

Homeless children capture their dreams in photos

**'Pictures of Hope' program lets youngsters focus
on their future.**

By Hollie L. O'Connor

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Armed with disposable cameras, homeless San Antonio children took snapshots Sunday to depict their aspirations in a project that will raise funds to help others.

Children from SAMMinistries received the cameras as part of the "Pictures of Hope" program, an initiative by photojournalist [Linda Solomon](#). Solomon travels across the United States giving seminars to children on how to be good photographers and encouraging them to take photos that represent their hopes and dreams.

Each child will have one of their photos selected to appear on a Christmas card, along with his or her name, age and the dream the picture illustrates. The Christmas cards will be sold, and the revenues will go back to the shelters where they live.

After getting some training last week, more than a dozen children traveled around the city snapping photos Sunday. The first stop was at the [Castle Hills Police Department](#), where they took photos of policemen and patrol cars. Local media were on the scene filming the children, but the tables were turned when the children pointed their disposable cameras at the camera crew.

Angel Rowls, 13, was among the children clicking away.

"I want to be rich and famous and a veterinarian," Angel said.

Other stops included Brackenridge Park, where Angel took pictures of ducks and other animals.

"I want to be a police and a vet," said [Priscilla Martinez](#), 9. "It's important because I want to do things to help people."

Chris Ivery, 12, took his pictures at a [Texas MedClinic](#). He wants to get his college degree and become a doctor.

"I like my school. My favorite subject is science," he said.

Chris, who has lived at Haven for Hope for about a month with his family, said his other goals include owning a dog and "becoming a star."

This is the second time children from SAMMinistries have participated in "Pictures of Hope," said

Pam Harper, director of marketing. Harper said many of the children had never taken photographs before but were thoughtful about what they chose to capture on film.

“It’s a constant reminder they want more in life,” Harper said. “We want them to know there’s a future for them if they just stay focused.”

The children’s photos will be unveiled in November at Cavender Cadillac.

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