

Texas Youth Commission Journal

News and information from throughout the agency.

March 1996, Spring Issue

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'Victory Field' to open September 1

Work underway to renovate TXMHMR facility in Vernon for TYC to open September 1

Construction is underway at the Mental Health/Mental Retardation facility in Vernon for the Youth Commission to open the "Victory Field" Correctional Academy September 1, 1996, for 300 youth.

Lemuel (Chip) Harrison, commandant at the TYC Boot Camp in Sheffield, has been named superintendent of the new TYC program. Staffing for other positions will begin in June. Harrison began as program administrator for the TYC Boot Camp in Sheffield in November, 1994, and opened the program officially in February of 1995. The program was the first of its kind run by TYC and was patterned after the Sgt. Henry Johnson Youth Leadership Program in New York State.

Harrison, who has been with TYC 14 years, began as a youth activity supervisor at the Brownwood State School. He served as program administrator at the Statewide Reception Center before going to the Boot Camp.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Tarleton State University. He previously worked as a detention officer for the Immigration Service, as an active military policeman for four years, and as a drill instructor in the Texas Army National Guard for four years.

Inmate labor is being used to convert the Vernon buildings, according to David McCafferty, TYC/TDCJ construction program manager.

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San Saba State School opens

The first eleven youth to be placed at the new San Saba State School arrived February 5. Eleven additional youth have arrived weekly, with the population on March 7 totaling 55.

Lydia Barnard serves as superintendent at the San Saba facility — a renovated Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison which was transferred to the Youth Commission.

Other key staff members include Donald Brooks, assistant superintendent; Nina Wiggins-Smith, academic school principal; Deborah Gillenwaters, human resources officer; and Riede Myrick, business

manager.

The state school currently has 120 employees with an additional interview fair having been held the first weekend in March.

All students at San Saba have been placed from the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit to complete the final stages of their resocialization program before being transferred to special treatment programs, such as the capital offender program, a sex offender program or a chemical dependency program.

Total population at San Saba will be 356. ☉

AROUND TYC

New administrators announced

Donald Brooks, who has served as program administrator of York House in Corpus Christi since July, 1995, has been selected assistant superintendent of the San Saba State School beginning April 1.

Brooks previously served as director of operations at Cottrell House, Dallas. Prior to that he was a juvenile services officer in Shreveport, Louisiana, and director of Joy House in Greenwood, Louisiana.

He holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Grambling State University and a bachelor's degree in psychology/sociology from Millsaps College.

Brooks was named the agency's outstanding regional employee last year.

Allen Wallace, community corrections supervisor for the North Region since 1988, was selected as assistant superintendent of the Jefferson County State School, and assumed his duties there March 1.

Wallace began his employment with TYC in 1975 as a caseworker at Gainesville. He later became director of security there. In 1985 he became a parole officer in the North Region, serving the rural and metro areas before being named parole supervisor in 1988.

He also served as regional ACA accreditation coordinator. Wallace holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and political science from Austin College, Sherman, and has completed graduate courses at Central Missouri State University and at North Texas State University. He is also a licensed social worker (LSW).

Colleen Waring has been named director of internal audit by the TYC Board effective February 12, 1996.

Waring, formerly employed with the City of Austin, began her employment with Austin in 1986 as editor and office manager, and most recently served as auditor and auditor manager.

A graduate of Oklahoma City University, Waring is a certified internal auditor. She replaced Jim Cannedy, who resigned in November.

Direct line supervisory authority has been assigned to **Tom Tye**, Chief of Halfway Houses, by Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam. The change was made to facilitate standardization of halfway house program procedures, support services activities, and to consolidate management responsibility.

New superintendent for Valley House is **Maria Salinas**, who has over seven years experience working with the delinquent population and managing residential programs.

Salinas, who assumed her duties February 1, 1996, has a BA in psychology and an MA in interdisciplinary studies from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Laurie Westfall, who was employed at Turman House from 1982-1988, has been named superintendent of Ayres House in San Antonio. Westfall holds a B.S. from the University of Iowa and an MSSW from the University of Texas, Austin.

(continued on page 3.)

Study recommends merging staff for TYC, TJPC

A study concerning the feasibility of merging several administrative functions of the Youth Commission and the Juvenile Probation Commission was completed in January.

The study, mandated by the 1995 General Appropriations Bill passed by the Legislature, specifically addressed the feasibility of merging the administrative functions of training, research, and management information systems (MIS).

The recommendation was for the Youth Commission and the Juvenile Probation Commission to share, when appropriate, training, research and MIS (computer) staffs, and for the level of cooperation between the two agencies to be increased.

In addition to TYC and TJPC agency staff who collaborated to produce the report, the agencies used the expertise of several county probation department representatives.

A representative from the Texas Probation Training Academy at Sam Houston State University also participated in the formulation of the recommendations contained in the study.

The Joint Board Subcommittee of TYC and TJPC approved the report January 22. The boards of each agency later approved the report and on January 25, it was sent to Governor George W. Bush, Lt. Governor Bob Bullock and Speaker of the House Pete Laney.

Staff of the two agencies have begun to implement the recommendations contained in this report. ☼

Briefly noted ...

◆ Three West Region office staff members were recently awarded tenure plaques for their service to TYC by regional director Alex Escarcega. . . They were **Benny Martinez**, 15 years; **Normando Amaya** and **Elda Arrieta**, 5 years. ☼

"Victory Field"

(continued from page 1)

The Texas Legislature, in House Bill 2278, authorized the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to lease the south campus of the Vernon State Hospital to the Texas Youth Commission, and appropriated \$2 million for the conversion of the facility.

The TYC Board authorized Executive Director Steve Robinson to negotiate a 25-year lease of the 195-acre site.

A tornado last fall destroyed the roof on the main building and caused extensive water damage to the interior space. Because TYC is coordinating repairs with TXMHMR according to Youth Commission's renovation needs, some overall savings to the state has resulted, without interfering with TXMHMR's continued use of the building. ☼

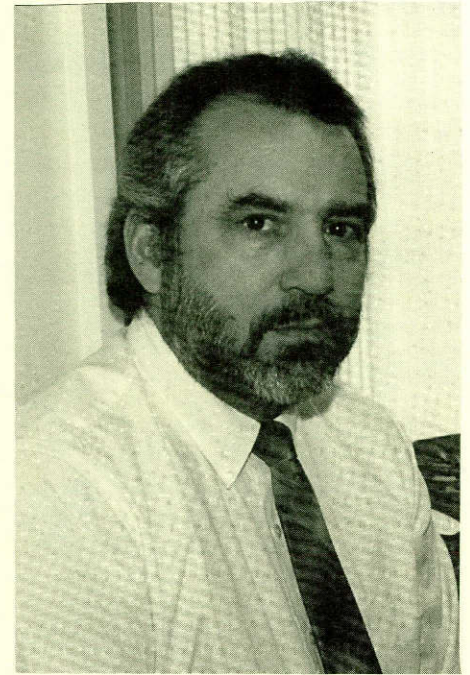
Stan DeGerolami named Giddings superintendent

Stan DeGerolami has been promoted to the position of superintendent of the Giddings State School. He had served as the assistant superintendent since November 1985.

DeGerolami holds a bachelor of social work from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio and a masters degree in social work from the Worden School of Social Service at Our Lady of the Lake University.

He previously served as the assistant superintendent at West Texas Children's Home in Pyote, superintendent of Ayres House in San Antonio, and was the medical psychiatric caseworker at Giddings State School. He also served as administrator-executive director of the Salvation Army Home for Girls in San Antonio.

"I had a great opportunity to work with two excellent superintendents, Sandy Burnam and Calvin Crenshaw, both of whom



Stan DeGerolami
Giddings Superintendent

taught me a tremendous amount." said DeGerolami. "I hope to maintain their high standards, with added emphasis on victim restitution and community service." ☼

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New administrators

(continued from page 2)

She was employed with Child and Family Services from 1989-1993, and with the Texas Department of Health from 1993-1995.

Judy Briscoe, Special Assistant Deputy Director, is serving as acting Associate Director of Community Services since the resignation of Cherie Townsend, who accepted a position as Director of Juvenile Court Services (Chief Probation Officer) for Maricopa County, Arizona, in Phoenix.

Townsend assumed her duties in Arizona January 1, 1996, after serving in several positions with the Texas Youth Commission during her 20-year tenure with the agency, including parole officer, parole supervisor, contract administrator, and director of community services.

New assistant superintendent for the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center is **Pedro Cohen**, who assumed his new position January 1, 1996. Cohen most recently served as superintendent of Valley House, Harlingen.

Cohen began his career with TYC in 1978 as weekend coordinator at Travis House, and later treatment coordinator at Salado House—both of which were later renamed Turman House. He became community coordinator for Turman House, and in 1982 became assistant superintendent at Valley House.

Shortly after being promoted to superintendent at Valley House, he left the agency to work as the coordinator of human resource development for TXMHMR Rio Grande State Center, Harlingen. He returned to TYC last year (1995) as superintendent of Valley House.

Gary Johns, caseworker at Crockett State School since May 1990, has been selected training specialist for Crockett.

He previously operated his own business from 1981-1990.

He served as director of Hope Center for Youth in Houston from 1974-1981, and director of Salesmanship Club Boys Camp from 1972-1974. He was a TYC parole officer from 1970-1972. ☼

Team management group identifies 1996 priorities

Sandy Bumam, TYC's Deputy Executive Director, and the team management group that she heads recently outlined their 1996 objectives.

The group, composed of top central office administrators who report directly to Bumam, includes Judy Briscoe, Dwight Harris, Linda Reyes, John Franks, and Ed White.

The group identified the following four major 1996 priorities:

1. **Implement the agency guiding principles.**

"The guiding principles are TYC's agency philosophy and should be the basis of every decision we make, no matter at what level of the agency we operate," said Bumam. The eight TYC guiding principles are:

1. TYC operates clean, controlled, orderly and rehabilitative programs.
2. TYC will establish safe and secure environments for staff, youth and community.
3. TYC includes public safety as a key component in its decision making process.
4. TYC operations are based upon sound juvenile correctional techniques and philosophy.
5. TYC recognizes staff as its most valuable resource.
6. TYC recognizes a clear distinction between youth rights and earned privileges.
7. TYC will fund and operate basic juvenile corrections and basic juvenile programs first.
8. TYC will make decisions based upon common sense and reasonableness.

The guiding principles will be implemented by posting them in main departmental areas and by following them in policies and actions. Managers and administrators have been encouraged to role model these principles and communicate them to staff at regular staff meetings.

2. **Follow agency's tactical objectives.**

Another priority is to follow the agency's tactical objectives. Tactical objectives are priority projects assigned to TYC administrators to accomplish by a specific deadline.

Objectives are designed to implement strategic plan goals and legislative mandates. Four times a year agency administrators meet to review and update tactical objectives.

"Tactical objectives are important to TYC operations, because they are our roadmap to measure progress toward meeting strategic plan goals and legislative mandates," said Paul Reeves, research and planning office.

3. **Fully implement resocialization and competency based release decisions.**

Resocialization is TYC's basic treatment program. The resocialization approach is a comprehensive model that includes behavior management and skills training, and also addresses the underlying belief system, feelings and unmet needs that fuel delinquent behavior. The four cornerstones of resocialization are: (1) correctional therapy, (2) disciplinary training, (3) education, and (4) work.

To fully implement resocialization, TYC has designed a control system to measure and verify that appropriate and identified services necessary for youth to progress through the resocialization program are indeed delivered.

TYC's rehabilitative services department has identified those services and is coordinating a statewide resocialization training effort. Effective February 1996, the agency implemented a control system that includes performance measures for the youth and a system that tracks a youth's performance through the five resocialization phases.

This control system will allow TYC to evaluate a program based upon the demonstrated competency of youth completing that program. With this control system, movement and release decisions will be based on resocialization competency demonstrated by youth.

4. **Negotiate expansion of TYC facilities.**

A major expansion of TYC's institutional capacity was authorized by the 1995 Legislature to accommodate increased numbers of juvenile offenders projected for commitment to TYC and to hold youth for longer lengths of stay. More institutional capacity is needed to accommodate an increased number of sentenced offender youth with longer lengths of stay as well as for the non-sentenced offender youth whose lengths of stay were increased by TYC policy effective January 1, 1996.

Competency based movement and release decisions may mean that youth stay longer, because youth will not be moved or released until they have demonstrated certain levels of accountability for their actions and behavior.

TYC will add 672 beds through expansion of existing facilities over the fiscal year 1996-1997 period. Over this same period, bedspace will be expanded by more than 1,000 through opening new facilities.

"We appreciate that this extensive facility expansion causes more work for everyone, and we appreciate staff's continued efforts to support the agency and the people of Texas to provide adequate bedspace for juvenile delinquents," said Bumam. ☺



Helen George was honored by Texas Southern University as an "Outstanding Graduate" in November. The awards were presented by James Douglas, president of Texas Southern University.

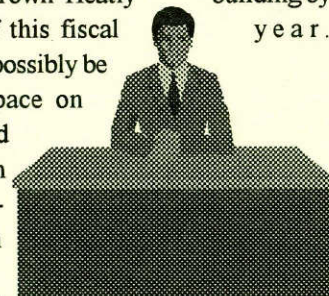
Space planning in central office

TYC's central office will soon be undergoing massive construction to re-allocate space to meet with recent Legislation. State agency space may not exceed an average of 153 square feet of usable office space (as defined by the General Services Commission) for each agency employee at each agency site.

The only exception is an agency site where 15 or fewer employees are located.

Four additional agencies will be moving into the Brown Heatly building by the end of this fiscal year.

TYC will possibly be sharing space on the second floor with the Commission on Early Childhood Intervention (ECI).



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Cook-off raises funds for Gainesville youth

Twenty-six Gainesville teams entered the third annual "Cookin' For Kids" chili cook off co-sponsored by the community advisory council and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1922 and Auxiliary.

The C.A.S.I.-sanctioned event was held at the VFW Post in Gainesville.

Robert Bell, C.A.S.I. president from Denton, served as referee and presented awards. Winners were Terry Massey of Joshua, first; Clyde Runyon of Duncanville, second; Kathy LeGear of Denton, third; Bobby Stricklin of Valley View, fourth; Dorene Holmes of Greenwood, fifth; Harold Scott of Thackerville, sixth; Jackie Grose of Quinlan, seventh; Dan Kretzchmar of Thackerville, eighth; J.D. Duggan of Denton, ninth; and Robert Jones of Marietta, tenth.

Winners in the local division were Rick Rains of Thackerville, first; Dan Kretzchmar of Thackerville, second; and Bobby Stricklin of Valley View, third.

Showmanship awards were presented to Dan Kretzchmar of Thackerville, first; Robert Jones of Marietta, second; and Jerry and Becky Barnes of Gainesville, third.

Funds from "Cookin' For Kids" are used for educational and recreational programs at Gainesville State School. ☼

Briefly noted ...

◆ Over 195 community volunteers, representing 17 civic organizations or church groups, presented 17 separate Christmas parties for 16 cottages at **Giddings State School**, according to Bill Bradbury, volunteer coordinator.

◆ **Gene Edwards**, north region chemical dependency specialist, recently received certification as a neurofeedback provider—the first TYC employee to be certified in this area. Edwards received 15 hours of training at the University of North Texas, Denton. Neurofeedback has proven to be of significant value in the treatment of chemical addiction. ☼

Giddings council elects officers



Officers for 1996 for the Giddings State School community advisory council are president, Betty Kellar; vice-president Scott Rohloff; and secretary/treasurer, Mary Gutierrez. Kellar and Rohloff accepted a second term of office.

Gutierrez has been secretary/treasurer for the last 10 years, and has served on the council since January 1976. She is an assistant vice-president at the Giddings First National Bank. ☼

Ayres House tamale party

San Antonio council members and spouses hosted a tamale supper for Ayres House youth and staff the week before Christmas. Ice cream sundaes, cokes and cookies topped off the meal.

Each youth received a dress shirt and tie, and a casual shirt or sweater, as well as a decorative plaid stocking with his name on it, distributed by their maker Marsha Lallky, president of the Telephone Pioneers of San Antonio.

The Pioneers filled the stockings with large notebooks, pens and pencils. Frost Bank donated key chains and Dillard's cosmetics supplied samples of cologne and aftershave. ☼

VOLUNTEERS

Dallas police chief, TV anchorwoman speak at volunteer conference

Keynote speaker for the 12th annual TYC volunteer conference, held this year in Dallas, was KXAS-TV anchorwoman Ramona Logan.

Guest speaker for the luncheon on Saturday, March 2, was Dallas police chief Ben Click. TYC Board chairman Dr. Leonard Lawrence of San Antonio was guest speaker for the awards brunch, with new Board Member Lisa Saemann-Teschner of Dallas serving as mistress of ceremonies for that event.

Awards were announced and presented by TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson to outstanding TYC volunteers.

Participants at this year's conference chose from twelve workshops and eight discussion groups, ranging from "How to run a meeting," to "God and the melting pot —

religious sensitivity," and "Don't be cruel," a workshop on the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

The Dallas volunteer council, which hosted this year's event, treated those attending to dinner at the Magic Time Machine. They also sponsored a silent auction and tours to Cottrell House, Fair Park, the Dallas Juvenile Justice Center, and the West End.

During the state volunteer council's annual meeting Friday, March 1, 1996, current officers were re-elected: Leo Rodriguez, Evins, chair; Colonel Bob Frisby, Corsicana, vice chair; and Betty Kellar, Giddings, secretary. Viva Miller, Crockett, was elected treasurer, replacing Richard Robinson, El Paso, whose term expired. ☼

Volunteer award winners

San Antonio man named top TYC volunteer

Mark Padilla of San Antonio was named TYC's Outstanding individual volunteer during the 12th annual TYC volunteer conference held in Dallas March 1-3.

Jerrie Warner, longtime Crockett employee, was named outstanding staff volunteer, and Gene and Marilyn White of Corpus Christi were named outstanding individual religious volunteers.

The outstanding student volunteer is Moises Briseno, a student at Giddings State School. Another Giddings winner was the Pizza Hut, the top volunteer group award winner.

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church of El Paso was selected as the outstanding religious group.

MARK PADILLA, San Antonio Outstanding individual volunteer

Padilla, who started as a youth advisor for two San Antonio parolees two years ago, quickly became interested in joining the volunteer council — and within months was elected president. Council activity has escalated since he became involved — he has received donations of hundreds of pounds of meat for picnics for youth, has actually done the grilling, and has organized Christmas shopping for Ayres House boys' gifts.

He frequently drops by the halfway house on weekends and helps do the cooking, particularly when there is a vacancy in the weekend cook position. He also helps make minor repairs at the house, and teaches youth some home repair skills at the same time.

"One of the most appreciated projects Mark took on was building up a library for Ayres House," said Executive Director Steve Robinson, who presented the award to Padilla. "He personally solicited donations of books from several shops, collected more than 450 books, and when it was obvious that some book shelves would be needed, Mark built them."

During the council's fund raising bowling tournament last year, Papilla solicited sponsors, made follow-up contacts and solicited prizes and donations — then sponsored a team of Ayres House students in the tournament.

He also works individually as a mentor to two youths, and as a youth advisor to two TYC parolees in San Antonio. He is adamant about their getting a GED or high school diploma, and spends much of his time helping them with homework and school projects.

Padilla also helped Ayres House youth put in a vegetable garden last spring, getting landscaping timber and dirt donated, and helping three youth and two other volunteers spread dirt, rake, hoe and plant a huge garden... with the fresh produce being prepared for meals at the halfway house. "We sincerely appreciate all that you have done, Mark," said Robinson. "TYC is fortunate to have the benefit of your extraordinary energy and dedication for our youth in San Antonio."

Other nominees for this year's outstanding individual volunteer award were Anthony Wilson, Crockett; Pat Masso, Beto House, McAllen; Susie Stephens, Evins Regional Juvenile Center; Tom Gillam III, Jefferson County; Tracy Cunningham, Corsicana; Steve Duncan, El Paso; Vicki Smith, Brownwood; Betty Kellar, Giddings; Pete Delgadillo, York House, Corpus Christi; Michael Carraway, Houston; Joseph Tignor, Austin; Allen Golden, Turman House, Austin; Jackie Davis, McFadden Ranch; and Carrie Bowden, Gainesville

JERRIE WARNER, Crockett, Outstanding employee volunteer

For the past 20 years during her employment at Crockett State School, Jerrie Warner has been a faithful supporter of the volunteer program.

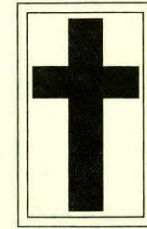
"But this past year, she has really gone the second mile," said Special Assistant Deputy Director Judy Briscoe, who made the announcement.

"It was Jerrie's initiative and hard work which was responsible for compiling a cookbook to raise money for the Crockett volunteer council's projects," said Briscoe.

Warner compiled the cookbook with the help of a committee, collected recipes, met the print date and saw the project completed — with a healthy profit, which helped fund the victims' empathy program, purchased Christmas gifts for students, and provided transportation for low-income families to visit their kids.

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Volunteers continue worship services



Church worship services at Corsicana State Home are being conducted by volunteers in three locations every Sunday, according to Lucy Humbert, volunteer coordinator.

Westhill Church of Christ volunteers Paul Fulbright and Lynn Berry have continued to conduct the regular weekly chapel campus services.

Westhill church volunteers Jerry Cockerham and Wendell Edwards conduct services in the Acute Care Unit.

Two employee volunteers, Kelvin Powers and Linda Havis, conduct workshop services in the AIMS (Aggressive Intervention Management) Unit.

Corsicana State Home does not employ a paid chaplain. Religious volunteers also counsel with youth when requests are received. ☼

El Paso TYC youth have Christmas dinner

El Paso Community Resource Council sponsored the annual Christmas dinner for Schaeffer House and El Paso parole youth at Catholic Campus Ministries.

Members of Project ELLA, a Hispanic women's leadership and mentoring program in El Paso, donated food for the dinner, helped prepare the meal, and provided homemade tamales.

Volunteer council members served as waiters for the youth.

Toni Fuentes, a local storyteller, provided stories about the El Paso lower valley, as well as leading youth and adults in singing Christmas carols. News channel 9 covered the dinner for their 10 o'clock human interest news broadcast. ☼

Community donates \$8,200 to Corsicana

The Corsicana Residential Treatment Center community advisory council raised \$8,200 through their Christmas fundraising letter.

Donations included \$3,000 from Nations Bank, Perry D. Graham Trust; \$1,000 from Corsicana National Bank, Rene Fleming Foundation; and \$500 from Corsicana Ex-Students Association.

Funds were used to purchase "Santa" gifts for students. Students in the regular program each received a watch, stationery, a large pictorial calendar, a personalized drinking cup with candy, and a stocking containing hygiene items. H.E.B. donated \$500 worth of hygiene items.

Students in the Acute Care and AIM Units received stationery and a stocking with fruit and candy. Volunteers Kelly Berry, Jerry Cockerham and Robert Harper assisted in passing out gifts on Christmas morning.

Christmas parties were sponsored for student cottages by Navarro College, Beta Sigma Phi Womens Sorority, Corsicana Rotary Club, Lions Club, St. John's Episcopal Church and Medical Arts Clinic. These parties included monetary gifts placed in each student's account. The Sunrise Lions Club sponsored pizza for the campus on Christmas Eve.

The community advisory council sponsored a party for the Acute Care and AIM Units. ☼

Briefly noted...

◆ For the past several months, youth at Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg, have been performing community service by washing City of Edinburg and Hidalgo County Sheriff parole cars. Officers drive up to the Center, get their cars washed, and are served coffee and donuts provided by the Evins volunteer council. Evins youth also recently helped the City of Edinburg in mailing out the city's quarterly newsletter. Youth labeled and sorted over 6,000 newsletters and prepared them for mailing. ☼



Corsicana residential treatment center advisory council members (left to right) Carolyn Mathis, and Aline Marshall presented cash gifts from the council of \$20 each to ten G.E.D. graduates during the January graduation ceremony. Mathis is chair-elect of the council and is Corsicana's postmistress. Valedictorian was Eric Robertson; Chris Sutterfield was salutatorian. Speaker was Corsicana ISD assistant principal Sam Thompson. Numerous family members and friends of the graduates attended the event.

Volunteer winners

(continued from page 6)

She also seeks out opportunities for students to help in the community, and took three students to help serve 400 meals to needy families during the holidays. She has worked side by side with youth in cleanup projects, and has helped students organize benefits to assist staff who were terminally ill. Due to her efforts the school presented food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Warner collected the food items and students decorated the baskets and helped deliver them.

"Jerrie's efforts over the years have been helpful in promoting the school and the volunteer program — creating positive publicity for the institution and the agency," Briscoe concluded.

Others nominated for outstanding TYC employee volunteer were Elita Ellison, Evins Regional Juvenile Center; Esther Boyd, Corsicana; Sandra Dreessen, Austin; Leann Bourque, Turman House, Austin; Erica Barrera, San Antonio; Jerry Boydson, Jefferson County; and Leslie Sherfy, Giddings.

GENE AND MARILYN WHITE, York House, Corpus Christi Outstanding individual religious volunteers

Gene and Marilyn White have been mainstays for the York House in Corpus Christi — through good times and difficult times. They have been a stable influence during periods of numerous staff changes. The couple owns the convenience store next door to the facility — and have become known as "mom and dad" for the youth.

Members of the Cathedral of the Palms Church, they go to the halfway house twice every Sunday, as well as several other days of the week, and have formed strong ties with many of the youth and staff.

They take youth to church, to movies and other activities at the church, and provide guidance and counseling for them during times of trouble and sorrow.

"When the volunteer council was allowed to become inactive, and most volunteers no longer came to the halfway house, the Whites continued their routine without fail," said Executive Director Steve Robinson, in presenting the award.

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Volunteer winners

(continued from page 7)

"They were so popular that their weekly 'church hour' was incorporated into the 16-hour structured day," Robinson said. "Going to church with the Whites was so sought after, that they bought a van to take a larger number of kids."

They frequently send over food and snacks to the house, and when the York House ice machine broke down, they sent ice from their store.

The Whites also have arranged community service sites for the youth to assist in the new structured schedule.

"Because of them and their Christian example, I have turned my life around and am now working and looking forward to attending college," one young man said of Marilyn and Gene White.

Also nominated for this year's outstanding religious individual volunteer award were Reverend Don Dennis, Marlin; Sharon Baker, Turman House, Austin; Barbara Delps, Ayres House, San Antonio; Rev. Steve Holloway, Crockett; Jerry Cockerham, Corsicana; Pamela Ann Whitworth, Evins Regional Juvenile Center; Paul Fulbright, Corsicana; Floyd Durbin, Jefferson County; Fernando Hernandez, Brownwood; and, Pamela Wiebe, Gainesville.

MOISES BRISENO, Giddings, Outstanding student volunteer

A young man from El Paso, who at 15 murdered a rival gang member and received a 25-year sentence, is TYC's outstanding student volunteer award winner this year.

"Moises Briseno credits his involvement in the Giddings State School volunteer program (and his grandmother and caseworker Leslie Sherfy) as being instrumental in helping him turn his life around," said TYC Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam.

"When he arrived at Giddings State School, he said he felt 'hopeless — like my life was over and nothing really mattered,'" said Burnam.

"By the time he returned to face the judge who had sentenced him, he had changed so much in attitude and appearance — and respect for others — that the judge decided NOT to send him to prison, but returned him to TYC for further treatment," Burnam explained.

Briseno met with his victim's family and cried with them. He learned that 'gangs ain't nothing.' He began volunteering to do extra work. When a staff member asked for help, he was the first to volunteer. When a peer began having problem, he was first to confront him in a helpful way. He helped out in recreation, and became involved in community service projects: cleaning up litter on the highway, cleaning up downtown Giddings, setting up chairs and tables for a Cancer Society event; running a food booth for the volunteer council, cleaning and buffing office floors for a county building, and painting picket fences around a historical house in town.

But perhaps the most meaningful and difficult task Moises did was to speak in classrooms and auditoriums full of students — telling his life story. He has spoken to over 400 students, led numerous campus tours for visitors, and counseled with 12 youth on juvenile probation. While earning his GED, he helped new students in the orientation dorm and studied to become an automotive technician.

"Moises has gained back some respect from the courts and society, though he has lost favor with an older brother — still caught up in gangs," said Burnam. "But he now looks forward to the future."

Other youth nominated for the outstanding student volunteer award were Allen Ray Scott, Turman House, Austin; Steven Reed, Ayres House, San Antonio; Joshua Martinez, Crockett; Raymond Garcia, Schaeffer House, El Paso; Corsicana student body; and the Crockett State School choir.

GIDDINGS PIZZA HUT, Giddings, Outstanding volunteer group

The Giddings Pizza Hut has been a leader in Giddings in providing jobs for TYC youth. The off-campus work program began before the Giddings institution was designated for TYC violent offenders. Back then it was relatively easy to place students in jobs in the community. Eight employers provided jobs in 1981.

Then, most employers pulled back. But Pizza Hut, and owner LaVerne Bell, supported the state school through good times and not-so-good times. They continued to hire TYC youth to work.

(continued on page 10)

Evins hosts Edinburg Leadership Class VII

Evins Regional Juvenile Center volunteer council hosted the monthly meeting of Leadership Edinburg Class VII in January. The class, sponsored by the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, is composed of a cross section of community leaders, who meet once a month at different locations to discuss a variety of topics such as education, local government, community services, and criminal justice.

Speakers representing different organizations present the program. Doris Davila, South Region superintendent, talked to the group about TYC, and Raul Arredondo, volunteer coordinator, spoke about volunteer opportunities. The volunteer council hosted a bar-b-que chicken and sausage plate dinner for the guests. ☼

Briefly noted ...

◆ **Fiesta Store Inc.**, one of Houston's largest food chains, donated \$500 in gift certificates to needy TYC families within the Houston area.

◆ **S.W.A.T.** (Staff Working Action Team) and the food service department coordinated a Christmas dinner for students, staff and volunteers at Corsicana Residential Treatment Center. A student choir conducted by principal Carolyn Webb and a staff choir performed. Superintendent Chester Clay Jr. sponsored a decorations contest for cottages and presented cash awards to each cottage during the program.

◆ **The Richardson High School Girls Service League and Key Club** collaborated to make 20 Thanksgiving food baskets for needy TYC parole families in Dallas County. They also made Christmas stockings for the youth in the Continuing Care Center and Dallas Community Corrections. ☼



Corsicana State Home's Boy Scout troop delivered 25 gift bags to senior citizens in the community during the Christmas holidays. Shown here are Scoutmaster Terry Thomas, left, with scouts Charles Christensen and Jesse Najera, and recipients Jessie and Mable Fisher.

No NIMBYs in Corsicana

(Editor's Note: This editorial is reprinted from the August 22, 1995, Corsicana Daily Sun. Mr. Barnaby has received numerous statewide awards for his volunteer work with TYC.)

Charlie Barnaby had a look of satisfaction on his face.

The longtime radioman is also a longtime volunteer at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center, one of many Corsicana residents who regularly take time out from their busy schedules to help turn around the lives of young people here. He was one of many people who helped raise about \$7,000 for Corsicana during Saturday's Lucky Ducky fund-raiser by the pool.

The Treatment Center is undergoing many changes, but one thing is constant—the quality time local residents spend making friends with the troubled youngsters sent to the home.

Corsicana residents come here for a variety of reasons and they come from all over the state. Many are from metropolitan areas such as Houston and Dallas and have been involved in gang-related activities. Many are from broken homes.

It would be easy for people from Corsicana to not be involved in the State School. These aren't Navarro County youngsters and we didn't ask for them to

be sent here. It would be easy to adopt a NIMBY stance. You know what this is—Not In My Back Yard.

The world is full of NIMBYs. One of the hottest issues in Dallas concerns attempts to place low-income housing in the middle of Dallas suburbs. Court decisions have consistently ruled that public housing must be distributed evenly throughout Dallas County and not stuck in predominately low-income areas.

On, how they howl. "Not In My Back Yard," they say.

So it's refreshing to come to a place such as Corsicana, where the citizens actually welcome people who have been disadvantaged. Instead of saying Not In My Back Yard, the Corsicana response is just the opposite.

It speaks well of our community that so many people are members of the Corsicana Advisory Committee. And that so many people take part in the Corsicana ISD mentoring program and the many other volunteer opportunities here.

—JIM GOODSON ☼

Austin, San Antonio councils provide food baskets

The Austin volunteer council provided food baskets for 30 parole families again this year. Turman House youth boxed supplies for the families Austin parole officers had selected. Each family also received a turkey ham. Sandy Dreessen, Central Region technical assistant coordinated the effort.

Thirty San Antonio parole families also received generous food baskets and certificates for meat courtesy of the San Antonio volunteer council.

Ayres House youth helped volunteer Ann Wieland, volunteer coordinator Jane Parker and parole officer Abel Gonzales box up the food. ☼

Briefly noted ...

◆ **Erica Steadham**, East Region TYC student intern from Texas Southern University, has been selected to serve as a Legislative assistant to Senator Rodney Ellis for 1996-97. Steadham says her experience in working with the Youth Commission last fall encouraged her to learn more about how state government works.

◆ Community Corrections Officer **Karen Denny-Tillotson** reports two of her parolees are attending their second semester at San Antonio College. **Brian Wilkes** is taking a full load and working at Comer Church Crisis Hotline. **Charles Smith** also attends SAC and works at a Sonic Restaurant.

◆ The TYC Board recently passed a commendatory resolution for **Byron Griffin**, TYC's former Superintendent of Education who retired December 31, 1995. ☼

Volunteer winners

(continued from page 8)

Because of their example and success, two other employers have recently begun hiring TYC youth.

Kids get more than student jobs—they receive thorough training and on-the-job experience which is valuable in helping them obtain future employment.

Pizza Hut also provides special discounts for large state school functions, such as football banquets or student council meetings. They provide meals “on the house” when students are involved in community projects.

During the past nine years, 75 students have worked at the Giddings Pizza Hut, with a combined payroll of \$40,000.

Pizza Hut manager, LaVerne Bell, is an active volunteer council member and frequently puts in double shifts during fund raisers. The council recently sponsored four community-side forums concerning drug abuse and Bell provided the refreshments for each event.

“It is fitting that we present this award to the Giddings Pizza Hut,” said Judy Briscoe, Special Assistant Deputy Director, “because they have always welcomed our students and accepted them for their potential and have not dwelled on their past mistakes.”

Also nominated for this year's outstanding volunteer group award were Texas State Troopers Association; Turman House, Austin; Telephone Pioneers, San Antonio; Tri-County Post Office Q.W.L.E.I. Group, Marlin; Sierra Club Inner City Outings Program, El Paso; People Against Violent Crime (PAVC), Crockett; Jonlyn Parker Circle, First Baptist Church, Corsicana; Houston Volunteer Youth Council, Houston; Oxford, Oxford & Gonzalez Law Firm, Evins Regional Juvenile Center; and Ms. Degerstrom's 5th grade, St. Matthews Catholic School, San Antonio.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, El Paso, Outstanding religious volunteer group

Mt. Zion Baptist Church members have been actively involved in providing services and assistance to residents at Schaeffer House for 17 years, as part of their ministry to the community. They are dedicated to bringing positive change to the lives of TYC youth.

Members visit with Schaeffer residents on a weekly, monthly, and as-needed basis. They instituted and carried on a tradition of celebrating the birthday of every resident...they provide cake and ice cream, in addition to gifts.

Congregation members also mend clothing for residents; they provide cards and stamps for the youth to send to their parents or guardians on special occasions.

“The spiritual guidance and the opportunity to participate in religious activities plays an important part in preparing youth to return to their respective communities,” said Sandy Burnam, Deputy Executive Director of TYC. “They pick up youth each Sunday to take them to church, and take

them for church picnics, dinners and other special events.”

The church also provides assistance during cultural heritage events and on relevant holidays, such as Martin Luther King Day. The Rev. James L. Williams, Pastor, spoke for the Black History Month celebration dinner in February.

“Throughout their 17-year service to Schaeffer House, members have demonstrated compassion and caring, without asking or expecting any recognition,” Burnam concluded.

Church member Elizabeth Anthony of El Paso accepted the award for the church.

Also nominated for outstanding religious group were First Assembly of God Church, Marlin; Westhill Church of Christ, Corsicana; Mares, Bosquez and Gonzalez, Brownwood Sanction Unit; Welcome Christian Center, Brownwood; Sweet Home Baptist Church, Turman House, Austin; Family Praise Center, Ayres House, San Antonio; and S.W.A.T, Lewisville, Gainesville. ☼

NOTICE

If you want to continue to receive the *Texas Youth Commission JOURNAL*, Texas law requires that you request it in writing annually. Your name will be removed from the mailing list if you do not respond. To remain on the mailing list, return this page with your mailing label to:

TYC JOURNAL

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

I wish to continue receiving the *TYC JOURNAL* at the address/corrected address on my mailing label. (Please attach.)

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: TYC employees, contract programs, and juvenile probation departments are exempt from this requirement.

Gainesville State School annual awards banquet



Gainesville State School held its annual Christmas and awards banquet in December at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The event was sponsored by the staff quality improvement group (SQIG).

Approximately 160 staff, retirees and guests were treated to a barbecue dinner.

Speakers were Dr. Ted Shorten, assistant superintendent, and Greg Solomon, executive vice president, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce.

Superintendent Jerry Day recognized the following employees for retirement, tenure and special achievement:

Retirement: Bobbie Owen, Sophie Wilson, Joyce Williams, Tex Emma Doughty, Keith Gant, and Jo Privett.

Tenure: 25 years - Lynda Langston; 20 years - John Powell, Reid Turner, Norman Clark, Anita Murphy, Bill Liddell; 15 years - Vicky Tuggle, Mayfield Berryman, Greg Mack; 10 Years - Gerrie Burr, Elsie McKinney, Willard LaGrone, Ora Jean Phillips, Robin Florie, Sidney Riley, Doris Martin, Prudence Mack; 5 years - Marsha Harris, Randy Saenz, Ramiro Escamilla, Linda Germany, Tim Sparkman, Dennis Westerlin, Jeff Manuel, Ed Garza, Shirley Sprecher, Robert Woodard, Sharon Garcia, Jimmy Bentley, Sheena Berryman, Kenneth Triplett, Merlyne Olson, Kathryn Spencer, Alfred Johnson, Wayne Coats, Jeff Young, Margie Hartnett, Jerry Hendricks.

Special recognition was given to several individuals and groups for noteworthy performance during the year: perfect attendance, football coaches, safety committee, gatehouse management team and vocational management team. ☼

HUMAN RESOURCES

Management and support department

Ed White, Associate Director

The departments comprising the management and support department submit the following information to be shared with all TYC staff. It is the intent of management and support to make the following information available to employees, as it affects all at TYC - either directly or indirectly.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: Eric Young, Director

More than 850 new staff hired

With the assistance of field personnel, the **human resources management division** developed an improvement process to the YAS posting procedure, and the results will be released in the near future.

Job descriptions and evaluations are in the process of being redeveloped to allow for greater management flexibility and accountability for all employees.

Since the beginning of the growth process the division has recruited, hired, and processed 850+ employees to staff Sheffield Boot Camp, Jefferson County State School, Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit and the San Saba State School. We are currently preparing to staff the Victory Field Boot Camp in Vernon, Texas.

Leave accounting system implemented

The **human resources information systems** section has implemented a leave accounting system that will allow the agency to receive up-to-date leave reports on a timely basis.

Additionally, a comprehensive HR information system will allow management to have on-line access to employee information.

"This management tool should improve productivity and provide more reliable information on the most valuable resource this agency has — its employees," said Eric Young. "Total implementation of the system will take an additional eight months before all the data will be available."

Pre-Service program revised

The **staff development division** is currently revising the agency's pre-service program to reflect the new direction of juvenile justice.

The **media** section produced a video tape entitled "Changing Course" that has received praise from the Governor's Office and other elected officials as being powerful and highly informative of what TYC has been doing to change the face of juvenile justice, said Young. The division has trained all new employees hired for the facilities that have been brought on-line since January 1995.

"We have also completed a full-service training facility in Corsicana that can provide room and board for 32 single/64 double occupancy with a per diem rate of \$11 for evening meals," Young added.

The division also is redesigning the **educational assistance program** to be more representative of the changing course in juvenile justice. The results of the study and recommendations will be presented in the next TYC Journal.

Return to work program designed

The **risk management** division is currently developing two policies for implementation in the near future.

One policy is the return-to-work program designed to assist employee(s) who have been injured on the job. The second policy is the drug and alcohol testing program for TYC staff who are required to have a commercial drivers license (CDL) to perform their job. More information will be provided in the near future. (continued on page 12)

Management and support

(continued from page 11)

"The division has been quite successful in the implementation of its comprehensive inspection program and its safety awareness program on individual campuses," said Richard MaCuk, risk manager. The latest data has shown a reduction in accidents and in claim expenditures, he said.

BUSINESS SERVICES (formerly staff services): Ron Arnett, Director

HUBs (historically underutilized businesses) and good faith effort

State agencies are required to make a **good faith effort** to assist HUBs in receiving contract awards issued by the state.

The goal of this program is to promote full and equal business opportunity for all businesses in state contracting. Legislation requires that each agency include a written plan for increasing HUB use in their strategic plan and preparation of an annual report each fiscal year, documenting progress under its plan.

Percentage goals established are overall annual goals applicable to the total dollar amount of agency contracts for specific contract types and are adjusted higher or lower with consideration given to HUB availability, utilization and geographic location of projects and other factors.

Categories, state percentages and agency projected goals are listed below:

Category	Statewide	TYC FY 96	TYC FY 97	TYC FY 98
	Goal	Goal	Goal	Goal
Heavy Const.	11.9%	0%	0%	0%
Building Const.	26.1%	17%	21%	25.1%
Special Trades Const.	57.2%	20%	38.5%	57.2%
Professional Serv.	20%	20%	20%	20%
Commodities	12.6%	11.5%	11.5%	11.5%
Other Services	33%	13.3%	23%	33%

Agency purchasing personnel and/or project managers may be contacted periodically to participate in Economic Opportunity forums within their geographical areas in order to identify potential HUB vendors interested in contracting with TYC for commodities and/or services.

Required vehicle use report

Pursuant to Government Code, **Art. 6252-21, Sec. 2**, "Penalty for failure to make reports", "Whoever uses any automobile or truck owned by this State for any purpose and fails to make and file a report of such use as required by this Act within ten (10) days after the use of said automobile or truck shall be fined not less than Five Dollars (\$5.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)."

Fleet Managers must assure that a **State of Texas Vehicle Use Report** book is kept in **each** fleet vehicle and that records are properly maintained.

Vehicle Use Report books are available to all TYC offices from TYC central office warehouse or at the General Services Commission's central supply store.

The vehicle use report is the official record of the state.

Employees who have questions or need assistance may call Terry Bonds, business services, at 512/483-5265.

New software maintains parts inventory, Fleet Management System

Self Control, the new and enhanced version of the State Fleet Management System and the accompanying **Users Manual**, has been distributed to all institutions and Evins Regional Juvenile Center.

Self Control software provides the ability to maintain parts inventory. "Some were disappointed that the previous program, Road Scholar, did not allow this function," said Ron Arnett. "We hope and trust that all of you have installed this program and that you are having success with the use of Self Control," he added.

GSC changes rules

The General Services Commission (GSC) recently changed several rules which address the fleet management system. The rules listed below became effective on January 3, 1996.

Vehicle reporting system requirements

Information required by this subsection must be submitted to the GSC by March 30th and September 30th following the six-month period in which the data was compiled.

Each agency fleet officer is responsible for establishing, maintaining, and submitting to the commission accurate Vehicle History System (VHS) information. (continued on page 13)

College youth help set up computer lab for Evins

Through the coordination of two South Region staff, David Guerra, systems support specialist, and Raul Arredondo, volunteer coordinator, students from the South Texas Community College in McAllen were able to get field experience, while helping the educational needs of youth at Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg.

Students from the information management technology class under the direction of instructor Jorge Saenz helped the Evins education department by setting up a computer lab for student use.

Students installed five computer stations with Novell Netware network. This service would have cost at least \$2,500 if a private firm had been used.

Under Guerra's supervision, the college students plan to help ERJC youth in computer skills and also to install and maintain local area networks throughout the South Region. The technology students will also perform periodic maintenance and upgrades.

Efforts are also underway to have the college students assist in developing computer curriculum for ERJC vocational studies once the expansion construction, which is currently being planned, is completed.

Briefly noted ...

◆ Donations for the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center Aquatic Center have recently been made to the school's community advisory council. The **Wolens Federation** gave an additional \$10,000 — which makes their total donation to the fund \$30,000. Corsicana resident **Joe Brooks** donated \$1,165 to the fund, after requesting gifts to the aquatic center for his birthday. Other recent donors were **McKee Lumber Company, Miles Furniture and Navarro County Commissioners Court**, \$500 from each. ☼

Boot Camp cadets move on to El Paso

The first group of cadets from Sheffield Boot Camp graduated to Schaeffer House in December.

Because cadets arriving from Sheffield already have their GED's, Schaeffer House staff is helping cadets with employment and job search skills, finding appropriate community service placements, and securing information on financial aid. Cadets are also in the independent living program.

Three cadets are employed by What-a-Burger and Big-8 Food Stores.

"The Boot Camp cadets function as team players, in particular by encouraging non-cadets during their daily 2 mile PT run," said caseworker Anna Ordonez. "They keep each other in check and set the standard for the rest of the kids at Schaeffer House." ☼

Space planning

(continued from page 4)

GSC hired a space planning firm to lay out the plans for the new configuration of the building. This plan was complete by mid-January.

During the time in which the offices are being reconfigured to meet the space reallocation, a temporary working area for employees will be in the Public Hearing Room on the first floor of the Brown Heatly Building.

TYC's moves should be completed by August 31, 1996 according to GSC's plan. The moves will free up part of the East wing for ECI. TYC will then occupy all of the West wing and part of the East wing second floor, and part of the East wing third floor. ☼

Management and support

(continued from page 12)

Information to be recorded in the agency's VHS file includes acquisition date, vehicle make, model, type, class, year, GVW (gross vehicle weight), exempt license plate number, manufacturer vehicle identification number, whether a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), and whether a pool or assigned vehicle;

SPV is defined as a motor vehicle commercially designed to be used primarily for purposes other than to provide transportation service for personnel, supplies, or equipment. An example might be a Pursuit Vehicle.

Other required records include acquisition cost, repair and maintenance expenses, current mileage, and insurance and accident related expenses.

Fleet Managers are responsible for developing, maintaining and reporting necessary data to Central Office by March 10th and September 10th.

Call Terry Bonds at (512) 483-5265 to answer your questions.

Update on alternative fuels

General Services Commission's rules, effective January 3, 1996, requires that each state vehicle equipped from the manufacturer or modified by a conversion facility to be capable of operating on an alternative fuel shall operate exclusively on the alternative fuel except in cases:

- (A) where and when the alternative fuel is not available;
- (B) the range of the alternative is insufficient to complete a round trip, in which case the alternative fuel shall be used until exhausted, with conventional gasoline or diesel fuel used only as a last resort to complete the trip when the alternative fuel is unavailable;
- (C) when the alternative fuel costs more than conventional gasoline or diesel;
- (D) when the conversion equipment is not in working order or is deemed unsafe to operate, in which case timely repairs or inspections shall be made so that the vehicle may continue to operate on the alternative fuel.

Each state agency is required to provide fuel usage data semi-annually on every vehicle capable of using alternative fuels through the Vehicle Reporting System.

Fleet Managers are expected to comply with this statute. However, circumstances may exist which prohibit the use of alternative fuels in some alternative fuel vehicles.

In such cases, it is necessary that a letter of explanation be submitted to Business Services. An explanation must be included with our semi-annual Vehicle Reporting System (VRS) report to the General Services Commission. Questions or requests for assistance can be directed to Terry Bonds at (512) 483-5265.

New Lone Star vehicle plates & state inscriptions

The Texas Department of Transportation has changed their policy for state vehicles having exempt plates. They require that all vehicles having exempt plates be marked with the state agency's inscription on both sides of the vehicle. TYC is exempt from marking some vehicles.

Business services has contacted each facility for a list of vehicles which may be exempt. TYC has applied for and received 60 sets of Lone Star plates, allowing us to continue to operate these vehicles without a state inscription.

Fifty more sets of these plates will be applied for within the next few months.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Ken Miller, Director

The management information systems (MIS) department consists of the information resource (IRM), the applications group and the operations group.

The **applications group** provides support in designing, implementing and supporting user applications primarily on the mainframe. Currently, installed applications include CCS, MRS, STU, WHI, FAS and ACMS.

A new network applications programming support group is being formed to support PC, LAN, and WAN applications.

The **operations group** provides support for the mainframe, SYSM, the wide area network (WAN), office automation, MS Mail, central office local area network (LAN), logons for mainframe applications, SYSM and MS Mail, and technical assistance and support to the field LANs and WANs staff and those sites that do not have local support. The field support staff also provides support to other locations.

After a four-month delay, there has been a significant effort made in re-starting projects put on "hold" to allow a technology review to be completed. (continued on page 15)

Hard hat chats

Through the joint effort of the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, significant results have been produced in the construction department.

The revised architect and engineering selection policy and negotiating strategy has produced reduced fees; and prototypical building designs have reduced the design, construction and operational costs of various building types.

The cost per bed for new dorm buildings has been reduced by approximately \$6,600 per bed, and the FY '96-97 construction program is estimated to have received an additional 192 (40%) more beds for the original budgeted dollars.

Executive Director Steve Robinson has appointed five administrators to serve on the TYC user group committee. They include Deputy Executive Director Sandy

Burnam; directors of institutions Dwight Harris; Marlin Unit superintendent Alan Steen; Jefferson County State School superintendent Marie Murdoch; and Brownwood Sanction Unit superintendent Dan Humeniuk.

The user group will provide input to and approval of the design of new prototypical building types, and provide decisions concerning changes to current and upcoming projects. They will also provide input to and recommend approval of legislative appropriation requests to management.

The former TDCJ facilities at Marlin and San Saba were converted for TYC use using TDCJ inmate labor. The TXMHMR facility in Vernon is currently being renovated for TYC to begin using on September 1, 1996. The use of inmate labor to convert each of these facilities has resulted in considerable savings.

The Seventy-Fourth Legislature required that TYC contract with TDCJ for construction management services for all construction projects. Both agencies be-

gan meeting last summer to accomplish that task and the resulting interagency cooperation agreement was approved by the TYC Board at its August 1995 meeting.

The FY '94-95 projects that were approved at the TYC Board meeting in August 1995 were the first to be provided TDCJ construction management services. These projects were begun in October with a joint TYC/TDCJ 'Partnering' effort.

TDCJ staff associated with specific projects are Mike Buster, area manager for Brownwood, Corsicana and West Texas; Dan Clawson, area manager for Crockett and Gainesville; and Scooter Page, area manager for Evins, Giddings and Jefferson County. Project managers are Wayne Clawson, Brownwood; Hal Miller, Corsicana; T. J. Wallace, Crockett; Essell Bever, Gainesville; Ted Parsons, Giddings; and Jim Nagle, West Texas.

TDCJ planning and design personnel preparing for the FY '96-97 program are Bruce Swope, planning manager; Tommy Barnes and Charles Schulz, planning coordinators; Mike Collins, design manager; and Jim Evans, design coordinator.

TDCJ in-house construction personnel in charge of renovations are Bud Powell, design manager, and Jim Glass, construction manager.

Efforts to date by TYC and TDCJ are an excellent example of how two state agencies can assist each other to the benefit of all Texans.

Look for future 'Hard hat chats' in the *TYC Journal*. ☺



The Crockett State School student choir, under the direction of volunteer Kathy Hollis, performed at the Crockett volunteer awards banquet recently. The group performs weekly at local nursing homes.

NOTICE TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

**The Educational
Assistance Program will be
changing.**

**See the May issue
of the TYC Journal
for more information.**

Training facility at Corsicana should be utilized for meetings

All agency training sessions and other meetings should be scheduled at the newly-renovated TYC training facility on the campus of the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center, according to Eric Young, director of human resources, unless it is more cost effective to use another facility.

"The facility is available on a first come first served basis," he added. "Staff should perform a cost analysis before meetings/training to determine the least expensive location to fit their needs."

The facility has five training rooms, with the largest room capable of accommodating 45 people. There is also a computer training room for up to 10 participants; two standard training rooms for 25 each, and two small conference rooms for 6-8 people each.

Bed space is available for up to 64 people, if rooms are shared. Up to 31 participants can be accommodated in single rooms. Each room has two full-sized beds, two desks, a sink and mirror. A dayroom with couches/chairs, vending machines, pay telephone and refrigerator is also available. No-charge washers and dryers are also provided.

Employees should contact the staff development division at central office to schedule use of the training rooms and dormitories.

Breakfast and lunch is available in the campus cafeteria and meal tickets are provided. Participants will receive \$11 per diem for the evening meal.

Recreation equipment is also available — tennis courts, swimming pool, weight room, pool tables.

"No alcohol is allowed on any state property, and smoking is not permitted inside any TYC building," said Young. "However, smoking areas are provided in the fenced area behind the building." ☼

Management and support

(continued from page 13)

Corsicana and Gainesville, the two remaining facilities scheduled for WAN accessibility, have been completed. Additionally, El Paso parole was completed in January.

The new facility at San Saba will be updated with digital circuits provided by GTE. The equipment for San Saba has been received and awaits installation.

A new computer (PC) training facility for Corsicana has also been installed and is operational.

Currently, there are 19 locations on the WAN. These include Brownwood, Corsicana, Crockett, Gainesville, Giddings, West Texas, Marlin, Jefferson County, San Saba, Dallas Parole, Fort Worth Parole, San Antonio Parole, Evins Regional, Houston Regional, McFadden Ranch and El Paso Regional.

The Central office warehouse, Lubbock parole and Amarillo parole are on the WAN through connections with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC). These locations share building space with TRC.

All other TYC locations currently on the "mainframe only network" are to be scheduled to move to the WAN. A fixed schedule is not yet available.

Mainframe access provides the use of the following applications:

- CCS Child Care
- MRS Medical Records
- STU Student Banking
- WHI Warehouse Inventory
- GEN General Accounting
- FAS Fixed Asset
- SYSM Mail on the mainframe
- USAS Uniform State Accounting System at the Comptroller's Office
- USPS Uniform State Payroll System at the Comptroller's Office
- UTMB Nurses access to the Medical Branch in Galveston

WAN access provides the use of the following applications:

- Mainframe access as described above
- MicroSoft products WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT, PROJECT, E-MAIL and Scheduler+
- ACMS Automated Case Management System for use by primary service workers
- ENVOY Human Resource package used for HR staff
- DHS Intake staff has access to the Department of Human Services Information

'Help Desk' coordinates requests, needs

"The central office help desk receives all requests for assistance and coordinates the needs of our customers. The help desk logs, assigns and follows up on completion of work requested.

It is imperative to call the help desk with your needs so that the request is recorded and can be accomplished," said Ken Miller. Both central office requests and field requests are recorded in the data base. Staff can be reached at 512/483-5116 from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Field locations with support staff should contact their on-site staff initially.

The help desk is responsible for notifying all customers when events occur that effect everybody. For example, if the connection between central office and a field location has been temporarily lost, the help desk sends out a message notifying all other customers that the connection is down and then also when it comes back up.

The current means of communicating through e-mail are as follows:

- SYSM available for all customers who have mainframe connectivity (expected to be replaced totally by MS Mail by September 1, 1996)
- MS Mail available for all customers on the WAN who have MS Mail installed on their workstation.

New central office staff members are being added in the network operations and applications areas. New open positions are being filled.

Currently, MIS is concluding a requirements/needs gathering and verification process from all locations to consolidate hardware and software requirements up to a baseline which meets the minimum standard of 486/33 PC with Windows 3.1 and Office 4.2.

MIS has completed and received approval from the Department of Information Resources for the information technology strategic operating plan for the agency and the biennial operation plan.

Both plans are required by state law. The plans are submitted to the Governor's Office, the Lt. Governor's Office, Department of Information Resources and the Legislative Budget Board. ☼

PROGRAMS



Jefferson County State School foster grandparents, left to right, are Grandma Essie Samuel, Grandma Lula Seale, Grandma Annie Mae Keys and Grandma Josephine Senegal. Standing are their "grandsons," TYC students Richard, Ryan, Terrance, William, Carliss and Kevin.

Foster grandparents arrive at Jefferson County campus

Jefferson County State School has welcomed four "grandmas" to the new campus in their foster grandparent program. The federally funded program is for income eligible seniors, 60 plus, who volunteer twenty hours each week to provide unconditional acceptance, love, emotional support, and self-esteem to troubled youth.

In return for their service, foster grandparents receive a modest tax-free stipend and transportation allowance from the Southeast Texas Foster Grandparent program.

Jefferson County's current grandmas are volunteering from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday in the school classrooms. They are each assigned up to two grandsons with whom they work for the four hours they are on campus. They work with their "grandsons" on classroom assignments,

listening to problems, offering advice, but most importantly providing undivided attention to their grandson.

After being on campus only a short time, these foster grandparents have made a real impact, not only on their assigned grandsons, but also on many other youth at JCSS.

"You would be amazed how these 'criminals' can become protective, caring and respectful," said Marie Murdoch, superintendent. "I also talked with some of the teachers and they have said just having these grandmothers in the classroom has a calming affect," Murdoch added. "We look forward to expanding this program."

The Southeast Texas Foster Grandparent Program has been recognized by the Texas Corrections Association and Texas Juvenile Probation Commission as a model project in the state of Texas. ☺

GED's emphasized at TYC schools

Two recent education department meetings have served as forums for TYC's renewed emphasis on eligible students being tested for the General Education Development (GED) Test.

At the January meeting of Texas Youth Commission school principals, Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam cited the focus of educational services on *basics*, which she said includes reading and math skills and attainment of GED's.

"Education is not just a high school diploma," said Burnam. She recommended that youth be placed where they are functioning educationally according to assessment data and move them along an education continuum—from basic courses, to GED's, to diplomas, to post-secondary programs such as career/technology/vocational training and college course work.

Education, like other resocialization programs, is no longer tied to time or length-of-stay but is competency based. Students are expected to make progress and move up different levels.

A similar message was reiterated by Billie Flippen, TYC director of curriculum and instruction, at a GED teacher training session held in January for GED preparation course teachers from all agency schools.

With changing demographics of the TYC youth, a GED certificate becomes an important educational credential for TYC students. Statistically, many TYC youth do not re-enter public schools and many who do so, do not stay to earn a high school diploma. Therefore, the GED becomes a credential which can open doors for future education and training opportunities as well as for enhancing the likelihood of employment for the youth.

"We know that active participation in education programs or work reduces the chance for our youth to recidivate," said Flippen as she encouraged the GED teachers to work toward the goal of increasing the percentage of youth who earn a GED prior to release.

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Procedures change for tracking contracts

A recent internal audit revealed a weakness in TYC's ability to track contracts and therefore identify contractual liabilities and expenditures.

The audit recommendations suggested the agency should:

- develop a method for identifying and tracking all contracts; and
- identify the staff member(s) responsible for certifying receipt of the contracted services for each contract, by approving all invoices after comparing the invoices to agency records.

A team composed of employees from business services, finance, legal, contracts, and internal audit, was formed to address the weaknesses found in the audit and to make recommendations.

The team also made recommendations for the implementation of Article IX, §83 of the current Appropriations Bill, which became effective September, 1 1995.

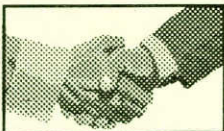
Recommendations to the executive staff were approved. All contracts are now sent to business services or the contract administrator for processing.

All residential, non-residential, supplemental, parole and mental health contracts will be submitted to contract administrator Paula Morelock, who will obtain approval to pursue the request and process the request. Contract administration will post the contract request to a permanent record for audit and tracking purposes.

All consultant, professional, educational, training interagency/ interlocal and construction contracts will be sent to Ron Arnett, director of business services, who will obtain approval to pursue and process the request according to approved procedures. Business services will post the contract request to a permanent record for audit and tracking purposes.

Business services has created an Access database to track all contracts that they must monitor, allowing them to enter all data and automatically create a contract from that information. All contracts and contract amendments are reported to the Legislative Budget Board. As of January 8, 1996, business services had processed 57 contracts and contract amendments. ☼

TYC, TJPC conduct joint planning



In response to a legislative mandate, the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission are developing a "Coordinated Strategic Plan for Juvenile Justice."

Several survey and focus group efforts conducted with state and local stakeholders in the juvenile justice system have been used to identify key issues that need to be addressed from a planning perspective.

Administrators from both state juvenile justice agencies are working to develop a set of broad goals, with implementing strategies that will address the key juve-

nile justice issues that have been identified.

A major component of the plan will be the identification of key performance measures that cross agency boundaries and responsibilities so that the juvenile justice system can be evaluated as a whole and not as disparate parts. Once program, capacity and resource needs are identified to accomplish the plan, it will be submitted to the Boards of both agencies for their approval and transmittal to the state leadership. The jointly developed coordinated plan will be used for guidance to address more specific responsibilities in the more detailed *TYC Strategic Plan for FY 1997-2001 Period* which will be published in June.



Project RIO-Y training completed

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) staff for Project RIO-Y (Youth) has begun providing services to TYC youth in the East, West and North Regions, according to Billy Jacobs, TYC's Project RIO administrator.

Project RIO-Y is a coordinated effort between TWC and TYC to improve the employability of delinquent youth and refer them to 'real world' job opportunities and assist them in maintaining employment.

TYC community corrections offers will be referring unemployed youth to RIO-Y staff in eleven pilot counties: Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Lubbock, Nueces, Tarrant and Travis.

Project RIO-Y staff will place the youth in job search workshops, provide bus tokens for seeking employment, offer employers fidelity bonding, provide job development and placement services and make referrals to supportive services and Job Training Partnership Act training programs.

Training for TYC community services staff and TWC RIO-Y staff was conducted in each TYC region during January and February.

Jacobs, who is responsible for policies and the implementation of the Re-Integration of Offenders Program for TYC, has transferred to the department of institutions as operations manager.

"A major part of the effort will occur in TYC institutions prior to the youth's release," said Jacobs.

Eight assessment specialists will be hired, one at each TYC institution, to provide identification of eligible youth, administer interest/aptitude tests and assist in designing vocational programs to match youths' interests and aptitudes. The eight positions have been posted and four will be hired April 1, and four May 1.

They will also provide job search workshops for youth prior to their release and prepare the packet for TWC/RIO-Y staff upon release.

Project RIO is the name of the program initially begun by the Texas Employment Commission through federal funding — Project Forward. This program attempted to facilitate employment of ex-offenders in order to reduce recidivism. RIO-Youth is the name given to the TYC program to distinguish it from the adult program.

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Evins youth, moms make 150 dozen tamales

Making tamales at home during Christmas is a tradition among Hispanic families and at TYC's Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg the annual mother-son tamale day was another great success.

Over twenty-five mothers from the South Region joined their sons in making 150 dozen tamales.

Volunteers provided transportation to area mothers who needed a ride to Evins and the volunteer council provided transportation to mothers from the Corpus Christi area. ☼



Jaycees collect books for Jefferson County

While touring the Jefferson County State School campus during the November 15 open house, Beaumont Jaycee member Mark Coffin noticed the many empty shelves in the school library.

"I knew immediately that this place needed books," said Coffin. "I also realized that it could be the perfect tie-in with our 'Santa House' project."

Each December, the Beaumont Jaycees sponsor photos with Santa at a local shopping center. The "Santa House" was the book drop off point for the public. The Jaycees publicized their book drive with flyers, a newspaper announcement, an appearance on a local television morning program, and announcements in church bulletins.

As of January, the book drive had brought in approximately 600 books and magazines and people were still giving.

"Our students are starved for reading material," said Vicki Holcombe, volunteer coordinator. "With no televisions and radios, there's a great desire to read for entertainment."

The school's librarian, Janice Heger, also came up with a reading incentive program. For every 25 books each student reads, he receives a certificate and has his photo taken. The photos are then placed on a bulletin board in the school. ☼

Holiday parties at Turman House

Turman House youth had two opportunities to practice their social skills during the holiday season.

The Austin volunteer council hosted a small party at which time VFW Post 8787 Commander Otis Milligan and Council president Bob Stewart gave each youth \$10 for his benefit fund.

Boys decorated the house and invited TYC staff for an open house. Guests included some central office staff who brought presents for their "adopted" youth. Also attending were Central Region staff and York House staff. ☼

CULTURAL EVENTS

Corsicana students involved in arts events

Corsicana Residential Treatment Center students have been the guests of the local Warehouse Living Arts Theater to three different productions—"Do Black Patent Shoes Really Reflect Up," "The Grinch," and "The Odd Couple."

Navarro Council of the Arts brought artists Susan Kemner-Reed and Sue Flores to Corsicana to conduct a creative art workshop. They also conducted a class on the Corsicana campus on weaving and drawing.

The Navarro Council of the Arts will also bring musicians Tina Marsh and Alaadeen of Kansas City to work with Corsicana students in February. ☼

West Region intercultural committee elects new officers

The West Region office intercultural awareness committee recently elected new officers. Benny Martinez was elected chairperson; Jose Alamillo, vice-chair, and Lisa Compean, secretary.

In addition to planning activities for Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo, the committee also voted to work with the David L. Carrasco Job Corps. Center in El Paso to assist them with acquiring new books and other needed reference materials for their Chicano Studies Library department. ☼

Project Rio (continued from page 17)

As a result of that successful pilot program, the Governor's Special Initiative for Ex-Offenders: Project RIO was implemented in 1987. In 1989 the Legislature appropriated general revenue funds to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to expand the program.

During 1995 the project was expanded to include the juvenile justice system. The Appropriations Bill mandated that \$700,000 for 1996 and \$800,000 for 1997 be allocated for Project RIO.

Nearly 3,000 youth from the pilot counties met the eligibility requirements for Project RIO-Y as of January, 1996. ☼

McFadden youth provide variety of service projects

McFadden Ranch youth are involved in numerous community service projects in the city of Roanoke, as well as Denton. Much of their work would be too costly to hire someone to do it, and it simply would not get done at all.

One of their latest projects is cleaning and restoring the old Roanoke Community Center. Youth have numerous opportunities to interact with police officers while doing this work.

During the Christmas season, the youth volunteer to help the Salvation Army box up, load and deliver goods to needy families.

Another community service location teaches compassion, understanding and a feeling of need—the “cat trailer.”

The “cat trailer” is an actual mobile home that has been converted into a place for homeless cats to be taken care of until someone gives them a new home. McFadden boys clean up and take care of some of the simple maintenance chores.

The boys have also received an “education” in felines, according to McFadden staff member Jackie Davis, a former volunteer at the halfway house. A new group of McFadden volunteer youth entered the “cat trailer” and became fearful when the cats, seeking attention, began to swarm around their feet. Davis calmed the boys and the cats down and taught the boys how to interact with the cats.

Another McFadden project is working with “Beautify Roanoke,” working on flower beds, cleaning up, helping plant and protect the flowers and seeds in the new flower beds.

They also are active in a public road trash pickup program—and find satisfaction in looking back over a stretch of road that was once littered with trash, and is now neat and clean, thanks to their efforts. ☼



Female students at Corsicana State Home made Christmas cards for senior citizens in the community. The cards were later delivered by members of the State Home's Boy Scout troop.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Horticulture students raise, sell poinsettias

Crockett State School horticulture students — students who have already completed their G.E.D. — raised poinsettias last year (from potted cuttings started last summer to fully-blooming plants) and sold them during the holidays to local Crockett businesses, churches and individuals.

Funds raised were used to purchase additional plants, seed, soil and other supplies for their spring projects. Students began raising bedding plants (vegetables and floral) during January and February.

Florist Wilma Platt of the Gingerbread Square in Grapeland volunteered to teach the youth how to turn the plants into finished products by decorating the flower pots, tying bows and folding wrapping paper around the pots.

The horticulture class meets daily during a four-hour time period. Kenny Lively is course instructor. ☼

Giddings State School helps in Giddings beautification

Through the combined efforts of the Giddings State School homebuilders class, horticulture class and student council, significant progress is being made in turning a community eyesore into a place of pride for downtown Giddings.

The city of Giddings purchased a deserted railway property that runs directly through the city and decided to build a gazebo and downtown park. The economic developer for Giddings, Mary Garza, requested that Giddings State School make a long term commitment to help the city build and maintain the property.

Since October, the school has painted the backsides of buildings that border the park, cleaned vegetation and picked up hundreds of beer cans and bottles from a nearby bar and prepared flower beds for planting. ☼

GED's

(continued from page 16)

The new GED Preparation Course Guidebook which was implemented last year provides a *system* to provide the individualized instruction that each student will need to prepare for the GED. The guidebook was reviewed with the teachers attending the training, and agency expectations for documentation of student lessons and practice tests were explained. Teachers gave examples of successful strategies as well as anecdotes of students who had successfully passed the test.

A simulation of the official GED practice test was administered to all of the participants and trainers by Conna Whitecotton, Corsicana diagnostician, who administers the GED test for students on that campus. Teachers and administrators followed this real-life testing situation with a discussion of how important it is to let the potential test takers experience a situation as close to the "real thing" as possible.

Students who are sixteen years old or older are eligible to take the GED test if they are reading and calculating at approximately the eighth grade level. The test measures math, social studies, science, literature and the arts, and writing skills at a high school equivalency level. Students are allowed to take the test more than once if they are unsuccessful on the first attempt.

"Studying for and taking the GED are important steps in the educational career of a TYC youth," said Flippen. Most TYC campuses reward students who earn their GED diplomas with a graduation ceremony, complete with caps, gowns, and invitations to parents and family members to attend.

"Overall, the increasing emphasis on successfully completing the GED test should be seen by everyone in TYC as an important goal responding to agency executive level direction as well as to goals articulated by the Governor," Flippen concluded. ♻️



Melanie Wybro, TYC student from the East Region, recently graduated as a registered nurse from San Jacinto College with a 3.5 grade point average. She plans to continue toward a master's degree in nursing. Melanie received financial assistance for her college work from the Texas Youth Commission.



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