

DID YOU KNOW?

▼ E-Systems, an electronics design and development firm headquartered in Dallas, was cited as National Employer of the Year among companies employing more than 1,000 employees. The award was presented in May during the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities in Tampa, Florida.

▼ Beatrice M. Burke of Odessa, Texas was the winner of the "Handicapped Professional Woman of the Year" award for the State of Texas. The award was presented in Austin, Texas at the Pilot Club District Convention held in May. Beatrice then went on to win at the International level.

▼ Head injury is the leading cause of death and disability for people under the age of 35. Many people who died ten years ago are now surviving their injuries with a myriad of physical, emotional or intellectual problems. If you have a question call 1-800-444-NHIF.

▼ Approximately 35,000,000 Americans - one in seven - suffer some form of mental or emotional illness. Many of these individuals achieve full recovery while others are able to lead meaningful lives with proper medication and support.

▼ Excerpt ILS Net . . . The S.T.S. Lord Nelson, the fully accessible sailing ship that is part of Operation N.O.A.H. will now accept Americans with disabilities and persons who are able-bodied for "voyage crew" positions on her Summer 1989 cruises in English waters. For information call Operation N.O.A.H. at 401-847-9599 or 401-849-9090.

▼ Mainstream, Inc. will present, "New Opportunities for Moving Persons with Disabilities into the Workplace," on June 22 and 23 at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. The cost of attending the conference is \$150. For more information contact Mainstream at 202-898-1400 (Voice or TDD).



**GCDP
REPORT**

May, 1989

Austin, Texas

Waldrep visits Nacogdoches

Kent Waldrep, chair of the Governor's Committee, traveled to Nacogdoches, the oldest city in Texas, in a show of support for the recently established Nacogdoches mayor's committee. Waldrep toured Independence Manor which provides housing for persons with disabilities, visited Stephen F. Austin State University and spoke to the Rotary Club and a local advocacy organization. Named one of the top 40 universities in the nation in accessibility, Stephen F. Austin provides a number of services to students with disabilities.



▲ Ray Fenton, Texas Rehabilitation Commission counselor, and Kent Waldrep, Governor's Committee chairperson, discuss campus accessibility.

Building strength in your mayor's committee

A dynamic leadership conference for the Texas mayor's committees was held in Dallas this spring. Key players from around the state met to share ideas and got down to the "nitty gritty" when discussing "what works and what doesn't".

James S. Brady, former White House press secretary and now vice chair of the National Organization on Disability once explained the significance of local effort this way, "The most meaningful place to expand participation and improve attitudes toward people with disabilities is the local community. And I approve the idea of concentrating on programs with potential to advance the entire community." The grass roots effort of each mayor's committee fosters improved attitudes and creation of new programs to advance the whole community.

Jerry Cooper, a member of the Governor's Committee and vice president of HCB Contractors, provided a forum for mayor's committee members to exchange ideas and to gather new information. Cooper facilitated the meeting and arranged for conference speakers to address strategic planning, recruiting and developing leadership, recruiting volunteers who can make a difference, and utilizing community resources



▲ Nancy Barry of TU Electric in Dallas spoke to key members of the mayor's committees about volunteer efforts. She cited a recent gallop poll on volunteering showing that 75% of the people surveyed never refused volunteering if they were asked.

Ten tips to strengthen a mayor's committee

1. Define the committee's purpose, set goals and analyze critical success factors.
2. Elect a chairperson with proven business leadership skills.
3. Involve the business community in your mayor's committee events. Their knowledge, support and resources are essential.
4. Build a strong relationship with the mayor. A mayor's committee is a win - win program for the mayor. Mayor's committee officers should be able to access the mayor's staff quickly. Invite the mayor to all functions.
5. Keep the mayor informed, but be brief.
6. Use the mayor's stationery to announce and support the mayor's committee activities.
7. Develop "how to" manuals of successful projects and share them with other committees.
8. Work with volunteers in an organized, creative, and realistic way.
9. Recognize volunteers.
10. Hold job fairs (August and September) and festive events.

for program development. Roundtable discussions focused on job fairs, direct placement services, fund raising, targeted jobs tax credit, inter-agency support, and using community placement resources.

Cooper concluded the conference saying, "I hope this has tightened your mayor's committee vision and that the ideas and programs we have talked about can be duplicated and shared by each of us."

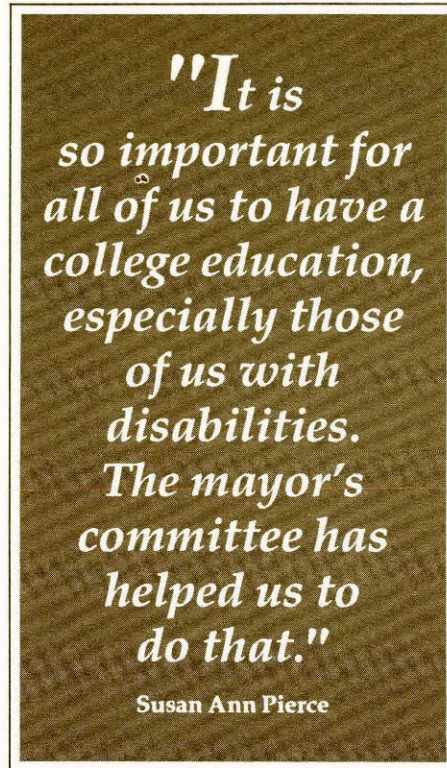
Beaumont Mayor's Committee wins cash award

Mayor Maurice Meyers, on behalf of the Beaumont Mayor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons, accepted a \$1,000 cash award from the National Organization on Disability for outstanding success in providing scholarships for students with disabilities to attend Lamar University.

The cash award was presented to the Mayor by Virginia Roberts, executive director of the Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons. Beaumont was one of ten communities to receive a project award in an annual competition funded through a grant from Westinghouse Electric Corporation. More than 2,000 towns, cities and counties participate in the Community Partnership Program.

"I believe that the achievements of the Beaumont Committee," said Meyers, "will serve as an inspiration to other communities in their efforts to expand the participation of all persons with disabilities in all aspects of life."

The Beaumont Committee plans to use the \$1,000 award money to sponsor an Employer Awareness Seminar for the Employment of Disabled Persons in October of 1989.



Margaret Harmon, mayor's liaison to the committee, said, "This seminar, designed for employers, will feature a guest speaker with a disability who will address the abilities, needs and the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities."

The scholarship program included a one-year and a four-year award to two students with disabilities. Susan Ann Pierce, 24, received \$1,000 in a one-year scholarship to complete her degree in sociology. Pierce, blind since the age of seven, is an honor student and will graduate this month. Victor Cerda is pursuing a degree in the area of social work and plans to pass on his professional and personal knowledge of being a person with a disability.

"It is so important for all of us to have a college education, especially those of us with disabilities. The mayor's committee has helped us to do that," said Susan Ann Pierce.

The Beaumont Mayor's Committee functions as a strong team with each member giving credit to the other for their joint success. When I asked Margaret Harmon how this came about she said, "Beaumont committee members are a very dedicated group of people with an exceptional leader, Don Kelly, who always provides guidance and direction. Then there is the Mayor who always gives the committee strong support." Margaret is known for the excellent staff support she provides to the Committee.

High caliber of volunteer involvement

Allen A. Parker serves as Vice President of the Investment Division of United Services Advisors, Inc. and Portfolio Manager of Interest Rate Sensitive Group in San Antonio. As such Parker has invested in both debt and equity real estate securities over the last 18 years.

Parker's impressive credentials include membership with the San Antonio Society of Financial Analysts and the Financial Analysts Federation. He graduated from Indiana University with a major in Business Administration and did his

graduate work at Northwestern University School of Mortgage Banking. His civic affiliations include past president of the San Antonio Council for Advancement of Services to the Deaf, former trustee to the Methodist Mission Home which also includes the Southwest Center for the Hearing Impaired and the Southwest Maternity Center, and most recently chairperson of the San Antonio Mayor's Committee of which he has been an active member since 1984.

Under Parker's able leadership the San Antonio Mayor's Committee has annually sponsored successful job fairs, applicant training seminars, employer awards luncheons, and accessible fishing events. Most recently the mayor's committee sponsored a fishing gala. As a direct benefit of the gala, each angler with a disability received a free fishing rod & reel.

Parker became involved in activities of benefit to persons with disabilities because his parents are

Continued on page 4

"The most important element is to involve the private sector as much as possible . . ."

Allen A. Parker

GCDP Report

The GCDP Report promotes employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities. The quarterly GCDP Report is published by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons.

Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCDP Report, 118 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704. You may also call (512) 445-8741 (Voice or TDD).

Taped copies of the GCDP Report will be provided upon request.

Virginia Roberts Exec. Director
Cindy Counts Editor
Susan Antoniewicz Illustrator
Sue Durban Illustrator
Becky Nieto Illustrator
TRC Printing Services. Printing

Note: *The Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons is in compliance with Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is an equal opportunity employer.*

both hearing impaired as is his son. These relationships give Parker a keen understanding of the abilities as well as the needs of persons with disabilities. He feels he can benefit the community by bringing persons with disabilities into mainstream community life.

When asked what he would share with other mayor's committees from a leadership perspective Parker said, "The most important element is to involve the private sector as much as possible - you can never have too much private sector involvement. Also, when accessing the private sector for their talent and time it is better to call on the company and ask who they would like to represent their company."

Perhaps, most importantly, the San Antonio Committee tries to eliminate distractions from the true focus of employment -- whatever the committee does they try to always come back to the employment focus.



Texas Governor's Committee
for Disabled Persons
118 E. Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas 78704

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1605

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED