



Gerard C. Rickhoff
Bexar County Clerk

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**BEXAR COUNTY CLERK SENDS DONATIONS
TO HELP VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Honorable Gerard Rickhoff, Bexar County Clerk, is pleased to announce the donation of \$6,000 to be divided equally between the Bexar County Family Justice Center and the Battered Women and Children's Shelter of Bexar County on February 14, 2013. The donation comes from the proceeds of marriage ceremonies performed by Mr. Rickhoff. In return for this service, he asks each couple to make a small donation to charities that assist victims of domestic violence. Through their donation, couples are reminded that domestic violence of any kind is unacceptable and completely contrary to the vows of commitment they are making to each other.

Recently, House Bill 460 was submitted by Texas State Representative Philip Cortez in the 83rd Texas Legislature. If passed in its current form, House Bill 460 would allow county clerks in several large counties to perform marriages, including the County Clerk in Bexar County. The bill designates the collection of a fee of no more than \$25.00 in return for performing the ceremony which will be used to fund organizations assisting victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

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Thus far, Mr. Rickhoff has raised nearly \$40,000. If the statutory changes Mr. Rickhoff has been campaigning for were enacted into law, it is estimated the annual revenue that could be generated by the clerks in the Marriage License section of the Bexar County Clerk's Office could approach \$150,000 or more. If the other large counties (Harris, Dallas, and Tarrant) also participate, hundreds of thousands of dollars could be raised statewide to benefit domestic violence charities.

Mr. Rickhoff hopes that by publishing this information, the public can encourage their State Representative to pass House Bill 460.