

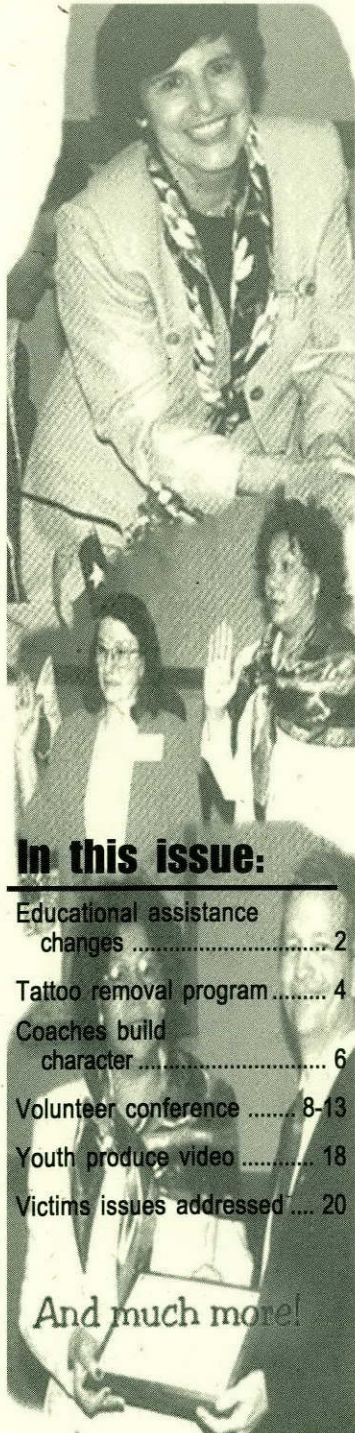
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# TYC Journal

A Quarterly Publication of Texas Youth Commission

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May 1999



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And much more!

## Four new agency superintendents appointed

**F**our Texas Youth Commission institutions have new superintendents in place this spring.

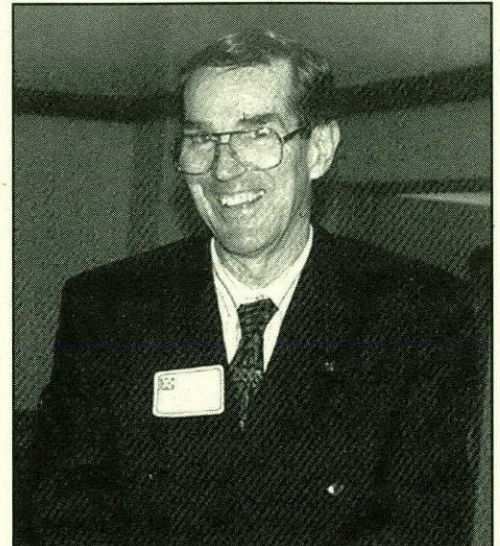
**John Hopkins** was named superintendent at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility, which is under construction in Mart.

**Lemuel "Chip" Harrison** is the new leader at West Texas State School. **Roy Washington** is installed at the Marlin Orientation & Assessment Unit, and **Jerome Parsee** has taken charge at Victory Field Correctional Academy in Vernon.

Hopkins moved from Corsicana State Home where he was business manager since 1992. He previously was with the Texas Department of Human Services as assistant commissioner for business services and with the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse as director of fiscal and support services.

Harrison moved to the West Texas campus from Victory Field where he opened the agency's first military-style academy. He also was the first superintendent of TYC's Sheffield Boot Camp.

Harrison's vacancy at Victory Field was filled by Parsee, who was promoted from assistant superintendent. Parsee started at TYC as a youth activity supervisor at



*John Hopkins, Superintendent, McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility*

Brownwood State School, and later was director of the behavior management program. He worked for Travis County Juvenile Probation as a probation officer and as assistant chief before returning to TYC at Victory Field.

Washington returned to TYC at Marlin after four years with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as assistant warden of the Fabian Dale Dominguez State Jail and as senior warden at the Clyde Johnston Unit in Winnsboro. Washington began his career with TYC in 1974 as a parole officer in South and Central Texas, and later as a contract specialist, parole supervisor, case management supervisor and Turman House superintendent. ★



# Around the Agency

## Changes on the horizon in the Educational Assistance Policy

### *What is the Educational Assistance Policy?*

The Educational Assistance Policy (PRS.39.24) helps the agency retain and promote good employees by reimbursing them for undergraduate or graduate tuition costs and by allowing them to take time off to attend classes. An employee meeting certain eligibility requirements can receive up to \$550 per semester (undergraduate) or \$650 per semester (graduate), and up to eight hours per week during the semester of Educational Assistance time off. Local administrators must approve time off for their employees.

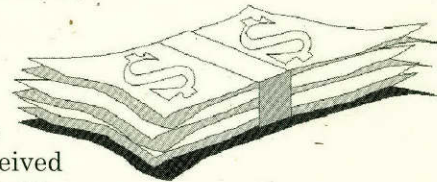
### *What are the eligibility requirements to receive this assistance?*

**The eligibility requirements have been changed.** Beginning with the fall 1999 semester, an employee must meet the following criteria in order to receive assistance:

- He/she must have been employed by TYC for at least two years, full time.
  - If pursuing an undergraduate degree, he/she must have completed at least 15 semester hours toward that degree. (If pursuing a graduate degree, there is no semester-hour requirement.)
  - He/she must be pursuing a degree which is related to either:
    - His/her current job with TYC; or
    - Another job within the agency.
  - He/she must have a current satisfactory performance evaluation on file.
  - He/she must have had no disciplinary action within the past year.
  - He/she must not be receiving other financial aid that pays for tuition.
- In addition,** if the budgeted funds are not sufficient to give assistance to all eligible applicants in a given semester, further criteria will be used to determine who receives it:
- The agency's need for the skill or degree being sought by the employee;
  - The semester hours the employee needs in order to complete his/her degree (employees who need fewer hours will receive priority over those who need more); and
  - The employee's total tenure with TYC (employees who have longer tenure will receive priority over those who have shorter tenure).

### *What does TYC get in return for this assistance?*

Employees who receive Educational Assistance sign a contract stating that they agree to repay the agency with continued employment service for a specified period of time after the semester ends. This period of time is equal to one month for every semester hour for which the employee received either tuition reimbursement or time off. If the employee received both tuition reimbursement and time off, he/she owes the agency *two months* of continued employment service for each semester hour taken.



### *What is the deadline for applying for assistance for the fall?*

The deadline is July 15. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

### *How do I find out more?*

The revised policy and related documents will be available through the local Human Resources Specialists during the summer. You may also obtain an application packet by sending an e-mail message to Kelly Mason, the Educational Assistance Coordinator. ★



## Judy Malazzo named TYC Outstanding Employee Volunteer

**T**YC's greatest asset is the dedicated employees who work day in and day out with our students. We are truly fortunate to have employees who go beyond the call of duty and share their personal time and talents with our youth.

Judy Malazzo is involved in a variety of volunteer activities at the Hamilton State School. She assists in organizing holiday events, promotes the benefits of using tutors in the classroom, and assists with public speaking and recruitment presentations. She knows the community volunteers by name and will go out of her way to encourage them and keep each one informed of changes on campus.

As the lead reading teacher in Hamilton, she has been appointed to the TYC State Reading Initiative Committee and serves as a TYC reading consultant.

Other nominees for Outstanding Employee Volunteer were Glenna Medina, Crockett State School; Martin Rangel and Joel Lopez, Giddings State School; Johnny Walker, Gainesville State School; Toni King, San Saba State School; Rosy Moreno, Evins



*Judy Malazzo receives the agency's Outstanding Employee Volunteer Award, presented by Judy Briscoe, acting assistant deputy executive director for juvenile corrections.*

Regional Juvenile Center; Joe Childs, Brownwood Sanction Unit; Kenneth Young, Corsicana State Home; Dora Ramirez-Itz, San Antonio District Office; and Benjamin Smith, Turman House. ★

**See more photos, stories and winners from the Statewide Volunteer Conference on pages 8-13.**

## Challenge Program returns To Gainesville

After four years of absence, the Challenge program has returned to the Gainesville State School. The purpose of the 60–90 day program is to help reintegrate students into the community by teaching them discipline through physical activity. The 36 students will participate in the ROPES obstacle course, as well extra physical activities. They will attend school in the dorm to help reinforce their treatment goals. The students in the program can be easily spotted by their new uniforms of gray sweat suits with *Challenge* on the front. The students are encouraged to face the challenges of life and work to become winners. ★



## San Saba State School initiates tattoo removal program

After several months of development, San Saba State School debuted its Tattoo Removal Program (TRP) in March. This program represents a joint effort by TYC, the Texas Department of Health and the Midland Police Department's Gang Suppression Unit.

On March 13, five youth from the state school were escorted to Midland to begin procedures to remove their gang-related tattoos. Present at the event were representatives from each of the agencies and organizations involved. The primary goal of San Saba's TRP is to assist TYC youth in preparing for successful re-entry into their communities. As a proactive intervention, this program is designed to foster positive growth and to address and reduce risk factors identified during the youth's progress through the resocialization program.

Efforts to develop and establish the San Saba TRP began last fall, when caseworker Joseph Remini and a youth were working on the youth's success plan. The youth expressed a strong desire to have his gang-related tattoos removed. Research on the topic produced limited information. The youth wrote a success plan letter that reached the Texas Department of Health. John Schaeffer and Lisa Fellers (Region 2/3) stated that they "were touched by the youth's letter" and took it upon themselves to help. They learned of a community-based tattoo removal effort in Midland that was organized by Detective Mark Hinshaw of the Midland Police Department's Gang Suppression Unit.

After just a few telephone conferences and "handshake" agreements, Detective Hinshaw, Lisa Fellers, John Schaeffer and Joseph Remini met at San Saba State School in February. San Saba State School staff developed a strict set of guidelines aimed at identifying potential candidates and to ensure appropriate use of this intervention. Thirteen youth were identified as candidates, and after initial interviews

with Detective Hinshaw, the names of five youth were submitted to superintendent Lydia Barnard for final approval.

Despite an average cost of around \$3,000 for such treatment, Dr. Sylvan Bartlett, M.D., and his staff performed the procedure at no charge. The youth involved were greatly appreciative and maintained a notably positive demeanor, remarking that they are very pleased with the results so far and are happy to have been given this opportunity to participate in the TRP.

San Saba State School extends a very big 'thank you' to Detective Mark Hinshaw, Lisa Fellers, John Schaeffer and Dr. Bartlett for their assistance in this endeavor, and for truly going above and beyond their duty to help. ★

### TYC JOURNAL

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Contributing information should be sent to the attention of **Dennis Payne** at the above address.

**TYC Journal Publisher**  
Dennis Payne

**Publication Design and Layout**  
Cynthia Park

**TYC Journal Editorial Board**  
Carolyn Rogers Pamela Ward  
Judy Meador Rae Tregilgas  
Kelly Mason Stacy McDonald

### PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

The TYC Journal will be published in **February, May, August, and November**. Articles submitted for publication must be: 1) submitted electronically, via e-mail, or on computer disk. Hard copy articles will not be accepted; and 2) received by the publisher on or before the first working day of the month preceding the month of publication. For example, submissions for the May issue of the **TYC Journal** will be due Thursday, April 1, 1999. All articles submitted for publication must be dated. All photos submitted that picture a TYC youth must also be accompanied by a publicity release.



## Executive Women promote excellence

Executive Women in Texas Government (EWTG) is a professional organization dedicated to developing, promoting, and supporting women, and achieving excellence in state government and higher education. EWTG members come from state agencies, boards and commissions, state colleges and universities, and those private sector organizations associated with state government.

Texas Youth Commission members from central office include Joy Anderson, program director, as well as Tammy Vega, Patricia Hayes, and Christi Mallette.

There are numerous benefits available to EWTG members. Regular meetings feature speakers addressing timely topics of special interest to members. Members expand their ability to network by attending these monthly meetings and periodic special events, and by participating on committees. Special programs and seminars are offered to promote management and leadership development skills, and mentoring opportunities extend the concept of mutual help to women in every stage of their careers.

The annual conference and seminars sponsored by EWTG are designed to meet professional and developmental needs of women in government and higher education. Financial aid is available through EWTG scholarships to allow selected members to participate in training, conferences, formal education and Leadership Texas, underscoring EWTG's commitment to excellence.

The educational, interactive and professional opportunities offered by EWTG are designed to provide members with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their careers. The increased visibility and network opportunities available to EWTG members create a vehicle for elected and appointed officials to recruit women for executive positions in Texas government and higher education.

Full membership is open to individuals in Texas State government and higher education whose job duties include developing, directing, manag-

ing, supervising or administering people, programs or policies, or whose annual salary is at least \$35,000. Full members may attend meetings, serve on committees, receive the newsletter and membership directory, use the telephone job bank, vote and serve as officers.

On July 28, EWTG's featured luncheon speaker will be Barbara A. Lawrence, Ph.D., wife of TYC board chair Dr. Leonard Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence is Assistant Director of Education and Technology Initiative at the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. She oversees an educational endeavor that focuses on multicultural education relating to staff development, teacher training, and state-mandated curricula.

In March of this year, Mrs. Lawrence made a very popular presentation at central office on J. Mason Brewer, an African-American Texan folklorist. Her talk was sponsored by the Central Office Intercultural Awareness Committee.

Anyone interested in attending the monthly luncheons and minicourses is welcome. Membership is not required. Luncheons are held at the Austin Women's Club on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Minicourses are held at the Austin State Hospital on the second Thursday of each month. Call (512) 371-1263 to get a schedule of topics and make your reservation.

There are more than 500 Executive Women in Texas Government members statewide. Individuals interested in joining EWTG may contact Barrie Cogburn, membership director, or Carolyn Bible, executive director, at EWTG, 512-371-1263, 3500 Jefferson, Suite 210A, Austin, Texas, 78731. ★

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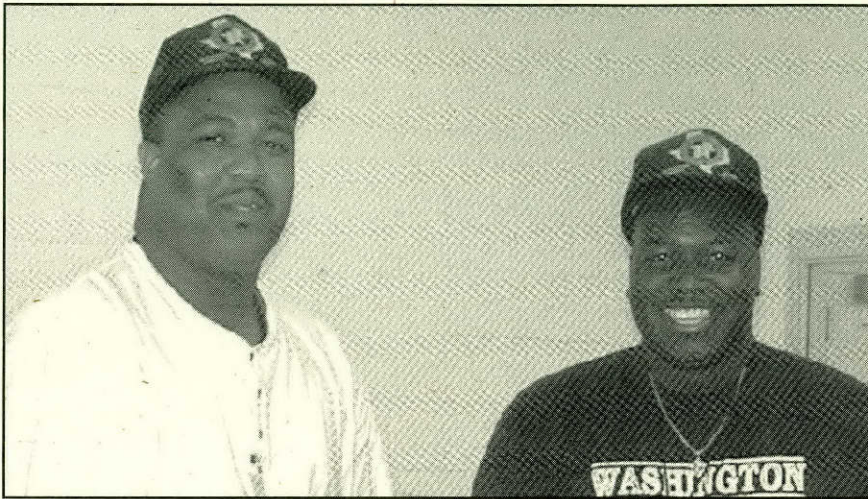
### Harr appointed to Governor's committee

Mickey Harr, volunteer chaplain for the Brownwood Sanction Unit since 1983, was appointed to the nine-member Private Sector Prison Industry Oversight Authority by Governor George W. Bush. Harr was also honored with TYC's first-ever Individual Faithfulness Award, presented at the Criminal Justice Ministry Conference held in Dallas earlier this spring.

Harr has assisted in organizing all religious activities at the Brownwood Sanction Unit and consistently donates more than 60 volunteer hours each month. ★



## Coaches building character at JCSS



*Coaches Barry Ford (left) and Kenneth Hardy (right) build youth self esteem and encourage teamwork while coaching basketball at JCSS.*

**A**s parents, a classroom teacher, and an assistant principal, we have watched many coaches as they worked with youth at Jefferson County State School. The ones that always had the strongest impact on students were those who taught students the rules of life as well as the rules of the game. For the last three years we have had the privilege of working with two such men. What makes these men even more special is that they teach and coach juveniles who are incarcerated in the Texas Youth Commission. These two men have given a great deal of their time to teach these youth to play basketball by the rules. Following rules does not always come easy for our students. These youth are used to

living and playing on the streets where they make their own rules. The coaches spend a great deal of time developing character and respect among the team members.

The following are some things we have observed as the coaches worked with these young men.

1. They require good sportsmanship from the players. They make the players understand that good sportsmanship is just as important as winning. If a student loses control during a game, the coaches take the time to counsel the youth before he returns to the game. If a player from an opposing team is accidentally knocked down, our players are expected to extend a hand and help him to his feet.
2. Teamwork is emphasized rather than the promotion of "super stars." Each team member is equally important, including score keepers and managers. Players are encouraged to support and work with each other rather than trying to gain all the glory for themselves.
3. These coaches work hard to develop a good rapport with each of the youth and always give of their time when the students need someone to listen. They often act as counselors as well as coaches.

The coaches are careful to let the students know their expectations of them from the very beginning. They have traveled thousands of miles with these juvenile offenders and have never had any problems. Playing against other alternative schools does not always put the team in the best neighborhood or in the most positive situation. But these coaches have instilled in these students the importance of playing fair and handling difficult situations.

We are happy to nominate Coach Barry Ford and Coach Kenneth Hardy from Jefferson County State School as Most Caring Coaches. ★

*Submitted to USA Weekend 4/13/99 by students and staff of Jefferson County State School.*



## LaSalle County Boot Camp wins award

The LaSalle County Boot Camp for females participated in the Medina County Festival Parade on September 19, 1998, competing against four other marching groups. The privates received a special recognition award from the Medina County Chamber of Commerce.

A total of sixteen TYC females participated in the parade. In order to be a part of the team, the privates had to meet the following criteria: achieve level four, be evaluated as medium risk, display leadership skills, prove teamwork ability, exhibit a positive attitude and have no incident reports within the three-week period prior to the parade.

Every afternoon for three weeks, the youth worked under the direction of Captain Benito Salazar to get their marching routine perfect. At first they were nervous when they saw the competition, but once the commands began, it was smooth marching. The privates remained in step for the two-mile parade. One of the privates stated, "We were not going to let the boys from the other boot camps see that we couldn't do it. We kept working together and it made us feel great about ourselves. I am so glad that we participated in the parade. My Mom is going to be so proud of me."

The team did a great job and should be commended for their hard work and dedication. ★

## San Saba joins in landmark dedication

San Saba and Mills counties on March 1 joined at the Regency Bridge for a rededication ceremony and celebration. This area landmark has been featured on the Texas Country Reporter as the last remaining serviceable "swinging bridge" in Texas. Governor Bush was present at the ceremony along with many county officials and Texas Department of Transportation officials.

Two San Saba State School employees, Bucky Boswell and Rogelio Rodriguez, together with two SSSS students and Aramark employee George Salinas assisted Impact 2000, a local charitable organization, in cooking and serving hamburgers as a fundraising event. The employees and students received praise from Impact 2000 volunteers and county officials.

Ms. Kraft, Aramark Food Services Food Service Manager, donated beef and trimmings for the event. Several of San Saba's pre-release students made a banner welcoming Governor Bush.

It was a very successful day that showed the community what TYC is trying to accomplish with its Resocialization program and community service projects. ★

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## Health fair held at San Saba

A health fair was held at San Saba on March 25, sponsored by the Wellness Committee to promote fitness and health awareness. Activities included cholesterol, diabetes, blood pressure and psa screening, and body fat measurements. Blood donors contributed 20 pints of blood to a mobile blood drive. Information on poisons, nutrition and developing and maintaining a healthy heart was also available. Organizations participating were the American Heart Association, San Saba County Extension Office, Llano Memorial Hospital, Central Texas Poison Center, Texas Department of Health, and United Blood Services, Inc. A Fun Run and Walk is scheduled in May sponsored by the committee and the American Heart Association.

★

See more stories from Around the Agency on pages 19-20.



## Gainesville hosts 15<sup>th</sup> annual Statewide Volunteer Conference

The Texas Youth Commission held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Volunteer Conference at Gainesville Holiday Inn in April. The Gainesville Community Advisory Council, along with the Gainesville State School, hosted the three-day event.

Over 120 volunteers were in attendance, representing the agency's institutions and community service areas. The conference featured eleven continuing education workshops on topics ranging from mentoring to fundraising.

Dr. Marvin Watson, former postmaster general of the U.S. and chief of staff for President Lyndon B. Johnson, welcomed the assembly during his keynote speech at the general session. State Representative Ron Clark praised the efforts of the state's volunteers during an address at the conference luncheon.

The highlight of the conference was the awards brunch, where sixty-six individuals and volunteer groups were recognized for their exceptional contributions to the students and programs of TYC.

Executive Director Steve Robinson served as master of ceremonies and was joined by board members and administrators in honoring the agency's outstanding volunteers. ★



*Cathy Cason, Gainesville volunteer coordinator and hostess of the statewide conference, visits with Dr. Marvin Watson following his general session keynote.*

## Individuals and groups recognized for outstanding service

### Joe Bosquez Named Outstanding Religious Individual Volunteer in an Institution

Joe Bosquez has been involved in the chaplaincy program of the Brownwood Sanction Unit for 13 years, leading the Sunday morning Spanish worship service. He has missed very few Sundays in this entire time period.

Bosquez preaches, sings, welcomes, and encourages; contributing whatever is needed to give hope to the students of TYC. Joe leads a weekly Bible study group and plans an annual Christmas party for a dormitory.

Joe has also recruited his wife and 14-year-old granddaughter as volunteers. They work together to touch the lives of the young girls at the Sanction Unit.

The agency's chaplaincy volunteers faithfully provide religious teaching and counseling that complement the services provided by chaplains.

Other nominees for Outstanding Religious Individual Volunteer in an Institution were Bill Ferguson, Brownwood State School; Lynn Berry, Corsicana State Home; Louis Medina, Crockett State School; Wayne Carrigan, Gainesville State School; Sam and Dee Ann Pack, Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit; Rose Murray, San Saba State School; Jerry Fortune, Sheffield Boot Camp; Rev. Jack Gilliland, Victory Field Correctional Academy; and Betsy and Tom Goodnight, Giddings State School. ★



## **Mary Rozelle** **Honored Outstanding Individual** **Volunteer in an Institution**

Mary Rozelle has been a member of the Corsicana State Home Community Advisory Council since 1989 and served as the treasurer since 1990. She has contributed more than 850 volunteer service hours.

Mary has assisted with the Council's two rummage sales, four "lucky ducky dive" fund-raisers, nine campus recognition banquets, six annual council reports and a myriad of other volunteer activities.

She has organized Christmas parties and youth walk-a-thons, sponsored youth on their birthdays, and directed an incentive program for students who are progressing in their treatment. She was involved in raising \$180,000 for a building to enclose the campus swimming pool so that the youth could receive physical training and therapy year-round.

Other nominees for Outstanding Individual Volunteer in an Institution were Betty Kellar, Giddings State School; Jewel Joe Dorsey, Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit; David Williams, San Saba State School; Larry Contreras, Evins Regional Juvenile Center; Bill and Dottie Slattery, West Texas State School; Kathy Hite, Victory Field Correctional Academy; Don Scott, Brownwood Sanction Unit; Normal and Cheryl Gooding, Gainesville State School; Bobby Ross, Brownwood State School; Louis Medina, Crockett State School; and Mary Anne Fortune, Sheffield Boot Camp. ★

## **Calvary Baptist Church** **Selected Outstanding Religious** **Volunteer Group in an Institution**

Calvary Baptist Church Ministries has contributed more than 1,000 hours of service to the young men of West Texas State School. Under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Palmer, the congregation began providing religious services in 1996.

Week after week, a van-load of four to six volunteers arrives from Odessa, 50 miles away from the State School, to conduct one of the Sunday afternoon church services each month, to provide a weekly Bible study on the dorm, or to sponsor a holiday celebration. The students anticipate their arrival just as they would their staff or family.

Other nominees for the Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group in an Institution were Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Evins Regional Juvenile Center; Living Word Church, Brownwood State School; New Life Juvenile Justice Ministries, Corsicana State Home; St. Francis of the Tejas Catholic Church, Crockett State School; "On the Road" Ministries, Gainesville State School; Risen Hope Ministry, Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit; San Saba Church of Christ, San Saba State School; and First Baptist Church of Vernon, Victory Field Correctional Academy. ★

# **Volunteers**





*State Volunteer Resource Council Chairperson Eva Burford presents a certificate of appreciation to State Representative Ron Clark following his keynote address.*

### **Mary Ann Rodriguez Outstanding Individual Volunteer in a Community Program**

Mary Ann Rodriguez began her volunteer work as an intern student at Ayres Halfway House. She mentors young men and helps them adjust to independent living. She can be found setting up a budget, locating affordable furniture, taking students grocery shopping and even teaching students how to clean up after themselves.

Mary Ann tutors each week and has been asked to plan and implement a class for teen fathers. As a mother of five and a grandmother of nine, she is well qualified to share her own experiences with the students.

The young men respect her and know she will keep close tabs on their progress.

Mary Ann recently graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University. When asked how she does it all, she stated, "It's never too late and you're never too old to learn, you just keep working at it."

By her example of pursuing and reaching her goals, she has encouraged the youth of Ayres House to keep working toward a brighter future.

Other nominees for Outstanding Individual Volunteer in a Community Program were Joan Gibbs, Austin; Christi Echols-Gallagher, Ayres House; Patricia Depew, McFadden Ranch; Carol Kenel, Fort Worth; Elnora Johnson, Willoughby House; and Vanessa Williams, Houston. ★

### **Alpha Phi Omega Honored as Outstanding Volunteer Group in an Institution**

Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Service Fraternity of Texas A & M University, College Station, is committed to promoting volunteerism and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

For the last three semesters, the members of APO have chosen Hamilton State School as their service project. More than 50 college students tutor TYC students each week. The young adults recognize that so much depends upon the success of today's youth. They encourage and motivate the students to learn by serving as positive role models.

The Texas Youth Commission is fortunate to have civic and service organizations, universities, corporations, clubs and many other community action groups who are supportive of TYC rehabilitation programs.

Other nominees for Outstanding Volunteer Group in an Institution were New Life Juvenile Justice Ministries, Gainesville State School; K-Mart Distribution Center of Corsicana, Corsicana State Home; St. Luke's Baptist Church of Crockett, Crockett State School; Sonic Drive-In of Giddings, Giddings State School; Quality of Work Life of Employee Involvement (QWLEI) of U. S. Postal Workers, Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit; and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Hildalgo County, Evins Regional Juvenile Center. ★



## Fiesta Food Mart Selected Outstanding Volunteer Group in a Community Program

Fiesta Food Mart, Inc. has been a corporate partner with the Houston parole office for the past eight years. Houston parole officers depend upon this company to help youth and families in need of food.

To ease the financial burden during the holiday season, Fiesta Foods has collected truckloads of non-perishable food items for needy TYC families. At times, the Houston parole offices were filled to capacity with canned goods.

Fiesta contributes gift certificates that allow families to make selections while maintaining their dignity. Fiesta Food Mart has contributed so much more than food, however. They have given clothing and personal hygiene items, toys for the younger brothers and sisters of youth for Christmas, door prizes for the annual education banquet, and tickets for sporting events. Fiesta was the first business in Houston to involve TYC youth in community service projects.

Other nominees for Outstanding Volunteer Group in a Community Program were El Paso Community Resource Council, Northern Service Area; McFadden Community Advisory Council, Northern Service Area; Hawkwood Past Times, Inc. of Justin, Northern Service Area; and American Express Financial Advisors of San Antonio, Southern Service Area. ★

## Council elects new officers

New officers were elected by the State Volunteer Resource Council during the bi-annual meeting, held in April during the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual State-wide Volunteer Conference. Eva Burford, Houston, was elected as



*The State Volunteer Resource Council installs new officers (from left to right) Secretary Joan Gibbs, Chairperson Eva Burford, and Treasurer David Williams. Not pictured is Vice-chair Don Scott. Kathy Hollis delivered the oath of office, in honor of her late husband and past SVRC chairperson, Lou Hollis.*

Chairperson for 1999-2000. Other officers elected were Vice-Chair Don Scott, Brownwood; Treasurer David Williams, San Saba; and Secretary Joan Gibbs, Austin.

Long time TYC volunteer Kathy Hollis installed the new officers in honor of her late husband, Lou. Lou Hollis served a chairperson of the SVRC for two years and had been involved as an active volunteer with the Crockett State School. Lou passed away this January and will be sorely missed by his TYC friends.

The State Council honored its outgoing officers: Bob Frisby, chair; Rosie Abreu, secretary; and Dick Robinson, treasurer, during the conference luncheon. ★



## **Praise Tabernacle Selected Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group in a Community Program**

**P**raise Tabernacle Church does many things to help enrich the lives of the youth at Turman House in Austin. The church serves as a community service site and has allowed TYC students to complete over 500 hours of service.

Praise Tabernacle ministers to Turman House youth each Sunday through worship service. Their efforts are seen through the numbers of youth attending these services.

Church members are also involved in mentoring and providing special events for youth. This outstanding group has shown Turman House youth what a difference a caring religious community can make.

The other nominee for Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group in a Community Program was Beautiful Feet Ministry, Willoughby House. ★



*Board Member Edna Tamayo presents Joan Gibbs the Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group Award (among community programs) given to Praise Tabernacle Church of Austin.*

## **Charles Wilborn Outstanding Religious Individual Volunteer in a Community Program**

Reverend Charles Wilborn is the pastor of a dynamic church community that nurtures the students at Ayres Halfway House in San Antonio. He has been a positive role model through his speech and actions.

Wilborn transports youth to church services, prepares dinner at the church for the students, encourages students to lead positive lives through worship and prayer, and accepts parolees for community service projects at the church.

TYC's community programs rely solely upon volunteers like Reverend Wilborn who provide the spiritual enrichment to young men and women on parole.

Other nominees for Outstanding Religious Individual Volunteer in a Community Program were Chuck Renz, McFadden Ranch; and Sylvia Lopez, Turman House. ★

## **Victory Field honors employees**

At a graduation ceremony in April, Bobby W. King was named Employee of the Year at Victory Field Correctional Academy. Mr. King has worked for the Texas Youth Commission since January of 1997 as principal at Victory Field. Before joining TYC, King served the public school system for thirty-two years as a teacher, coach and principal. While he was a high school principal in Iraan-Sheffield, Bobby King became acquainted with TYC and Lemuel "Chip" Harrison, former superintendent of Victory Field, when the local school district began providing educational services to Sheffield Boot Camp. Noted for being firm, fair, and consistent, King has been well received at Victory Field and continues to provide excellent leadership in education.

Also honored at the graduation ceremony were employees of the month Stephen Webb, JCO II; Paula Davis, JCO IV; Leslie Willie, JCO III and Chris Kelmer, JCO II. ★



## Brownwood holds second annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Community volunteer and supporters were honored during the second annual Brownwood TYC Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in May at the Howard Payne University Mabee Center. The event drew a crowd of more than 130 volunteers, staff and supporters and was underwritten by Trans Texas Southwest Credit Union and First American Bank.

Robert Hickerson, executive director of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Services, was the featured speaker for the evening. Hickerson encouraged the attendees to respond to the challenge of America's Promise by expanding local volunteer efforts. Sandy Burnam, Alex Escarcega and Joan Timmons were joined by local administrators in presenting awards to outstanding volunteers in Brownwood.

Twelve businesses were presented with framed certificates for their contributions to the students and programs. Delores Chapman, a chaplaincy volunteer with the Brownwood Sanction Unit for more than ten years, was awarded her 500-hour service pin. Raul Rodriguez, a chaplaincy and Community Advisory Council volunteer at the Brownwood State School since 1988, earned his 1,000-hour service pin.

Several volunteers were recognized with teamwork pins for their efforts in recruiting new volunteers. These honorees were Edward Garrett,

Dan Baez, Bill Fielder, Jim Hampton, Christen Hubbard, Frank Skidmore, Deanna Greer and Ronnie Burchett.

Entertainment was provided by the Early Middle School Treble Choir of Early, Texas. At the conclusion of the recognition banquet, guests enjoyed searching for \$10 bills hidden throughout the room. The door prizes were graciously provided by Trans Texas. ★

### Brownwood volunteer recognized by radio station

Jose Mares, a chaplaincy volunteer with the Brownwood Sanction Unit for more than nine years, was awarded the KOXE radio and Lower Colorado River Authority "You Make a Difference" award. KOXE and the LCRA joined to salute Brownwood volunteers who give their time and talents to various organizations throughout Central Texas. Through a week-long campaign called "You Make a Difference," individuals were nominated and a special person was selected each day to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Jose Mares was selected for sharing his time and talents with the Texas Youth Commission. In his honor, \$100 was donated to the Brownwood Community Advisory Council. The purpose of the "You Make a Difference" award program was to raise awareness of the contributions made by community volunteers.

Mares also was selected as TYC's Religious Individual Volunteer of the Year. ★



# Youth Focus

## ERJC youth make juvenile justice presentation

ERJC students designed and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Texas juvenile justice system to the McAllen 78501 Community Youth Development Program.

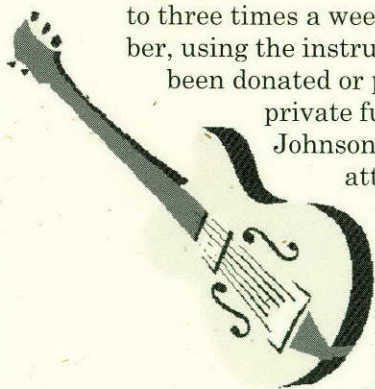
Program members include Butch Held, superintendent, and Susie Alvarez, program administrator. They belong to one of six workgroups that are designing a five-year plan to address juvenile crime issues. The group gathered information from various organizations in the area and turned the information over to the TYC students for final design and layout.

Under the supervision of Alberto Garza, computer information technology instructor, the youth presented their work, complete with background music and animation, to the audience. Afterwards, they held a question and answer session.

### Noteworthy Ministries give gift of music

Wayne Johnson, founder of Noteworthy Ministries, has always enjoyed giving away the gift of music. He does so in the form of free guitars and lessons. This is what brought him to the students at Gainesville. Eleven boys have been receiving lessons two to three times a week since September, using the instruments that have been donated or purchased with private funds. When Mr.

Johnson is unable to attend, GSS staff Danny Reed is there to lend a hand. Upon discharge from TYC, the student is given the guitar to keep. ★



The Youth Development Program is one of five in Texas that has received grants for implementation through the Governor's office. It is composed of representatives from a cross-section of agencies, organizations and the community. The program also includes trainers and facilitators from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency as well as staff from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Audience members, impressed with the youth and their work, were highly complimentary and gave a standing ovation. ★

### Youth resource fair at San Saba

A youth resource fair was recently held at San Saba to inform students of the sources of help in their communities for them and their families.

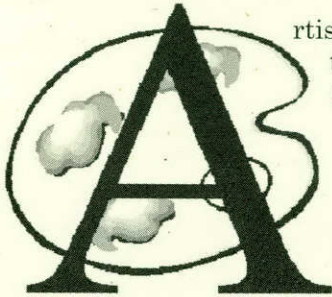
Twenty-two students approaching release participated in the event sponsored by the school and the juvenile crime intervention division of the Office of the Attorney General.

Following brief introductions by the presenters representing various organizations, students were allowed to visit with representatives for information about the services that they provided.

Those organizations participating included the Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Human Services, Central Texas MHMR, Child Protective Services, STAR Program, Department of Public Safety, Project RIO, Texas Workforce Commission, Hill Country Community Action, DOVE Project, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Central Texas College, Prairie View A&M, Fort Hood and the Social Security Administration. ★



## Corsicana art program encourages youth creativity



Artists conducted workshops which enriched the educational and resocialization experiences of youth in the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center during the winter and spring of 1999 in the academic school.

The artists are listed on the roster of Texas Commission of The Arts approved list of artists in residents.

The workshops ranged from music, photography and creative writing to African weaving and Australian folklore and didgeridoos. This included the students' involvement in various cultural, historical

and academic experiences. The projects were funded by Texas Youth Commission Wende Funds and coordinated by the Navarro Council of The Arts.

Grady Hillman, creative writer and poet, conducted writing workshops with youth. Hillman has years of experience conducting workshops in the criminal justice field. He has conducted workshops in adult prisons, worked with youth on probation and in juvenile detention centers, and has been conducting workshops with TYC youth for over ten years.

Monica Gomez, English/Spanish vocalist and musician conducted workshops dealing with the composition of poems and songs. In addition to learning Tai Chi, the students performed for the campus. Monica provided guitar accompaniment while students read poetry and performed Tai Chi during an assembly.

Michael Nee, photographer, conducted workshops during which the students made and used pinhole cameras. This included developing their own pictures as they learned darkroom procedures. Michael included history of photography and how cameras worked as he shared information and stories throughout the workshop.

Australian folklore and music was introduced to the students by Paul Taylor. The students were involved with making and playing didgeridoos, and Paul played Australian didgeridoos for them.

Nahsechay Fahloke taught students the weaving process as she integrated African culture into the hands-on workshops.

These various artists' workshops involved presentations by the students, classes for students in the Corsicana Stabilization Unit, and/or performances by the artists during a campus assembly. Navarro College Jazz Band, under the leadership of James Stubbs, presented a lively performance for the campus youth in May. ★

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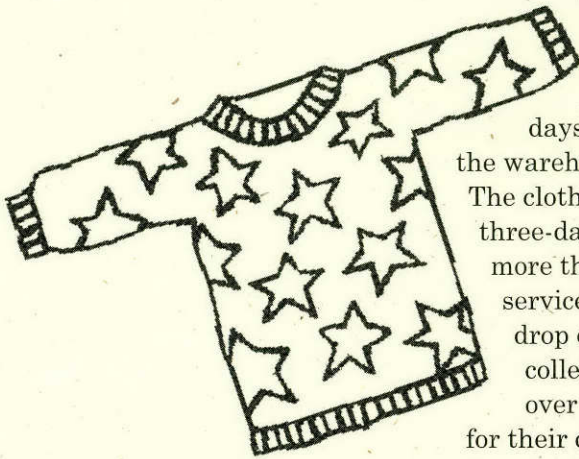
### Evins student creates art design

The Intercultural Awareness Committee at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center needed a background for a picture project during GED graduation ceremonies. An ERJC youth volunteered to design and paint the 4 x 6 foot backdrop that was needed. The finished product featured a graduate in a cap and gown. The committee and school Principal Dr. Ignacio Guerra presented a certificate of appreciation to the youth for his support, work, and artistic talents. ★



## Houston area youth help in Shareable Wearable school clothing drive

A team of TYC youth helped to sort, fold and distribute clothing from this year's back-to-school clothing drive sponsored by Shell Oil, Fiesta Store and Channel 2. The seven-member team volunteered two days of sorting and folding at the warehouse.



The clothing drive took place over a three-day period and included more than 200 participating Shell service stations that served as drop off sites. Clothing was collected and distributed to over 20 social service agencies for their clients. The drive will service over 8,000 children this year. The TYC Houston office is one of the agencies that receives clothes for 150 TYC youth. This project allowed TYC youth to see first hand the generosity of Houston residents and how everyone can make a difference. ★

## Brownwood students renovating local church

Students from the Brownwood State School are working to renovate a local church through community service projects. The young men have been cleaning and repairing parts of the Greater Faith Community Church. Students will begin maintaining roadways, landscaping a local Head Start Program and conducting cleaning projects for the elderly in upcoming service activities. ★

## Community service sweeping Northern Service Region

Fort Worth parole youth are working with the children at the Boys and Girls Clubs. Case aides Leaner Singleton and George Delcambre planned an Easter party for the children and TYC parole youth made Easter baskets out of shoe boxes for 150 children. The parole youth brought in candy to fill the baskets, parole staff provided punch, and the Fort Worth Council bought the cake.

The Hemphill County Boot Camp and Baker Elementary received grants totaling \$7,713 for implementing a new program combining education and community service. The program is designed to teach academic skills and civic responsibilities. The boot camp greenhouse received part of this grant to be used to teach horticultural skills and help design and develop a flower garden at Hemphill County Hospital.

Other recent community service activities at Hemphill County Boot Camp include the following:

- ★ Cadets washed animals and helped set up for the Canadian Hemphill County Junior Livestock Show.
- ★ The River Valley Pioneer Museum held a dinner for 150 cadets and staff in appreciation for the cadets who set up and took down museum exhibits throughout the year.
- ★ Linda Rader, a contract social studies teacher, set up an event at the Abraham Memorial Nursing Home. The residents from Abraham Memorial and the youth learned from each other as they participated in activities such as playing balloon volleyball. ★



## Beto House youth enhance local golf course

The McAllen Municipal Golf Course is looking good, thanks to Beto House youth. Twelve youth completed a 48-hour basic commercial landscaping course, and then put their newly learned skills to good use improving the golf course.

The landscaping course was taught by Ruben Trevino as a part of South Texas Community College's continuing education program. Beto House youth learned the proper way to plant grass and trees and remove stumps, as well as successful gardening procedures. These are skills that can be put to good use in the job

market as well as at home.

The McAllen golf course was the perfect place for the boys to put their newly acquired skills into practice. They chopped trees, removed old stumps, cleared land, and completed various other landscaping tasks.

Fresh vegetables will soon be on the menu at Beto House. Using techniques from the class, the boys planted a vegetable garden and are anxious to try their first tomatoes and peppers. They also put in new grass, removed stumps, and did other landscaping to beautify the halfway house. ★

## Brownwood youth receive diplomas

During spring commencement exercises at the Brownwood State School, three youth were awarded high school diplomas. Thirty-five additional students earned GEDs. Brownwood Mayor Bert Massey addressed the youth with an inspiring message. Beverly Beeman, a juvenile correctional officer II, provided musical entertainment alongside her brother and TYC volunteer Reginald Richard.

The Brownwood Community Advisory Council sponsored a reception for the graduating students. Williamson Photography of Brownwood donated professional graduation portraits of each student earning his GED or diploma. ★

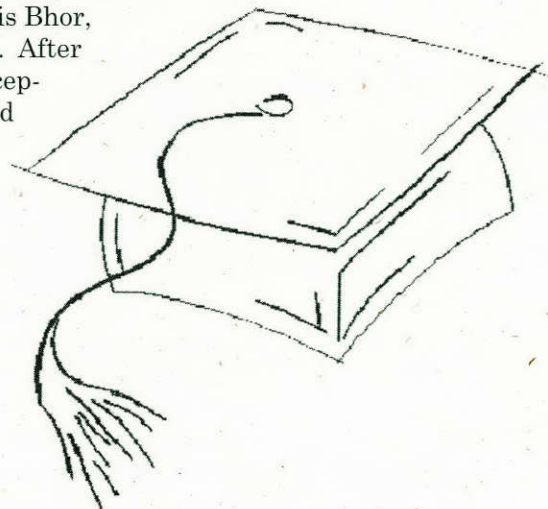
## Gainesville holds graduation

A graduation ceremony was held on February 27, 1999, at Gainesville State School. Fifty-two students received their high school diploma or their GED. Many family members attended from around the state. Among the TYC staff who attended were Dr. Judy Hufty, Billie Flippen, Mary Brown, and Donroy Hefner. Dr. Henry Roddy, former GSS principal, was the guest speaker. ★

## Twenty-six ERJC youth graduate

Twenty-six youth at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center received their GED certificates during spring graduation ceremonies held in March. Parents and family members attended the ceremony, which was highlighted by a commencement address by the Honorable Leo Montalvo, Mayor of the City of McAllen.

Special guests from central office included Judy Hufty, superintendent of education; Mary Brown, special education director; Billy Joe Galbraith, director of technology and training; Roger Wiley, education liaison coordinator; Diana Cantu, Safety-Net coordinator; and Iris Bhor, reading consultant. After the ceremony, a reception for families and students was hosted by the ERJC Volunteer Council. ★





## JCSS youth produce video

As a result of an ICP objective, and the blessing of Jefferson County State School (JCSS) Superintendent, Marie Murdoch, two JCSS youth worked for two weeks on a video project to share at community presentations. "Growing Up Behind Bars," was initially a project to make a video for off campus presentations when

youth go out into the community to share with schools. The purpose was to give at-risk youth a clearer image of what it is like to lose your freedom and be locked up.

Two Phase IV youth participated in documenting daily life on the campus, including a sample of dorm life, TYC food, education, and security.

The project began by giving the youth a camcorder and guidelines to not film any faces. After the initial shock of some wary staff as to why two students were on campus with video camera in hand, the project took off.

### San Saba celebrations

An Afro-American/Black History Tribute, and Valentine's Day presentation were recently held at San Saba sponsored by the Intercultural Awareness Committee. Alexia Eastland, teacher, welcomed each to the event, and Barbara Hardeman, investigator, served as mistress of ceremonies. Poems were read by students and Leon Johnson, caseworker, narrated an overhead presentation on racism and the Civil War. Students presented the history of St. Valentine and read poems. Lorenzo Cyrs, caseworker, and Marian Michel Deans, assistant superintendent, led the State School Choir in a song. Following the closing remarks by Superintendent Lydia Barnard, couples who worked at the school were treated to refreshments.

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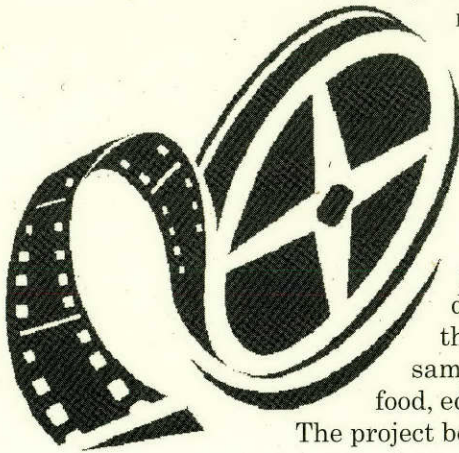
As a result of working on the video, we were in need of some editing and contacted a local CBS station for assistance. They were so interested in the project, one of the local news anchors came out to discuss the project. The end result was a three part series that aired on the local affiliate CBS station May 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>.

The station added to the project by interviewing one youth about his crime, what he has learned at TYC and what his future plans are. To put the final touch on the video, the station met the youth the day he was transitioned to parole and actually filmed him leaving for home via the bus station.

Next time you're working with a youth, helping him with his vocational goals, give him a video camera, he maybe the next George Lucas! ★

### Lewisville library makes generous donation

The Friends of the Lewisville Library donated several hundred books to Gainesville State School. These books would otherwise have been destined for the incinerator. Neva Banks, the GSS librarian, sorted and selected the books that were deemed appropriate for the students. This contribution, although not assigned a monetary value, was a priceless donation because it gave the students new books to check out, thus encouraging extra reading. ★





## **Corsicana staff contribute to teen pregnancy workshop**

**R**oss Robinson, assistant superintendent of the Corsicana State Home Stabilization Unit, was a guest presenter during a community workshop held for students in grades five through ten. The "You Choose" workshop was sponsored by the Navarro County Teen Pregnancy Prevention/Partners in Education Coalition and Navarro County Extension Service.

Robinson taught groups of boys about the consequences of making the wrong choices during the seminar on relationships, rape and sexual abuse. He told them of the harsh realities of the Texas Youth Commission, stating "[in TYC] you don't speak unless we give you permission to speak, and you don't move unless we give you permission to move." Robinson spoke about relationships and having feelings for others, saying, "every girl out there is someone's sister or daughter." He asked "how would you feel (react) if someone messed with your sister?" Robinson talked with students about family crisis and sexual abuse and circulated resource phone numbers that may be called for assistance.

Lucy Humbert, Corsicana volunteer coordinator, is a member of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention committee, which coordinated the workshop.

★

## **Eastern volunteers and placement agencies honored**

On August 25, 1998, the Eastern Service Area hosted its annual volunteer recognition. This year, in addition to celebrating volunteers, the service area also recognized non-profit agencies and organizations that serve as community service sites for TYC youth to complete their hours as part of the new parole design. As of January 1998, all TYC youth are required to complete a minimum of 75 hours of community service.

Over 45 volunteers, staff and agencies participated in the event, which was generously underwritten by the Medical Center Marriott. The evening's guest speakers were Deputy Executive Director Dwight Harris, of Austin, and Reverend Tony Campbell, chairman of the Houston Promise, an initiative to bring volunteers and corporate resources into the community. Harris and local TYC administrators joined in presenting appreciation awards to volunteers, corporations, and community organizations. ★

## **Corsicana teachers honored by local organizations**

Two Corsicana State Home teachers were recently awarded as outstanding by Corsicana entities.

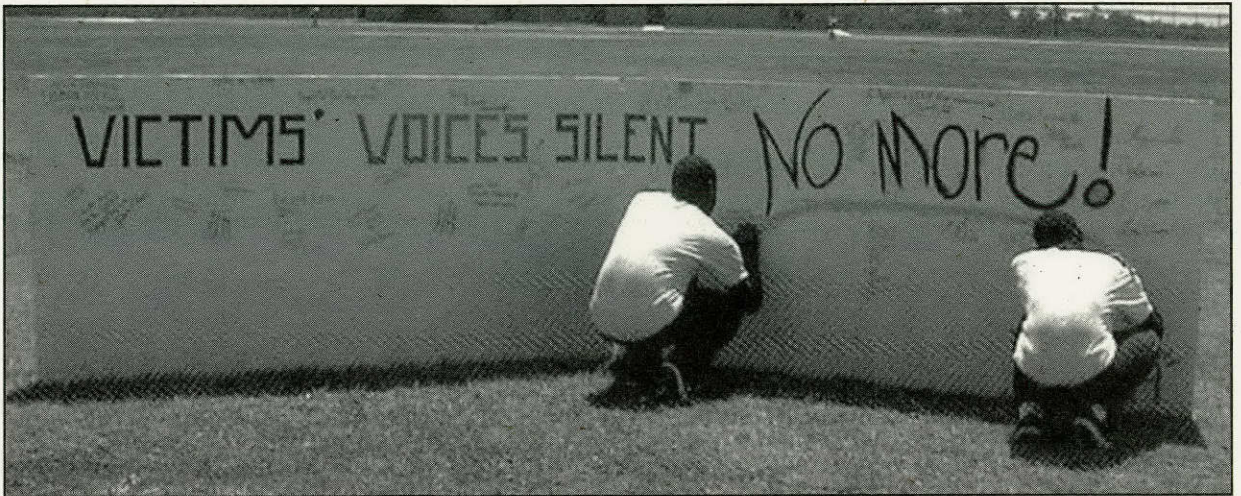
Mary Standly was chosen by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. corporate offices to receive the 1999 Teacher of the Year Award. Included with this award will be a \$500 check from Wal-Mart and an award ceremony.

Melinda Richardson was honored by the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce as the 1999 Corsicana State Home Outstanding Teacher. ★

## **Gainesville JCO gives a true picture**

When Gainesville State School conducts a facility tour for Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Corrections Officer Norman Lawrence lends a hand. He conducts a behavior group with the youth that is patterned after the "Scared Straight" program. Lawrence instructs the youth to sit on the floor and describes the daily routine of what it is like to be locked up as a TYC student. ★





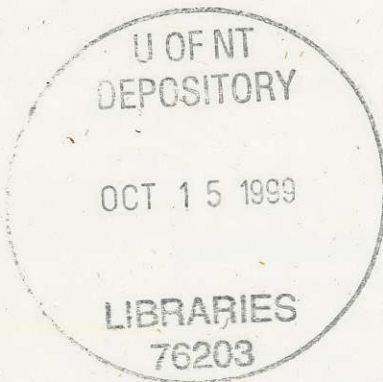
### Victim impact panels at ERJC

The Evins Regional Juvenile Center is hosting its first Victim Impact Panel. The presenters, Herbert and Emma Jo Snyder, are no strangers to TYC institutions and have made presentations at various TYC locations. As part of staff training, they made a presentation to all caseworkers and upper level juvenile corrections officers on topics such as the purpose and history of victim impact panels, preparation of youth, and empathy development. Susie Alvarez, program administrator, coordinated the training with assistance from Kenneth Williams, ERJC psychologist and Raul Arredondo, volunteer coordinator. ★

### Crime victim issues explored in Brownwood

Staff and students alike were involved in awareness raising activities during the recent National Crime Victim Awareness Week. Staff were provided victim sensitivity training by the Abilene Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center. Post traumatic stress disorder and other struggles experienced by crime victims were examined by staff.

Students kicked off the week with the school's second Victim Impact Panels featuring Thomas Ann Hines, Emma Jo and Herbert Snyder, and Shirley Poynor. Every youth in the facility was involved in creating posters and writing essays on victim issues. Winning dormitories and students were awarded certificates and other surprises. ★



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Texas Youth Commission  
4900 North Lamar  
P.O. Box 4260  
Austin, Texas 78765

Tamsen L. Emerson  
North Texas State University  
P.O. Box 5188, NT Station  
Denton, Texas 76203

