods Drive** where new beddings, pillows, towels, or monetary donations are welcome. Sanctuary is set to launch **The Gentle Room Project** for its shelter programs where donors can “adopt” a room and donate toward its revitalization.

Nov. 8: Dual Proclamation Signing with the Guam Homeless Coalition at the Governor’s Complex, declaring November as the Homelessness Awareness Month and Sanctuary Month;

Nov. 16: Triple J’s 2024 Color/Bubble Run – Sanctuary is selected as a beneficiary and will host an outreach booth at the event;

Nov. 24: Prayer intentions will be offered for Sanctuary Inc. and the youth and families served at the regular Sunday Mass at 9AM at the San Juan Bautista Catholic Church in Ordot.

Guahan Youth Initiative (GYI)

November also highlights National Homeless Youth Awareness Month and Homelessness Awareness Month. According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the month-long event is a reminder that homelessness, no matter how long it lasts, is a life-altering traumatic event that creates major stress in any person's life, regardless of age.

Building upon its 53 years of service to end youth homelessness, **Sanctuary Inc. is proud to launch Guahan Youth Initiative (GYI), its newest program** in partnership with WestCare Pacific Islands. Sanctuary Inc. and WestCare Pacific Islands are one of the first grantees of the Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement (YHSI) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) among 38 communities across 26 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. GYI's mission is to support the efforts of the Guam Homeless Coalition and improve the response system for the homeless youth population on island. Through GYI, Sanctuary will establish a Youth Action Board comprised of teens with lived experience to develop youth-informed strategies that help bridge the gaps in services and increase the capacities of our local service providers.

For more information on Sanctuary Month activities and GYI, please connect with Pearl Mesa via email at pmesa@sanctuaryguam.com or at 671-475-7101.

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