

METRO

COVERS

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children in need of a service project at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Huemer Road. The volunteers have snipped, cut and shaped it to 2 yards of bought and donated fleece into covers that have given youngsters security and comfort.

Her parents, Lya and Eric Sanchez, looked on as Samantha and her friends delivered the blankets to the co-ed, 24-hour facility that helps children ages 5 to 17.

The spark for the humanitarian project can be traced back to a red blanket her father brought her from one of his trips. Her grandmother sewed an "S" for Samantha on the front of the blanket, which she still carries with her.

But was a school project to donate blankets to hospitals that inspired her to help homeless children and youths in need.

Her mother tried to dissuade her, telling her they were too busy with school and extracurricular activities to take on the project. Samantha got the family calendar out and said, "we've got to plan it."

She selected Thanksgiving week. Delivering blankets during days of giving thanks has become a family tradition.

Her mother said she helped Samantha research the requirements to found a nonprofit, but her daughter filed the paperwork to become the CEO of her own charity. Two years ago, she raised \$600 to make 33 blankets for children at SAMMinistries.

Two of the residents at The Bridge thanked Samantha and her friends for thinking of them when many others are only thinking of them-

selves.

"I'm grateful. I appreciate everything they did for us," one of the recipients said. "Especially at this time of the year, when most of us don't get gifts."

And each of the gifts had a special detail not visible to the eye: Samantha had a deacon at her church bless all of the blankets.

vidavis@express-news.net



Samantha Sanchez, 13, delivers blankets that she and her friends made to Roy Maas Youth Alternatives' The Bridge. The eighth-grader at Lopez Middle School, who founded nonprofit Sam's Covers, has also delivered blankets to Haven for Hope and SAMMinistries.

Bob Owen / San Antonio Express-News

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FRAUD

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Scully should have known better than to try the old 'shell game' when it came to hiding income from his business partner and Uncle Sam."

Kevin Scully, 48, who was indicted with his uncle, killed himself in 2003 at his home in Illinois.

Robert Scully's lawyer, Mike McCrum, told jurors that his client simply tried to rescue a company that was in serious financial trouble: In 2000, it lost more than \$500,000.

In 2001, Robert Scully used a broker in Florida to forge a deal with exporters in Thailand to get ingredients cheaper than for what U.S. traders were giving the company. He later began dealing directly with Thailand, using his sister-in-law and her business partner there to get better prices and product.

McCrum argued that Sliz, who dealt with sales, was unaware of what went on because he was not involved in the day-to-day operations and was usually not around the factory warehouse.

McCrum also showed the jury figures that showed how the company rose from \$5.9 million in sales in 2000, when it was in the red, to \$40 million in 2005, when it generated nearly \$1.6 million in net income.

Scully "paid approximately half a million dollars (in taxes) every year," McCrum said.

Gourmet Express, which is now based in Kentucky, filed for bankruptcy protection in March.

gontreas@express-news.net
Twitter: @gmaninfdland

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