

# The Society of Saint Anon y Más

In 2004 a small gathering of people in New Braunfels, Texas, formed a loosely organized group who wanted to help others without all of the infrastructure that most organizations have. We didn't want a bank account; we didn't want a taxpayer number; we didn't want to do income tax returns. No bylaws for us. No board meetings. No rules and regulations -- just guidelines:

1. We are the Society of St. Anon y Mas: anon meaning immediate, mas meaning more, and anonymous in that we do not seek publicity such as photo opportunities for the newspaper.
2. There is no bank account, no federal identification number. Donations are not tax deductible. Our books are open for review and money is kept as warm, crinkly cash..
3. Every two months we have a pot luck dinner at one of our houses. A bowl is placed in full view for contributions. We do not track who has paid how much. But we do count the pot at the end of the dinner.
4. Given the current downturn and the needs of our community, recently we have added "emergency" after-work events of wine and cheese to fill our pot.
5. We have a core group who have committed to one another to contribute \$50 every two months.
6. People attending the pot luck dinners are not obligated to contribute but encouraged to do so. Any amount is fine, although \$25 per person would be great,.
7. People attending the pot luck dinners are asked to bring enough food for 4 people and drinks to share (food is a motivator for some of us).
8. One of the core group keeps the books and the cash, with both passed to another core member from time to time.
9. When requests are made for monies to help a person in need, the core member with the books and cash takes care of the request and records the distribution.
10. We do not do background checks, ask for income verification, etc. We trust those people who identify a person in need to determine the extent of the need.
11. We do not give cash directly to the person in need; rather we help by paying utility bills and rent, buying needed items or gift cards from grocery or other stores, etc.
12. As of May 2010, we have collected and distributed over \$24,000 to people in need in our community and had terrific meals and good conversations and fun in the process.
13. We maintain both a website <<http://www.saintanonymas.org/>> and an email list to let people know what is happening.
14. We hope that you will join us in our endeavors and would be delighted to add your group's events to our website: [contact@saintanonymas.org](mailto:contact@saintanonymas.org).

