

TYC Journal

TEXAS STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

A Quarterly Publication of Texas Youth Commission

SEP 09 1998

JUNE 1998, SUMMER ISSUE
4900 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78765

Deputy Director
Burnam retires

Jerry Day
retires

Victory Marches
On!

Administrators
cover several
topics in
Huntsville

Aggies host
picnic for
Giddings students

Audit shows
superb results

Three Brownwood
youth receive
diplomas

And much more!

Deputy Director Burnam retires



TYC is saying "farewell" to Executive Deputy Director Sandy Burnam who retires this year after 30 years with the agency.

Burnam's vast knowledge about juvenile corrections and all aspects of the Youth Commission will be missed, said Executive Director Steve Robinson.

"Sandy is somebody that I know in depth and that I trust even more," he said. "When I needed somebody to understand my vision and operationalize it, it was very clear she was the one to do it. She performed and delivered beyond my expectations."

Fresh out of college in 1968, Burnam started her career at TYC at Gainesville State School, then a girls' school. Half of the girls she worked with were just one year younger than she was.

"I remember the first 12-year-old girl that we had," she said. "I thought we'd have to start her off with crayons and a coloring book. How quickly I realized that she had had many more experiences in life than I had."

Burnam moved on, always standing out as a woman in a male-dominated profession. She was the first woman to supervise both girls and boys on parole, the first female superintendent at Brownwood and at Giddings, the first woman to have line authority in a job at Central Office.

She developed the agency's residential treatment facility at Corsicana, a job she remembers as particularly daunting because she had no experience with emotionally disturbed youth.

A man she had worked with asked her: "You like kids don't you?"

"Yes," she said.

"If you like kids," he told her, "then all the rest of it will come naturally."

Burnam remembers, "It eased the tension of opening a treatment program in a correctional setting." There have been lots of lessons along the way. In 1994 Burnam transferred to Giddings State School as superintendent.

"I realized that I had worked all these years at Corsicana with kids to keep them from hurting themselves. That first day at Giddings I met my first kid who had committed murder. I asked him 'how many?'"

"Six people," the teenager answered.

"I knew then," said Burnam, "that I had to learn to work with a population that would hurt others."

Beverly McLester, a Northern Service Area quality assurance specialist worked with Burnam in the early days to help find a home for a girl who was about to be released from TYC at 21 with no family support.

That woman, now 49 years old, is a psychiatric nurse and runs a travel agency. "We occasionally hear from this lady," Burnam said. "And when things get down, that has reassured me over the years. I know if we don't help but one young person, we can look at that and know that we've done something important."

Burnam was presented with many challenges over three decades. The challenges energized her, but they always worried her, especially coming to Central Office two years ago as Robinson's deputy.

"I never wanted to go anywhere that they sent me," Burnam said, "and every time, it ended up being the best job I ever had. That's why I think retirement will be the best job I ever had."

Burnam said her personality tells her to "be real organized," but her "retirement consultants" are telling her "don't be." She said she intends to travel and "have a lot of fun." She said she probably will work as a juvenile corrections consultant, perhaps in the arena of facility design and construction.

Robinson will be searching for a new deputy both inside and outside of the agency. After a month's vacation, Burnam will return to work for a few months on a temporary basis to ease the transition.

Jerry Day Retires: What a Difference a Day Makes!

Gainesville's Superintendent Jerry Day for the past 10 years retired May 31st after 25 years of service to Texas Youth Commission youth. A reception was held in his honor on May 29.

Prior to that he served in Austin beginning in 1984 as director of institutions and community service from 1984 to 1988. He also served as superintendent at Crockett State School, and held other positions at Gatesville and the Brownwood Reception Center, after being hired from Oklahoma by former Executive Director Ron Jackson, who attended the retirement reception.

Also attending the reception was Executive Director Steve Robinson, Deputy Director Sandy Burnam, Assistant Executive Directors Tom Tye and Alex Escarsaga, General Counsel Neil Nichols, Chief of Staff Judy Briscoe and a host of other administrators from central office and across the state.

Comments were made by various staff members and administrators who shared experiences and stories about Day's impact on the agency. Every speaker alluded to their opinion, that of all TYC administrators, Jerry Day always spoke up for kids' concerns first



—even when doing so wasn't popular.

A video compiled of photos taken throughout his TYC career told the story of one man's dedication to helping youth and "doing it his way". A cake at the reception table was decorated with the inscription "What a Difference A DAY makes!"

In response to others' comments, Day said, "Thanks for working with me, for me, through me, around me, over me, under me, or against me or any way it took to get the job done to benefit kids.

"I know all the controversy that I created in the agency ...but I think it is important to say what you think, if you feel it will help these kids," Day added. "I know the work will be carried on, but we must help these kids with care and concern."

Shorten named to Head Gainesville State School

Dr. Theodore B. Shorten has been appointed superintendent of Gainesville State School, and began his duties June 1. He replaces Jerry Day, who retired following ten years as superintendent there.

Shorten has over twenty-five years of experience working with delinquent youth, thirteen years working with TYC.

Prior to arriving at Gainesville in September of 1989, he served as a parole officer, research associate and as Turman House (Austin) superintendent. His past Gainesville assignments include social service administrator and assistant superintendent.

Shorten received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1983. He

completed his graduate studies in social work from Case Western Reserve in 1974. He graduated with a BBA from the University of Houston in 1966 and received an Associates in Business Administration from Los Angeles City College in 1964.

He is a Licensed Masters Social Worker for the State of Texas. Past professional associations include the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice and the National Association of Black Social Workers.

Victory Marches On! Victory Field Correctional Academy Celebrates First Graduation

On May 19, 1997 the first ten cadets arrived at Victory Field Correctional Academy. On April 29, 1998 two of those ten along with six others were the first to graduate from the program.

Alex Escarcega, TYC Director of Juvenile Corrections and Aftercare, served as master of ceremonies. Rev. Ron Fox, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Dwight Harris, Assistant Deputy Executive Director of Juvenile Corrections for TYC, was the keynote speaker for the event. Both Mr. Harris and Mr. Escarcega expressed their pride in the accomplishments of the graduating cadets. They also expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the Victory Field staff and for the support TYC has received from the community. TYC Board member, Charles Henry, congratulated the cadets on their success and stated that the Board is "very proud of what has taken place here."

Commandant Lemuel Harrison and Assistant Commandant Jerome Parsee presented each graduate with a certificate of completion. Additionally, four cadets were awarded their General Education Diplomas. Captain Wallace Brown led the cadets to the stage and the degrees were read by Adjutant Michael Bratcher. Rev. Jack Gilliland, Pastor of Second Baptist Church presented each cadet with a Bible on which their name was engraved. Rev. Gilliland is the leader of the Bible study for Bravo First Platoon.

A drill ceremony was conducted by advanced level cadets led by Captain Michael Tillman and a PT demonstration was presented by a platoon led by Captain Jim Griffin.

A reception for the cadets and their families was held immediately following the ceremony. The ceremony was also attended by other cadets, staff and approximately twenty-five community leaders.



Footnote: Victory Field began in 1941 as a training facility for the Army Air Corps. Although April 29, 1998 will go down in history as the day the first cadets graduated from Victory Field Correctional Academy we should remember that hundreds of cadets graduated from the Victory Field training facility during World War II. Among these was our Executive Director Steve Robinson's father. Another interesting bit of trivia is that Charles McMillin was the first pilot to solo from Victory Field in 1942; Keithen McMillian was the first cadet to reach Advanced Phase IV (equal accomplishments) at Victory Field Correctional Academy. We are proud to say the VICTORY TRADITION MARCHES ON!!!!

Victory Field honors outstanding employee

On May 13th, Victory Field honored its Outstanding Employee of the Year with a luncheon.

Cpt. Michael Tillman was cited for his leadership in the opening of the new facility and his dedication to our youth.

He was presented with a plaque by Commandant Lemuel Harrison, an engraved bowl by the Facility Committee, and a cap with the original Victory Field logo by the Community Advisory Council.

Nominees for the award in addition to Cpt. Tillman were Lt. Jerry Dyer, Sgt. Trent Bellar and Human Resources Clerk Ricki Lindsay. The nominees were presented certificates of Appreciation by Commandant Harrison.



CAPT. MICHAEL TILLMAN, left, was named outstanding employee at Vernon's Victory Field Correctional Academy. Also pictured (left to right) are nominees Lt. Jerry Dyer; HR Clerk Ricki Lindsay; Sgt. Trent Bellar; and Vernon commandant Lemuel Harrison, who made the presentations.



Sheffield garden planted

On the first day of daylight savings time, food service manager Sammy Ramirez, Cadets Cervantes and Arreola, teacher Judy Wisener, and John Wisener began the first step of developing the new garden at Sheffield Boot Camp—raking out dead grass, clearing out rocks, and tilling the soil.

Wisener's biology class is studying about various kinds of plant life.

The garden will contain watermelons, tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupes, corn, hot and mild peppers. These fruits and vegetables will be tended to by cadets and eaten by everyone in the summer months ahead.

Cadets are hoping to grow a forty pound watermelon to be devoured on the Fourth of July.

Executive Director Robinson, Director of Juvenile Corrections Escarcega, Comondant Elezondo and Sheffield Food Service Manager Sammy Ramirez inspect the corn crop in mid June.

Sheffield accelerated reading program underway

Sheffield Boot Camp kicked off its Accelerated Reading Program in March. With approximately 500 books on hand, cadets have the opportunity to read and accumulate points to use in the future.

Books range from fiction, non-fiction, to informative, as well as subject related.

After cadets read a book, they are given a test to check for comprehension.

The point value of each book varies among the categories of books. Some cadets have more than 50 points built up so far; exceeding projections.

Mr. Tyson, a teacher with the Iraan School District, has taken a major role in assisting with the accelerated reading program.

CSU performs Easter Concert

Seven youth from the Corsicana Stabilization Units I, II and III (CSU) were brought together for an Easter concert directed by Kelly Jenkins, Mental Health Worker. Youth performed a series of Easter hymns before an audience of teachers, caseworkers, psychologists and other staff.

Youth from the CSU Units performed their first concert during the Christmas season.

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published quarterly by the **TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION**
4900 N. Lamar • P.O. Box 4260 • Austin, TX 78765 (512) 424-6133
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Executive Director: Steve Robinson

Deputy Executive Director: Sandy Burnam

Multicultural workplace training

Patrice Miles, chairperson for the South-Central Cultural Competency Committee reports that workshops were conducted in Austin and San Antonio by the Cultural Competency Center of the Dept. Of Health. "The TDH Center was chosen because its mission addresses the needs of TYC staff and youth," says Miles.

The goal of the fourth annual workshop was to enhance teamwork and communication in our multicultural workplace. Don Lawson, the Program Administrator for TDH Center, and co-presenter Gianna Martello presented ways TYC staff can make diversity work for them, and for the youth they work with.

According to Lawson, Cultural competency goes beyond political correctness. It is an ongoing process - always evolving. We all need help to "unlearn" the myths and misconceptions which prevent us from being effective employees.

Our training presents a humanistic approach to the impact of cultures on organizations such as TYC, and on how that affects the employees values and attitudes. Cultural Competency training helps empower people and organizations to overcome these barriers.

TYC STAFF ATTEND RIOT CONTROL TRAINING

A mock Riot Control Demonstration was conducted in Moundsville, West Virginia by the Office of Law Enforcement Technology. Commercialization on April 25 and 26.

Richard MaCuk, TYC Risk Manager, Charlie Barker, Central Office Training Specialist, Ron Harrell, Gainesville State School Director of Security and Wayne Coats, Gainesville State School Trainer, were present at the demonstrations to gain knowledge on riot control techniques.

TYC currently is in the process of developing an agency Emergency Response Plan to deal effectively with riots and other major disturbances.

Demonstrations focused on various types of riot or hostage scenarios along with demonstrations of various products. MaCuk said the demonstrations were informative and will benefit in the development of the agency's Emergency Response Plan.

Board chair speaks at volunteer picnic

Dr. Leonard Lawrence spoke to 75 youths, volunteers, staff and family members gathered in Rodriguez Park for the annual youth picnic on May 17. His message of perseverance and commitment came from the heart as he told of overcoming bad choices he made as a youth.

He spoke of a volunteer "who made a believer of him" from the time they met at a youth-volunteer picnic similar to the S.A. event. Dr. Lawrence said that volunteer helped him develop a new attitude toward making positive choices and taking responsibility.

Dr. Lawrence, now Chairman of the TYC Board and many other important boards, pointed out to Ayres House youths and parolees that if he could do it they can too. "It is never too late to change, but it does take determination and commitment to change."

The 20th annual youth picnic and the volunteer appreciation were combined for a casual affair with baseball games and tug of war activities. Council members prepared chicken fajitas, rice and beans, topped off by a wide selection of homemade desserts.

Laurie Westfall, Ayres House Program Administrator, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Interns, Employers and Community Service Sites.

Dora Ramirez, S.A. Parole Supervisor recognized parole Interns and Youth Advisors. Keith Alexander and Jane Parker also awarded certificates to UTSA "Do-It" Volunteers and the Volunteer Council for Texas Youth in San Antonio.

Adrian Moore, QA Administrator for the southern service area, commended several youths who had successfully completed school and GED classes. Youths honored included: Perez and Naomi Ybarra, who recently received her Nurses Aide Certification. Also honored were Ayres House youth William Spring and Benjamin Penny who passed their GED tests. Each of the four youths received \$25.00 awards from the S.A. Volunteer Council, and congratulations from Dr. Lawrence.

Dr. Leonard Lawrence, Chairman, TYC Board, presents the Outstanding TYC Student Volunteer plaque to San Antonio parolee Robert Perez who was selected by the State Volunteer Resource Council for his outstanding community service.



GRADUATION HELD AT SAN SABA

Thirty students were honored during a commencement ceremony held on April 17, 1998, at San Saba State School. The event recognized twenty-nine students for achieving the GED and one student a high school diploma.

Carolyn Weyerts, teacher, served as mistress of ceremonies. Following the presentation of colors by State School staff, John Shero, minister of the Second and Wallace Street Church of Christ, gave the invocation.

Lydia Barnard, superintendent, welcomed the guests to the graduation ceremony. Sandra Geise, educational diagnostician, presented one student with a "Lamp of Knowledge" medalion for three perfect scores on the GED exam.

Donald Brooks, assistant superintendent, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Judy Huffty, Texas Youth Commission Superintendent of Education.

Entertainment included a marching presentation by dorm four and the State School choir who sang "My Life is In Your Hands" and the closing benediction. Lisa Pasholk, principal of education, and Dr. Huffty, awarded the certificates to the students.

Two students from the graduating class presented certificates of appreciation to staff from various departments for helping them achieve this accomplishment.

The celebration continued on April 27 with a BBQ luncheon for all graduates and games of dominoes, cards, baseball and basketball.

VOLUNTEER LYNN BERRY performs the first baptism which took place in the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center's new Aquatic building.

SAN SABA CELEBRATES CRIME VICTIM'S WEEK

San Saba State School participated in the National Crime Victims' Week celebration held April 19 - 25. The week began with victim impact panel presentations given by victims of crime to twenty-one students.

Thirteen students made presentations to San Saba, Richland Springs, Cherokee and Comanche High Schools and described how their negative choices had victimized innocent people. Crime victim brochures listing crime victim's rights were handed out in addition red stop sign stickers with white ribbons.

Red represents the blood that has been shed and white the innocence of the victims. A community service project included mowing a county owned cemetery. The week concluded with a silent auction of sixty-three pieces of art drawn and painted by the State School students.

Proceeds were given to Crime Prevention Through Victim Impact programs, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing recidivism by empowering victims of violent crime to impact inmates. One student said, "the fact that we were able to use our artistic talents to benefit victims of crime makes me feel excited and successful."



BLACK HISTORY, CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATED AT SAN SABA

An Afro-American/Black History Tribute and Celebration of "Year of the Tiger" presentation was recently held at San Saba sponsored by the Intercultural Awareness Committee.

Michael Wheatley, JCO, welcomed each to the program and Charmaine Nash, teacher's aide, served as mistress of ceremonies. Two musical selections, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "I Know I Have Changed," were sung by the State School Choir under the direction of Shande Jones, JCO.

Presentations were given by students on famous African-Americans and on the history of the "Chinese New Year." Glenda Anderson, case-worker and ICA State Representative, introduced the guest speaker, Myrtle Captain, who gave an oratorical presentation on "The Man," Martin Luther King.

Closing remarks were given by Daniel Pinkoski, teacher, Lydia Barnard, superintendent, and Donald Brooks, Jr., assistant superintendent.

CORSICANA SPONSORS GOSPEL FEST

Corsicana's first campus musical gospel fest was sponsored by the education and recreation departments, under the direction of Principal Carolyn Webb.

Community church and gospel groups and individuals sang, danced and played with campus youth and staff during this musical celebration.

Groups and individuals who participated included Freedom Fellowship Choir, Greater Renfro Memorial Praise Dancers, God's Grace, Taylor Memorial Church of God in Christ, Gospel Five, Danny Phillips, Kayla Jenkins, Roylynn Jackson, Stephen Smith and Erma Young.

Also included were Charles and Carolyn Webb, Kristen Hall, and the campus youth choir.

HISTORY OF WOMEN, IRISH DANCE HELD AT SAN SABA

A presentation given on the history of women and a celebration of the Irish through dance was recently held at San Saba sponsored by the Intercultural Awareness Committee.

Presentations were given by staff on Wilma Randolph, Grace Hopper, Helen Keller, Oprah Winfrey, Amelia Earhart, Jacqueline Cochran and Gwendolyn Brooks.

Activities included a presentation on why women are celebrated, an Irish play and an Irish dance. The event concluded with paper flowers being given to all women present in honor of National Women's History Month.



SAN SABA STUDENTS RECEIVE HONOR MEDALS

Twenty-seven students received honor medals during a luncheon sponsored by the San Saba Rotary Club held May 6 at the State School.

Following a meal of roast beef and all the trimmings, students were presented medals by Rotary Club member, Mike Thomas.

The awards were presented to students who had a ninety or above average in reading, mathematics and/or science. Each year the Rotary Club awards medals to all honor students attending schools in the county.

SAN SABA HOSTS SIXTH VICTIM IMPACT PANEL

San Saba State School held its sixth Victim Impact Presentation on April 20, 1998.

Twenty-one phase 3&4 youth participated in the panel presentation in addition to the pretreatment and debriefing groups.

Presenters were Thomas Ann Hines from Plano, Tx. and Emma Jo & Herbert Snyder from Bay City, Tx..

Facilitators for the groups were Barbara Hardeman, Youth Rights Specialists, Lynn Tankersley, Master Level Intern, Mark Deleon, Juvenile Correction Officer II and Lynette Garcia, Caseworker III.

The VIP Program at San Saba State School has been very successful and is a useful tool in identifying exactly where a youth is in his resocialization treatment. The panel was scheduled on the second day of Crime Victims Awareness Week to greater emphasize efforts to serve victims of juvenile crime and prevent future victimization.

Thomas Ann Hines also presented her experiences to twenty-five staff at SSSS with the majority being educators and JCO staff. All participants voluntarily attended to learn more about what the VIP provides to the youth.

Marian Michel, Program Administrator of Casework quoted, "Staff are our most valuable tools for change and I felt it was critical they be more aware of what the full impact of this type of program can provide."

Previous staff participants have noted the exposure seemed as an excellent source of both personal and professional growth. Lynette Garcia, Caseworker added, "This has been my 6th VIP to co-facilitate and I always learn something new and experience new feelings. I am always amazed at the strength, courage and values the presenters display. Being a part of this has definitely been a privilege for the students as well as the staff at SSSS."

PROJECT RIO HELPS YOUTH FIND SUCCESS

TYC Project RIO, now in its second year, is making significant strides in helping youth obtain employment while on parole or in transitional placement.

The collaboration between TYC and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is designed to prepare young offenders to identify career interests, apply for a job, successfully interview and learn the skills it takes to keep the job.

While at a TYC facility, Project RIO youth receive a career assessment, are provided with an opportunity to investigate careers and to pursue training opportunities in demand occupations. They also receive workforce development training.

Once TYC youth are placed in a halfway house or in the parole program, they are referred to a TWC Project RIO for employment assistance. Since May 1996, more than 1,300 TYC youth have been referred to TWC Project Rio offices.

"Over 750 TYC youth have gained employment through Project RIO," said Lane Roos, TYC Project RIO Program Director. "This is an employment rate of over 56% for TYC kids," he said. "And TYC Project RIO youth on aftercare status have a constructive activity rate of 78%."

Roos said, "We are very pleased how cooperative parole and halfway house staff have been in assisting with this project."

According to Christi Mallette, TYC parole administrator, 527 youth have been referred to the workforce commission by TYC parole staff this fiscal year.

"We are continuing to make efforts to increase this number and to effectively support the pursuit of employment as a key constructive activity for paroled youth," Mallette said.

Karen Chalkey-Turcotte, TYC halfway house administrator, said, "Project RIO has provided us with an additional avenue for employment for these youth, and it has allowed us to focus on other halfway house activities." (See **RIO** page 8)

Statewide volunteer award winners announced at annual conference

Five TYC volunteers were announced as statewide individual award winners at the 14th annual Volunteer Conference May 3 in College Station.

In addition, five other statewide awards were presented in other categories.

The five individuals were Bob Frisby, Corsicana, and Theresia Bobalik, Crockett, institutions; Patrick Collier, Cottrell House, Dallas, and Marsha Lalky, San Antonio, community programs (parole and halfway houses); and Jose Mares, outstanding individual religious volunteer.

Other statewide awards were received by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company of Houston, outstanding group award; Northwest Community Baptist Church, Houston, outstanding religious group; Judi Neal, Gainesville, outstanding employee volunteer; Barbara Register, Sheffield Boot Camp, honorable mention in the outstanding employee volunteer category; and Robert Perez, San Antonio, outstanding student volunteer.

Eighty-three volunteers were nominated for statewide awards this year.

Announcement of the statewide winners was made at an awards brunch by TYC Board Member John Odam; Executive Director Steve Robinson; Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam; General Counsel Neil Nichols; and Assistant Executive Directors Paula Morelock and Tom Tye.

BOB FRISBY, Corsicana Outstanding Individual Volunteer (Institutions)

Col. (Ret.) Bob Frisby, chair of the State Volunteer Resource Council, received the award in part for serving as chairman of the aquatic building fund raising/construction committee for the Corsicana Advisory Council. The council raised \$180,000 to enclose the campus swimming pool for year round use.

Frisby has been active in all Corsicana council fund raising events, Christmas events, and was active in working to get Corsicana included as a finalist for the newest TYC institution.

As chair of the State Council, Frisby has set a goal to visit all TYC facilities during his tenure – and has already visited nine locations. He also is an active volunteer in numerous other Corsicana programs, and writes a weekly column in the Corsicana Daily SUN, which frequently focuses on events at the Corsicana campus.

(RIO continued from page 7)

A great feature, she said, is how RIO helps coordinate employment opportunities for youth as they leave a halfway house and go to another community.

Project RIO staff also are working to develop employment and training opportunities for TYC youth. According to Roos, "we have enrolled TYC kids in AmeriCorps programs in Tyler and Austin and we currently are working on formalizing an agreement with the Job Corps so that TYC youth can enroll in Job Corps programs after they are placed in halfway houses or on parole."

Roos also is representing TYC as a member of a work group that is assisting the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDCHA) in implementing and promoting the Texas YouthWorks Program. (see RIO next column)

THERESIA BOBALIK, Crockett Outstanding Individual Volunteer (Institutions)

Theresia Bobalik has been involved in EVERY activity of the Crockett State School volunteer program and has wracked up 2,400 hours of volunteer work during the past two years.

She tutors, operates the campus canteen, serves as treasurer for the Crockett Volunteer council, helps supervise community service activities, assists with victim empathy programs, GED graduations, and cultural awareness programs.

Bobalik provides birthday cakes for two dorms, chairs the barbecue fund raiser, recruits her family and friends to volunteer, provides educational and reading materials, and donates canteen coupons to youth as incentives.

She is on campus 30-40 hours per week. Last year when the Crockett council hosted the state volunteer conference in Huntsville, she worked "overtime" to assist in the arrangements.

Other nominees for outstanding individual volunteer (institutions) were Louise Farrah, Sheffield; Betty Gueder, Evins; Betty Kellar, Giddings; Billy Lee, Vernon; Sharon Kite, Brownwood; Morgan and Minnie Patteson, Jefferson County; Justin Reeves, San Saba; Bobby Ross, Brownwood; and J.T. Stanley, Gainesville.

(RIO)

Youth Works is designed to build energy-efficient, low-cost housing utilizing at-risk youth as the labor force. They learn building trades and work in teams to construct these dwellings. The youth are paid a wage and can attend school to finish a high school diploma, get a GED or attend college.

Roos said, "We are very interested in placing TYC kids in YouthWorks programs and look forward to working with them once they get up and running."

PATRICK COLLIER,
Dallas
*Outstanding Individual
 Volunteer (community
 programs)*

Patrick Collier began his volunteer "career" at Cottrell House in 1989 to establish a "Rites of Passage" program for urban youth, and has expanded his time with TYC youth to three days a week.

Patrick has transported youth to and from community church services in his own private vehicle for years, and recently became eligible to drive a state vehicle by pursuing completion of all legal requirements of TYC – so now can drive the youth in the halfway house van.

His volunteer activities include parole youth, youth at contract programs, and even youths' relatives. He has organized and maintained a Cottrell House reading club and frequently reads aloud from selected books and leads discussion on what was read.

He volunteered more than 600 hours to TYC youth last year alone. He has personally secured job sites at three companies for youth. He checks devotedly on his kids in independent living.

One week before the conference Patrick adopted a five-year-old boy, whom he proudly brought to and introduced at the awards brunch.

TYC JOURNAL Editorial Board:
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MARCIA LALLKY,
San Antonio
*Outstanding Individual
 Volunteer (community
 programs)*

Marcia Lalky is responsible for nurturing a relationship with the Southwestern Bell (Telephone) Pioneers in San Antonio and TYC youth. For the past three years she has made Christmas stockings or Cowboy-style boots and filled them with goodies for the boys at Ayres House – and for their staff.

She started the "New Start" boxes to give to young men moving into their own apartment after completing the independent living program -persuading another service club to purchase new dishes, silverware, glasses, pans and linens. She insists on "new" things – not used – declaring that the youth need "a fresh, new start."

Lalky, a TYC San Antonio council member, has also secured sponsors for the annual council bowling tournament. She also does extensive volunteer work for other groups of youth in San Antonio.

Other nominees for outstanding individual volunteers (community programs) were Jim Bogers, McFadden Ranch; Rebecca Cantu, Turman House, Austin; Dr. Janet Coplin and Lisa Saemann-Teschner, Dallas; Joyce Champion, Willoughby House, Fort Worth; Priscilla Hale and Marcia Lalky, San Antonio; Pam Neely, Valley House, Harlingen; Theresa Palesi, Dallas; Mary Ann Rodriguez, Ayres House, San Antonio; Sue Isenberg, York House, Corpus Christi; Steven Holloway, Houston; Martha Hernandez, Austin; and Rev. Jerden Davis, Fort Worth.

JOSE MARES,
Brownwood
*Outstanding Religious
 Individual Volunteer*

Joe Mares, who was born in Mexico, spent most of his juvenile years in the Mexican prison system. During those years, he changed his life as a result of newly found religious beliefs.

When he arrived in the U.S., he began to work in Spanish-speaking churches. Ten years ago he was asked to volunteer at the old Brownwood reception center – working with the many youths who arrived speaking only Spanish, and has been doing so all these years

He is described as an ideal mentor for Hispanic youth. When his wife died last year after a lengthy illness with cancer, he missed only three Sunday services during his period of grief. Recently he remarried and took on the responsibility of raising three stepchildren. Again, he missed only one week while honeymooning. His new wife now volunteers with him on Sunday mornings.

Other nominees for outstanding religious individual volunteer were: Betty Showers, West Texas; Laura Croteau, Hamilton; Bob Carter, Vernon; Benjamin and Ann Ramsey, Gainesville; Iman Omar Sharif, Giddings; Bobby Parmer, Sheffield; Paul Fulbright, Corsicana; Rev. Steve Holloway, Crockett; Christen Hubbard, Brownwood; Tom Gillam III, Jefferson County; Karl and Rose Murray, San Saba; Larry Contreras, Evins; Espinosa Family, West Texas.

JOSE MARES
Outstanding Religious Volunteer



**NORTHWEST COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH,
Houston
Outstanding Religious
Volunteer Group**

Northwest Community Baptist Church, Houston, and the Rev. Steve Holloway, have previously been nominated for this award because of their long term ministry to the youth at Crockett State School – and to the youth on parole in Houston.

The members have traveled three hours from Houston to be with the young people of Crockett one weekend every month.

This past year they spent more than 1,800 hours visiting, making phone calls, doing bible study, and ministering to the Houston families of kids at Crockett.

The Northwest group not only provides religious experiences for youth, they support and have been trained in TYC's resocialization program, and the Strategies for Juvenile Supervision (SJS). They have been involved with youth at Crockett for seven years.

Other religious groups nominated included First Presbyterian Church, Bryan; Reaching America's Youth, Brownwood; Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Austin; Calvary Baptist, Vernon; First Baptist, Iraan; In The Light, Brownwood; Christian Motorcycle Assn., Gainesville; CrossAdvantage Ministries, Giddings; Pate Circle of First Baptist, Corsicana; Mt. Gilead Baptist, Beaumont; San Saba Church of Christ; and Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Edinburg.

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL
TELEPHONE COMPANY,
Houston
Outstanding Volunteer
Group**

TYC youth have greatly benefited in education because of the four-year involvement of Southwestern Bell employee volunteers. They have provided the resources for tutoring in reading and math for youth on parole and in contract care – in the parole office.

They donate motivational gifts for the annual Houston educational banquet. Eva Burford, a long-time Southwestern Bell employee, serves as chair of the Houston volunteer councils, and as vice chair of the TYC State Volunteer Council. Several other SWBT employees also serve on the Houston council.

The employee volunteers recently provided funds to set up a resource center library for youth in the parole office, including information about careers, vocational schools, scholarships and financial assistance. They donated \$5,000 during the annual council fund raiser.

Other nominees for outstanding volunteer group were: Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Austin; Sonic Drive-in, Giddings; H.E.B., Rio Grande Valley; Howard Payne University, Brownwood; Junior League Provisional Class, College Station; Lamar University Criminal Justice Assn., Beaumont; Navarro Community Foundation, Corsicana; Pomodoro-Arcodoro Restaurant, Dallas; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1922, Gainesville; Victim Impact Presenters, Crockett; San Antonio Volunteer Council; Wolens Foundation and Federation, Corsicana.

**JUDI NEAL, Gainesville
Outstanding Employee
Volunteer**

Judi Neal, a teacher's aide at Gainesville State School, has gone beyond the call of duty to assist students with in making positive changes in their lives. She takes youth off campus on furloughs, shopping for clothes, and to attend community events.

On campus, she is always busy assisting for Christmas and birthday parties, decorating Easter Eggs and Christmas ornaments, tutoring – and has even taught some youth to sew.

Neal took a special interest in a young man without a family, and when he moved to Beto House in the Valley, she and another staff member drove to McAllen to hear him preach his first sermon. After he moved into his own a-partment, she helped him with furnishings.

Neal also helps staff – she volunteers at fund raising projects for staff events, judges student art and literary entries, does calligraphy for certificates, and helps with student cookouts.

Newsbriefs

Receiving their high school diplomas in May from Coke County Juvenile Justice Center, Bronte, were **Melinka Turney** and **Taquisha Nichole Ragsdale**.

Students at **York House**, TYC's halfway house in Corpus Christi, were honored by Corpus Christi State School as their 1997 'Rookie of the Year' during volunteer awards May 21.

The award goes to a volunteer group or individual which as been active for less than a year on the MHMR State School campus.

**BARBARA REGISTER,
Sheffield Boot Camp
Honorable Mention,
Outstanding Employee
Volunteer**

Barbara Register, secretary to the commandant at the Sheffield boot Camp, was nominated by the volunteer council, whose membership realizes that most of her assigned duties as 'volunteer coordinator' and her work with the council, is on her own time – after hours and on weekends. She regularly devotes her time off to council events.

Register has coordinated volunteer projects such as: Christmas gifts of all students; four car washes, which netted nearly \$2,000 for the council; recruitment of 15 volunteers to work at the fall festival and ten to serve at Fort Lancaster Days; operated a booth at the Alley Oop celebration in Iraan; and attended every meeting of the advisory council (at night).

Through it all, the council volunteers who nominated her, commented on her "cheerful attitude, and her ability to get along with others, which makes it a pleasure to work with her."

Others nominated as outstanding employee volunteers were: Ronnie Burchett, Brownwood; Lisa Colin, San saba; David Ellison, Evins, Barbara Humphrey, Jefferson County; Ericka Barrera, SanAntonio; udell Jasson, Cottrell House, Dallas; Larry Johnson, Turman House, Austin; Judy Malazzo, Hamilton; Glenna Medina, Crockett; Kelvin Powers, Corsicana; and Leslie Sherfy, Giddings.

**JCSS CHAMPIONSHIP
BASKETBALL TEAM**

Jefferson County State School basketball team members show off the medal they won as District II, Division I champions of the National Alternative Education Athletic Association. They are pictured with their coaches Barry Ford and Kelvin Smith, superintendent Marie Murdoch and assistant superintendent Allen Wallace.

**ROBERT PEREZ,
San Antonio
Outstanding TYC Student
Volunteer**

Robert Perez, a young man who was paroled from West Texas State School six months ago, now lives with his father in San Antonio and is enrolled at San Antonio Community College. He works at the Great American Cookie Company part time, and his goal is to enter the field of wildlife science or become an emergency medical technician.

Robert is active in an organization called MEXA, which promotes Hispanic pride through mentoring and modeling for youth. As part of the MEXA program, he provides tutoring during an elementary school's aftercare program every week.

His active involvement in MEXA volunteer work has resulted in his being elected an officer of the group and he has been chosen to be a delegate to the national convention this summer in Los Angeles.

Other nominees for outstanding student volunteer were: Erik Barojas, Jefferson County; Jonathan Walter, Turman House; Corsicana students; and Giddings students.



PAINT-A-THON

Several JCSS students and staff spent a Saturday in May painting the home of Ms. Velma Bogan, a senior citizen in Beaumont, Texas. She met the criteria to have her home painted by volunteers. Students earned community service hours.

**Spring Sweep
Auction To Benefit
Victory Field Council**

A Spring Sweep Auction to benefit the Vernon Victory Field Community Advisory Council is underway and will continue through June.

Garnett Auction, owned by council member Ed Garnett, has agreed to accept items from anyone in the community and is selling them in his weekly auctions.

In his comments to the community, Council President Gene Heatly, stated that "working together we can make a difference in these young peoples' lives."

"Our goal is to get them back into society as productive citizens. One of the biggest problems in our country is juvenile crime. I feel our community is fortunate that we have an opportunity to do something to help turn these kids' lives around," he said.

**Jefferson County
victim awareness week
candlelight vigil**

Students and staff participate in victim awareness week by holding a candlelight vigil to allow students to express their sorrow for doing harm to their victims. The students also created a sign within the fence made with cups spelling out Victim Awareness Week for all vehicles passing by the school to see. Each student also signed the Wall of Forgiveness that was displayed on campus for the week. The guest speaker for the candlelight vigil was Rev. Rodney Armstrong, SSJ of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church of Beaumont, Texas.

RESEARCH SHOWS SPORTS VIOLENCE COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE

Ice hockey teams that play with more violence are less likely to win games, according to a landmark study on professional sports violence conducted by TYC Prevention Specialist John D. Walker, M.D., and an associate from Illinois State University.

Dr. Walker traveled to Zurich, Switzerland, in early May to present his research to an international audience of leaders in professional sport at the invitation of the 1998 Ice Hockey World Championship International Symposium on Medicine and Science in Ice Hockey

The research, conducted with Steven T. McCaw, PhD in the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation at Illinois State University, will be published as a chapter in a forthcoming book of the symposium's proceedings.

Their violence prevention research provides new evidence of both statistical and practical significance.

At the highest level of competition, teams playing with more violence are not more likely to win; in fact, the opposite is true. In an study of 1,462 recorded penalties from all 18 Stanley Cup Championship Final Series from 1980 to 1997, teams playing with less violence were more likely to win and averaged more than seven more shots on goal per game than teams that played with more violence.

Over the course of a seven-game series, this would provide an additional 53 shots on goal - more than a whole extra game's worth of shots on goal - to teams playing with less violence.

The researchers also found that losing teams demonstrated more violent player behavior early in the game, suggesting that violence was not due to the frustration of losing, but rather due to an intentional strategy possibly based on the mistaken belief that violent

behavior contributes to winning.

Ice hockey has become the fastest growing sport in many parts of the world. Although European ice hockey has evolved into a highly refined game based on skill and finesse, the North American version of the sport is still based heavily on violence.

Catastrophic and disabling injuries are being reported more frequently. These injuries are in many cases caused by violent player behavior which, the researchers pointed out, may be supported by coaches who believe that such behavior contributes to winning.

In a recent issue of Sky Magazine dedicated to "The Magnitude of Sport," Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jonathan Yardley wrote, "There is much to be learned about a culture from those persons whom it places upon pedestals, whom it admires and emulates, whom it calls heroes."

Professional athletes are powerful role models for American youth. Many authorities have looked to sport programs as a way of reducing juvenile delinquency.

Youth sports are deeply rooted in our social and cultural heritage. A recent study estimated that almost half of 34 million American adolescents participate in non-school sports.

In terms of attendance at sports events, corporate sponsorship of athletics, licensed sports product sales, and media coverage on television and radio, the magnitude of sport in our society has never been so big, so dominant, so pervasive - and its impact is growing.

One of the most disturbing trends in American sports is the increasing frequency and severity of violence.

Many authorities in the field of violence prevention believe that the increasing acceptance of violence in sports creates a cultural climate that "spills over" and translates into greater violence in society.

Dr. Walker said, "Old myths die hard. North American teams that play with more violence continue to lose in international competition against European teams that play with more finesse."

He said, "There is a temptation

experienced by all players and coaches when in a game situation to rely on the "crutch" of cheating (both violent and nonviolent) to make up for inadequate preparation and practice.

And while the players and coaches who develop a habit of leaning on this "crutch" may have temporary short-term success from time to time, in the long-run, there is no short-cut to success."

"The reliance on the "crutch" of cheating only serves to weaken a team because the hard work of preparation and practice - which is the only true foundation for success in the long-run is never done," Dr. Walker said.

"Coaches at the highest level of competition may wish to adjust their team policies and recruiting practices in order to benefit from the plausible strategic advantage of reducing violent player behavior," Dr. Walker said.

Bunny Martin Crusade visits Gainesville

Gainesville had their 4th annual "Just 4 U" weekend on April 3-5th, under the sponsorship of Bunny Martin, world yo-yo champion and magician, founder and leader of Reaching America's Youth (RAY) Ministries.

Martin has ministered in over 1200 adult prisons over the last twenty five years. He also has participated in other prison ministries as well.

RAY, which held their first crusade in Gainesville four years ago, has expanded to include other TYC facilities at Giddings, Brownwood, Hamilton and Crockett.

The Gainesville crusade featured more than 45 volunteers from around the state and country.

Among those giving their testimony were Jack Ponder who had spent time in Angola State Prison, Les Castro who enlisted the help of Ayla his trained dog, Johnny Spinks, an ex-kick boxing champ, and professional cowboy Brett Smith.

Partnership forged for 'Highly Effective' leadership

Stephen Covey's personal and professional leadership program The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People forms the foundation of a partnership between the Staff Development Division and the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit.

With the goal of cultivating an organizational culture of teamwork, effectiveness, and integrity, MOAU has enlisted Staff Development to provide Seven Habits training to all supervisors and staff involved in the facility's newly redesigned 1-9 Staff Support Teams.

These multidisciplinary teams provide support and training to direct care staff after the eight-to-five business day.

The teams' duties are to facilitate teamwork, improve rapport and trust, listen and communicate effectively, obtain first-hand observations of facility trends and practices and provide crisis intervention as necessary.

Staff Development Director Jules Franklin and training specialists Charlie Barker, Billy Duncan, and Laura Johannsen are conducting the Seven Habits sessions.

Scott Hammel, MOAU psychologist and chair of the Staff Support Team Committee, recalled the process of evaluating and redesigning the Staff Support Teams.

The original 1-9 (SST) program began during August, 1997. In November, MOAU Superintendent Alan Steen and Assistant Superintendent Melvin Haisler formed a committee to evaluate its effectiveness.

First, the committee reviewed and revised the mission of the 1-9 program to focus on competence and character, the two fundamental elements of effectiveness.

This is in keeping with a principle expressed by Stephen Covey: "To be truly effective in any area, a person/[an

organization] must have a balance of high character and high competence.

As people/[organizations] balance these two elements, they build their personal trustworthiness and their trust with others."

Second, outcome measures were identified and preliminary findings were collected.

In addition to measuring objective outcomes such as reduction in assaults and incidents of alleged mistreatment, a survey questionnaire was developed to assess subjective factors such as staff's perceptions of the teams' communication, team-building, abilities and availability. The results then guided the redesign of the SST program. A core element in the redesign is the Seven Habits training, whose focus on communication, trust, and character is ideally suited to bring about the kinds of changes the committee wanted.

Franklin volunteered the involvement of Staff Development to provide this training to all of the SST members and JCO IVs. In keeping with TYC's fifth Guiding Principle, "TYC recognizes staff as its most valuable resource," Steen and Staff Development are demonstrating their commitment to continuous improvement of staff character and competence.

Finally, for ongoing evaluation of program effectiveness, the initial questionnaire and objective outcomes will be assessed every quarter.

Steen, Haisler, and Staff Development will be involved in providing follow-up support and training for team members. The quarterly reviews will provide feedback from all staff for use in revising and improving the program.

Hammel reported that in March, MOAU presented the program and some preliminary findings to Dwight Harris, Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Juvenile Corrections, and the two Directors of Juvenile Corrections, Tom Tye and Alex Escarcega

Harris, Tye, and Escarcega, he said, were pleased with MOAU's "willingness to take a step back and look at ourselves honestly" and its commitment

to investing resources in program redesign, quality training, and continuous re-evaluation and improvement.

Hammel observed that MOAU's mission, goals, and foundational principles correspond with those incorporated into the Survey of Organizational Excellence, which TYC employees have recently completed.

In both cases, emphasis is placed on organizational culture, communication between management and front-line staff, and a shared sense of mission.

And in both cases, the gathering of information about employee attitudes and opinions is only the first step.

The ultimate goals for both MOAU and TYC are to raise morale, increase productivity and job satisfaction, and improve the services we provide to the youth in our care and to the citizens of Texas.

C.O. Intercultural Awareness sponsors several activities

The Central Office Intercultural Awareness Committee (IAC) has sponsored several recent activities on behalf of employees. In March, the committee sponsored a brown bag luncheon featuring Max Sherman, an ethics professor at the University of Texas.

Sherman, a close friend of the late Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, talked about the obstacles Jordan overcame in her life and shared her beliefs on the values and ethics of public service.

In April, the committee held its second annual administrator's appreciation luncheon. The committee provided lunch and reported on the progress and activities the committee has been involved in throughout the year.

The committee also sponsored a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta for central office. Employees brought Mexican dishes, and the committee provided music and information on the origins of the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

STATEWIDE VICTIM SERVICES GROUP FORMED

The Texas Victim Services Association (TVSA), formed early this year, hopes to organize a group of well-trained professionals and volunteers who can efficiently and effectively provide a broad range of services to all victims of crime.

This new group initially hopes to develop standards for delivering services, for everything from counseling at the scene of a crime to standards for people who work in the notification process. The organization is open to volunteers or professionals.

The next meeting will be June 27 in Austin. For more information, contact Shirley Cochran, at cochrans@tyc.state.tx.us, or at (512) 424-6073.

Audit shows superb results

The State Comptroller's claims division recently concluded an audit of 600 TYC purchase and travel vouchers.

The project complete, they announced the results: Only four vouchers with a monetary impact of \$64 were found.

The 600 vouchers totaled \$8 million. The \$64 added up to an amazingly low error rate of .000007. Also impressive is the fact that 95 percent of the vouchers were paid within 30 days.

The Comptroller's Office said no audit report will be written, and added that the results will be communicated to the Governor and to the Legislative Budget Board.

What makes the audit results even more remarkable is that the vouchers covered June 1996 to May 1997 when there was an 83 percent turnover rate in the Central Office Accounts Payable department.

Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Financial Support Terry Graham and Controller Cynthia Ellis credit field office accounting staff as well as the Central Office staff for such high quality work.

Educational initiatives change TYC schools

Several major initiatives are occurring in TYC's institutional schools this spring which will mean positive changes for students and teachers.

TYC schools are undergoing changes to the curriculum, increases in technology infrastructure, and continued piloting of Project TEAMS.

In addition, some long-term plans are underway to strengthen Special Education, GED preparation, and Career and Technology Education as part of the agency's LAR (Legislative Appropriations Request) process.

Dr. Judy Huffty, superintendent of education, reports that many initiatives reflect the increasing need for schools to ensure that students are technologically prepared for lifelong learning and for entering the workforce.

TYC has been awarded over 1 million dollars through a TIF (Technology Infrastructure Fund) grant that will allow each TYC school to be wired, and provide hardware and training to allow Internet access for instructional use.

Billy Joe Galbraith, director of technology training, and Dave Troxell, instructional supervisor, have spent weeks traveling to assist with the technology infrastructure implementation.

Each TYC school has identified 6 teachers to receive training funded by the TIF grant, and they will then help to train other teachers on their campus.

In addition, Dr. Huffty reports that TYC has been selected as one of three states to participate in a national Star Grant which will plan distance learning to be delivered to juvenile offenders in correctional education settings via satellite in Texas, New York, and Florida.

The three-state cooperative is operating as the Justice Distance Learning Consortium (JDLC) and has been funded for a 5 year period.

Donroy Hafner, director of federal programs, has submitted another technology grant requesting video conferencing equipment for the TYC schools

that could also be used by other agency departments.

This grant would allow training or meetings to be held statewide via video linkages and would minimize travel costs.

The new state curriculum, called Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), has been mandated for all Texas schools by the State Board of Education.

Billie Flippen, director of curriculum and instruction for TYC, reports that the implementation date is September 1, 1998.

Flippen explained the TEKS at the recent TYC Administrators' Meeting held in Huntsville as a more integrated curriculum which outlines what students should know and be able to do when they complete a course.

The revised curriculum includes new skills in technology that are now included in formerly traditional courses such as language arts and social studies.

According to Flippen, the new curriculum will still allow for students to work at their own pace, but classes will be enriched with more direct teaching, appropriate group work, new materials and new strategies to motivate students and energize learning.

Related to the new curriculum, Flippen also reported that a reading initiative committee hopes to have a written framework of an improved TYC reading & program in place by September 1.

The new reading program will support students who need to improve their decoding and comprehension skills in order to complete the more rigorous TEKS courses.

"Other support efforts are underway to prepare teachers to implement the new TEKS," Flippen continued. Workshops have been held for TYC math teachers this spring, staff training is being held at each campus by central office and local staff, regional education service centers are providing TEKS training, websites for each major content area have been developed by state

educators, and 4 expert presenters have been scheduled to give TEKS workshops at the TYC Summer Teacher Conference.

Efforts continue at Jefferson County State School, Gainesville State School, and San Saba State School to pilot Project TEAMS, a project that makes connections for TYC students between what they are learning in school and their resocialization phases.

Central office staff members are conducting visits known as "Feedback Forums" at the TEAMS pilot sites in order to learn what is working and what needs improving in the implementation of this project. Agency wide implementation at each TYC institution is scheduled to begin in 1999.

"Overall, this is a fast paced, exciting time to be in school," said Dr. Huffty. "My staff and I want to ensure that TYC's students have every opportunity to learn to their fullest potential and return to the community able to compete in the 21st century."

STATE COUNCIL OFFICERS were sworn in during the luncheon May 2 at the TYC volunteer conference in College Station. Shown (left to right) are secretary Rosie Abreu, San Antonio; chair Bob Frisby, Corsicana; vice chair Eva Burford, Houston (all re-elected for a second one-year term; and Richard Robinson, El Paso, elected for a two year term as treasurer.

STUDENTS, STAFF CONTRIBUTE TO CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, TYC youth and staff were busy in a variety of ways to acknowledge crime victims and their losses.

These are examples of some activities as reported by the facilities:

Brownwood State School and Sanction Unit - Four victim impact presentations were held. Youth participated in essay and poster contests, and staff received victim sensitivity training.

Crockett State School - Students presented a program titled "Imagine...A World Without Abuse." The art class conducted a poster contest, and students spoke to the Rotary Club, United Methodist Church and the Advisory Council.

Giddings State School - Youth made ribbons for staff, victim presenters and visitors. About 300 of the ribbons were made for distribution in Forth Worth. Wooden angels were made for use during a candle light ceremony at the Tarrant County Courthouse.

Students held a bake sale that raised \$300 to purchase native Texas pecan wood that was used to make keepsake boxes for victim-presenters. One of the students designed the boxes which included an appropriately engraved brass plaque. The students gave the boxes to the presenters at a special ceremony.

Other students composed poems and songs to express their feelings and concerns for victims of crime.

Jefferson County State School - The Student Council and Intercultural Awareness Committee coordinated activities that included youth placing the names of their victims on a display board, staff wearing ribbons commemorating victims, and a candlelight vigil involving staff and selected youth. Staff also participated in a candlelight vigil in Beaumont. The school received positive media coverage detailing how many youth have come to recognize the losses experienced by crime victims.

McFadden Ranch - Youth created banners to hang throughout the facility. Guest speakers during the week were David Jeter and a professor from Texas Women's University.

San Saba State School - Students made and distributed ribbons to staff and students in the education building, as well as during four area high school assemblies where TYC youth spoke to the students about how their anti-social choices had hurt others.

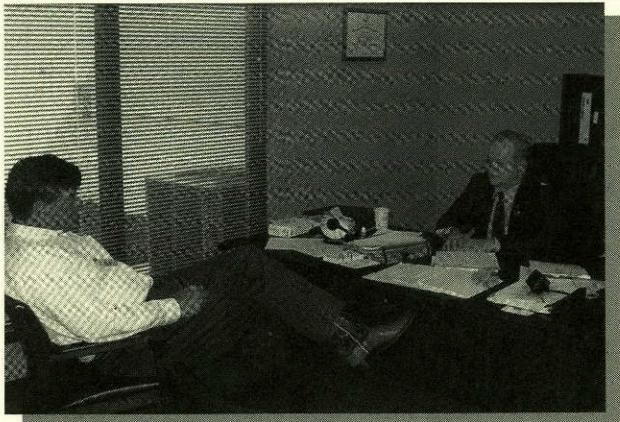
At the suggestion of a student, there was a silent auction of youth art work, with the proceeds donated to the non-profit organization Preventing Crime Through Victim Impact Programs, Inc.

Youth wrote short plays about the impact of crime on victims and performed clean-up and grounds maintenance at local cemeteries. Victim impact presentations were held during the week, and staff received training in victims issues and rights.

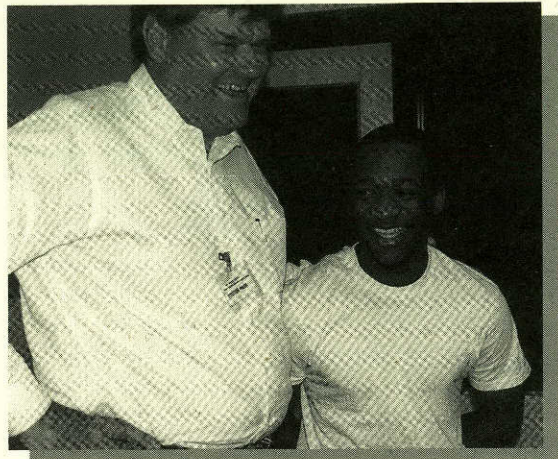
Activities such as these serve to reinforce victim empathy, a key component of Resocialization. It is important to remember that victims' losses must be recognized throughout the year - not just for one week in April, because such awareness can help to prevent future victimization.



Robinson's Travels



Robinson visits with Mark Rogers Superintendent at CSC Rockdale



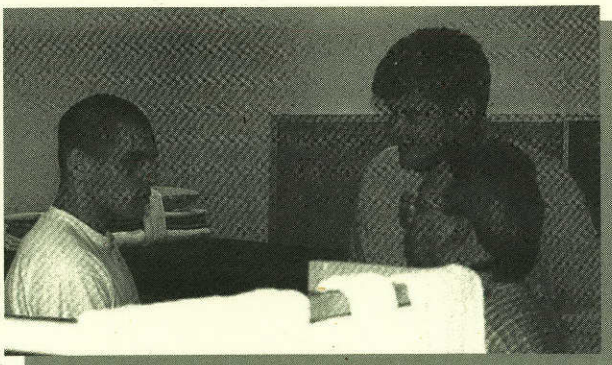
Robinson has a laugh with one of the students at CSC Rockdale



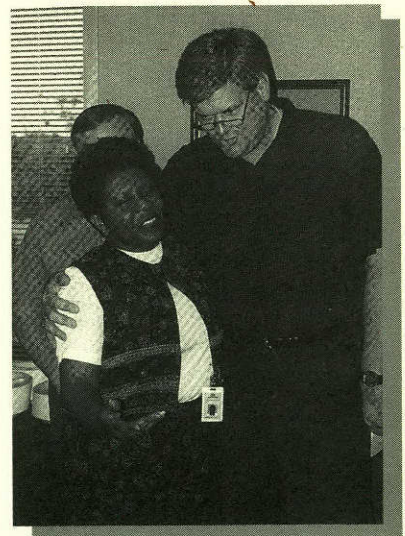
Robinson interviews a prospective superintendent. (pet pig at the Avalon Center for Girls)



Robinson and a student at the Avalon Center for Girls.

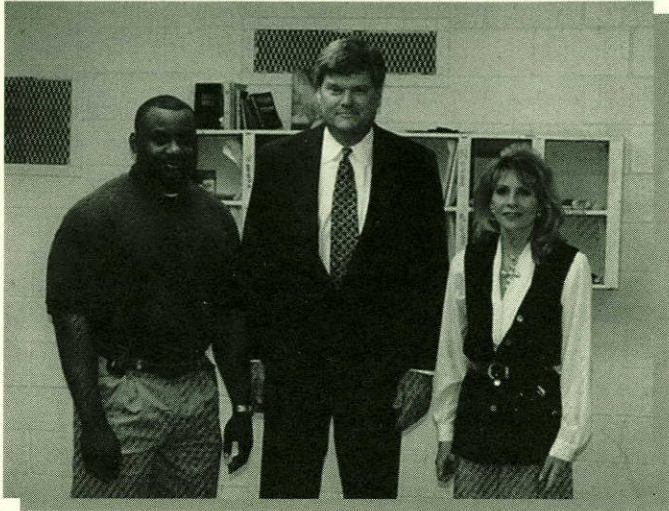


Robinson & Alex Escarcega talk to kids at the Sheffield Boot Camp.



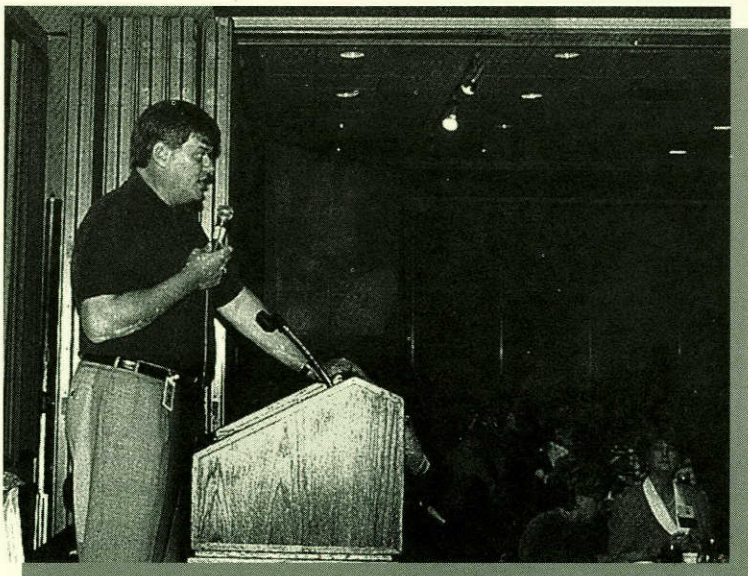
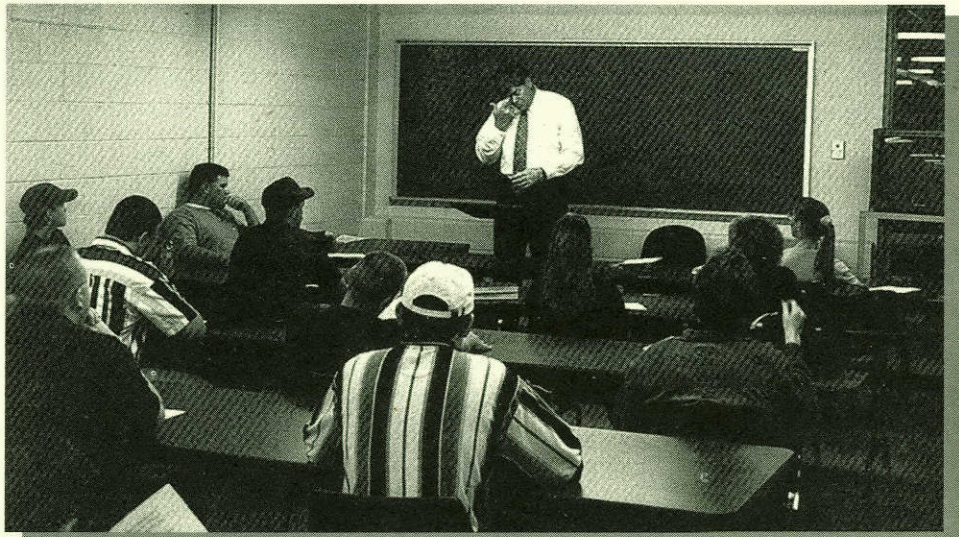
Robinson congratulates the central office employee of the year, Carolyn Jackson.

Robinson's Travels



Robinson visits with Texarkana
QA staff.
Cedric Jackson & Laura Dear

Robinson talks to Criminal
Justice students at Northeast
Texas Community College.



Robinson addresses teachers at the
Education Conference.

Administrators cover several topics in Huntsville

Ninety Texas Youth Commission's administrators met April 20-22, 1998 at the George Beto Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas to discuss agency business and issues.

All administrators met in several general sessions to discuss such items as the agency strategic plan and legislative appropriations request.

Tactical objective briefings were provided on the Mart facility, sex offender registration implementation, management to staff ratio reporting, Historically Underutilized Businesses, and TYC industries, prison industries certification and vocational programs.

A panel of central office administrators discussed the value of developing business plans. Sandy Burnam, TYC's Deputy Executive Director, stated that the business plan is a road map of how a particular agency section will operationalize portions of the strategic plan, legislative appropriations request, tactical objectives, audit objectives and local issues specific to that section of the agency.

The goal is that beginning September 1, 1999, each business unit in the agency will prepare an annual business plan.

Business managers, parole supervisors, halfway house program administrators, quality assurance administrators and supervisors, and institution superintendents met in individual group sessions to discuss issues of interest to those members.

The next administrators meeting will be held November 11-13, 1998, again in Huntsville.

Community service kicks off in Houston

The community service program of TYC's Eastern Service Area kicked off January 1998. Parole Supervisor Joe Joseph, following the new Parole Design team recommendations, wanted to implement and pilot community service as soon as possible in the Eastern Service Area.

All TYC youth released on parole as of January 1998 were required to do community service. Also as part of the new design of parole, community service could be used as a sanction for those youth who needed it.

TYC youth are monitored weekly by a parole case aide. Each parole team has a case aide that coordinates the development of sites along with the volunteer coordinator.

Community Service is defined as: work for no pay for the direct benefit of the community. Services are performed for local non-profit agencies. Community Service hours are assigned as follows:

- a. Violent A offenders = 200
- b. Violent B offenders = 150
- c. Chronic Serious Fire Arms, or Controlled Substance Dealer = 100
- d. General Offender = 75
- e. Or as determined by ICP

From January to April TYC youth in the Eastern Service Area have contributed over 800 hours to non profit agencies throughout Houston. Youth are providing services to numerous agencies.

One student who recently completed 75 hours of community service at a nursing home described the experience as "fantastic" and said that he really enjoyed getting to know the people there.



Aggies host picnic for Giddings students

Each semester, for the last thirteen years, Dr. Arnold LeUnis, professor of psychology at Texas A&M University has "encouraged" his students to attend and host a picnic for violent offender youth at Giddings State School.

The fifty to sixty A&M students prepare a meal for the Giddings students then enjoy several hours of activities such as volleyball, tossing the football or Frisbee or just visiting.

Following the lunch and visitation, the group tours the Giddings campus, led by the students they had met during the picnic.

Dr. LeUnis and the Giddings administration see it as an excellent opportunity for members of the community to get to know our students first hand.

Following a day with the GSS youth, many misconceptions about juvenile delinquents are dispelled.

Coordinator for Volunteer Services at GSS, Bill Bradbury states that "I get some of my best volunteers from the A&M visitors. In fact, a sophomore student named Tami Coy, first found out about us after attending a picnic. She began volunteering, was hired as a houseparent when she graduated...and some 7 years later is a Program Administrator for a behavior cottage."

Mickey Harr receives award

Mickey Harr, Volunteer Chaplain for the Brownwood Sanction Unit since 1983, has been appointed to the nine-member Private Sector Prison Industry Oversight Authority by Governor George W. Bush.

Harr was also honored with TYC's first-ever Individual Faithfulness Award, presented at the Criminal Justice Ministry Conference held in Dallas earlier this Spring.

Harr has assisted in organizing all religious activities at the Brownwood Sanction Unit and personally works more than sixty volunteer hours each month.

Brownwood volunteer receives recognition

Jose Mares, a Chaplaincy Volunteer with the Brownwood Sanction Unit for over nine years, was awarded the KOXE Radio and the Lower Colorado River Authority "You Make a Difference" award.

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

Mares was also selected for TYC's Statewide Religious Individual Volunteer Award.

Brownwood students renovating local church

Students from the Brownwood State School are working to renovate a local church through community service projects.

The young men have been cleaning and repairing parts of the Greater Faith Community Church. Students will begin maintaining road ways, landscaping a local Headstart Program and conducting cleaning projects for the elderly in upcoming service activities.

Crime Victim issues explored

Brownwood staff and students were involved in awareness raising activities during the recent National Crime Victim Awareness Week.

Staff were provided victim sensitivity training by the Abilene Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other struggles experienced by crime victims were examined by staff.

Students kicked off the week with the school's second Victim Impact Panels featuring Thomas Ann Hines, Emma Jo and Herbert Snyder, and Shirley Poynor.

All youth were involved in creating posters and writing essays on victim issues.

Three Brownwood youth receive diplomas

During spring commencement exercises at the Brownwood State School, three youth were awarded High School Diplomas.

Adolfo Bernal, Steve Darbon and Ray Tovar led their graduating class during the ceremony.

Thirty-five additional students earned GEDs. Brownwood's Mayor Bert Massey addressed the youth with an inspiring message. JCO Beverly Beeman provided musical entertainment, with her brother, TYC Volunteer, Reginald Richard.

The Brownwood Community Advisory Council sponsored a reception for the graduating students. Williamson

Photography of Brownwood donated professional graduation portraits of each student earning his GED or diploma.

Brownwood holds annual Volunteer Appreciation

Community volunteers and supporters were honored during the second annual Brownwood TYC Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in May at the Howard Payne University Mabee Center.

The event drew a crowd of more than 130 volunteers, staff and supporters and was underwritten by Trans Texas Southwest Credit Union and First American Bank.

Robert Hickerson, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Services, was the featured speaker for the evening.

TYC Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam, Assistant Executive Director Alex Escarcega and Volunteer Director Joan Timmons were joined by local administrators in presenting awards to Outstanding Volunteers in Brownwood.

Twelve businesses were honored for their contributions to the students and programs with framed certificates.

Delores Chapman, a chaplaincy volunteer with the Brownwood Sanction Unit for over 10 years, was awarded her 500 hour service pin. Raul Rodriguez, a chaplaincy and council volunteer at the Brownwood State School since 1988, earned his 1000 hour service pin.

Volunteers recognized with Teamwork Pins for their efforts in recruiting new volunteers included Edward Garrett, Dan Baez, Bill Fielder, Jim Hampton, Christen Hubbard, Frank Skidmore, Deanna Greer and Ronnie Burchett.

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



CROCKETT STUDENTS spoke at the local Rotary Club on "Imagine A World Without Abuse." Pictured are (left to right, front) Sarah Clark, Debra Walker, Dustin Benson, Michelle Piper, Dorothy Corbett, Virginia Lewis, Crockett volunteer coordinator; (back) Howard Thomas, Mathew Pierce, Christopher Hull, David Munoz and Ryan Mizell.

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA INTRODUCED DURING CORSICANA'S CELEBRATION

The Corsicana State Home Residential Treatment Center celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a flag ceremony, dances and presentations from community and campus youth.

Honors to the Mexican Flag and the Mexican National Anthem were performed by students from Corsicana Collins Middle School ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.

Ramon Alba, Master of Ceremonies, spoke on the occasion by providing a brief history of Cinco de Mayo.

TYC students introduced flags from Panama, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Students were also part of a jeopardy game show in which teams of students answered questions about heroes and history of Mexico.

The CRTC students, adorned in colorful attire, entertained with dances and songs by Selena; and staff entered in with a finale dance of the macarena.

The program was sponsored by the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center Intercultural Awareness Committee who presented an award to Ruth Alba as an outstanding Mexican for her significant and vital contributions and service to the welfare of the community and to the Corsicana State Home.

Alba teaches the Collins Middle School students and willingly directs and brings them each year to entertain and take part in the campus Cinco de Mayo program.

The Corsicana Intercultural awareness committee also provided a "Mexican food lunch" for the TYC statewide Intercultural awareness task force committee during its May meeting as an extension of the celebration.

HONORS TO THE MEXICAN flag were performed by students from Corsicana Collins Middle School during the Corsicana residential Treatment Center's Cinco de Mayo celebration.



Corsicana sponsors jeopardy contest

The Corsicana State Home Education Department sponsored the first campus academic jeopardy contest.

Education classes had drilled students in math and oral reading in order to reinforce basic math and reading comprehension skills, prior to the contest.

Nineteen students participated in the reading jeopardy contest as they were drilled in six categories. It took seven questions to break the tie between the teams.

Seventeen students were involved with the math jeopardy contest which also had a close finish between teams.

"Commercials" were aired throughout the contest by the theatre art classes. These students wrote and presented two original commercials throughout the program.

Student participants were treated to pizza.

CORSICANA'S QUALITY TEACHER AWARD

The Corsicana Residential Treatment Center was included in the Chamber of Commerce's Quality Teacher Banquet in which a teacher from each city and county school was recognized. Corsicana's recipient was Sandra Mooney who received a recognition certificate as a quality teacher.

Corsicana ex-students hold annual homecoming

More than 250 ex-students attended homecoming on June 13 at the Corsicana State Home, an annual event.

Many students who return for homecoming resided in the state home during its days as a state orphanage, or as a program for dependent and neglected children, since the state home has existed for over 100 years.

The theme of this year's homecoming is "Together Again," and the exes assembled to visit and reminisce about their earlier years.

The ex-students' center is housed in Calvert Hall, named after Robert W. Calvert, an ex-student who became Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Judge (now deceased). The center houses memorabilia from earlier years which range from early to mid 1900's.

The second annual memorial service for exes was held in the campus gazebo, which was previously constructed by the ex-students.

Homecoming culminated with a banquet in the dining hall, also housed in Calvert Hall, with recognition of the representatives from the various classes who were present.

Exes also recognized six of the current state home students for overall achievement in education and Resocialization and placed \$50 in each of their trust's funds.

Ex-students make annual donations to the Community Advisory Council's Christmas fund-raising campaign.

Crockett students address how crime affects lives

In recognition of National Crime Victims Awareness Week and Child Prevention Month the youth at Crockett State School presented three programs titled "Imagine A world Without Abuse."

The program addressed how crime affects the lives of everyone and the realities of today's juvenile crime problem. The students presented their program to the Crockett Rotary Club at Spring Creek Country Club, Houston County Child Welfare Rally at the First United Methodist Church and to the Crockett State School Community Advisory Council.

The students ask the members present to imagine a society where violence that pervades our schools and streets did not exist. They offered some ideas to help prevent youth from being involved in crime and to prevent abuse.

Dustin asked how will you know when a youth is heading for trouble? He challenged the members to look for the hidden anguish .

He quoted a poem from an unknown author to express his feeling and to encourage community leaders to invest their time in the lives of children to prevent crime, abuse and violence in society.

State Representative Jim McReynolds participated in the Rally at the First United Methodist Church and paid tribute to the lawmakers in the state and the members of the Juvenile Justice System, Child Protective Service workers, Peace Officers who fight against abuse and crime.

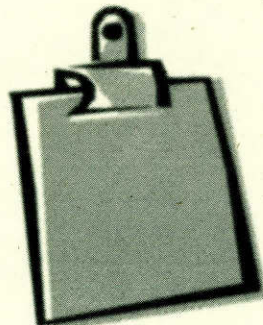
The Rally was sponsored by the Houston County Child Welfare Board. The front of the United Methodist Church was decorated with posters from the students in Ms Bateman's art class at Crockett State School.



Judge Delivers Message to GED Graduates

The honorable James N. Parsons III, District Judge Third Judicial District of Texas was the keynote speaker at GED graduation ceremony at Crockett State School on March 20.

Judge Parsons congratulated the students on their educational achievement and challenged the youth to envision themselves to become successful and productive citizens. He delivered a very powerful and motivational message that touched the hearts of parents, staff and students.



Giddings observes National Crime Victims' Rights Week

During the National Crime Victims' Rights Week , April 19-25, Giddings State School students devoted creative energy to activities that recognize the losses and pain experienced by victims of crime.

Victims of violent crimes also had an opportunity to share their powerful and painful stories to our students. Activities included raising \$300 in an on-campus bake sale with the money being used to purchase native Texas pecan wood to be crafted into keepsake boxes.

The boxes were made by the students in the Building Trades Program and presented to victims who made presentations.

Giddings students also made wooden angels for use in a special observance in Fort Worth. The angels were used as floral arrangements that lined the steps of the Tarrant County Courthouse for a candlelight vigil during National Crime Week

Other youth made ribbons that were handed out that week.

TYC honored for saving taxpayers money

The Texas Youth Commission received two awards from The Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission at a May 14 ceremony at the Governor's Mansion.

One award was for participation in the Productivity Bonus Program (PBP).

The second, the "Double Play Award," was for participation in the PBP program and State Employee Incentive Program (SEIP) program.

The Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission Mission and Vision is:

"To objectively administer and actively promote the employee involvement programs available to state employees. We envision a Texas State government, in which employees are involved in making improvements, are able to continuously improve their productivity and the quality of services they provide, and are recognized and rewarded for making improvements."

TYC received the "PBP Participation" award for substantial participation in the Productivity Bonus Program (PBP). The team plan selected was the Sundry Pack.

TYC purchased 480 toiletry sundry packs from Desert Storm at \$22.50 each. The value of the contents, such as toothpaste and shaving cream, totaled \$165, which saved the agency \$142.50 per pack or a total of \$68,400.

The team received 18.75% of the total savings which was \$12,825, and all team members received the maximum bonus (for participation in the PBP program) of \$1,000.

Team members were Greg Rogers, business manager, West Texas; John Hopkins, business manager, Corsicana; Kelly Tyson, business manager, Jefferson County; Lilly Ontiveros, accounting clerk, West Texas; Nancy Jones, purchaser, West Texas; Jerry Tefertriller, truck driver, West Texas; and Joe Franks, business manager, contract care, central office.

The PBP program allows staff to design a productivity plan to reduce costs to the agency. The team can consist of entire agencies, divisions, or any group identified by the agency and approved by TIPC.

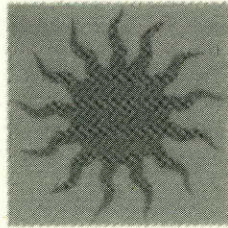
Plans are submitted no later than, June 1 of the fiscal year in which the savings are to be accrued. The team certifies savings during the year and submits applications for cash bonuses by August 1.

Since FY 1993 when TYC became involved, employees have submitted a total of 29 plans and saved the agency \$611,272.

The agency won "the Double Play Award" for its outstanding participation in both of these programs.

The State Employee Incentive Program allows employees to submit suggestions that recommend specific ways in which the agency could save money or improve productivity.

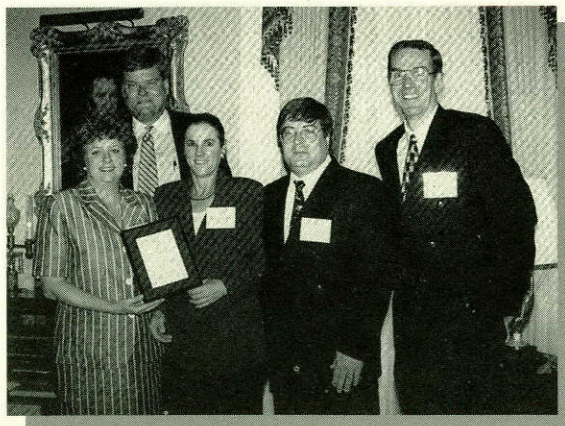
For example, one employee suggested that TYC join with TDCJ to buy riot vests at a savings of more than \$200,000 to taxpayers.



Another suggestion resulted in a donation to Gainesville State School of more than \$17,000 worth of computer equipment. Even suggestions that increase productivity but save no money are significant because they help improve the performance of TYC and its employees.

The State Employee Incentive Program gives employees encouragement to improve their work environments.

Since January 1989 when TYC became involved with this program, TYC employees have submitted 13 approved suggestions for a total savings of \$531,096.00. Cash awards to employees has amounted to \$18,609.35.



Serve Houston Day

On May 2, 1998, more than 2,500 Houstonians participated in the 5th annual day of community-wide service. Volunteer teams fanned out over the city, working on "done in-a-day" projects for over 100 local schools and non-profit agencies.

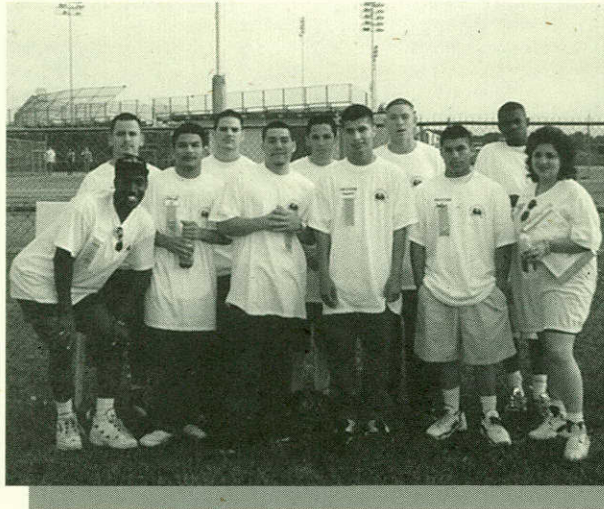
One of these volunteer teams included a group of nine TYC youth on parole, along with parole case aides Liliana Gamba and Marvin Smith.

Their day started at 6:00 am in preparation for a day serving Houston. The TYC team was assigned to participate as helpers in the special Olympics events held at Joe Butler stadium. TYC youth spent the day assisting children who were physically challenged get through the special Olympic events.

The Texas Youth Commission Rattlers!!!!

The TYC Rattlers are a coed softball team made up of employees from the Eastern Service Area and Contract programs. The team had their first two games on May 14, 1998 and their record now stands at 1/1. The MVP for Thursday's game was Don Finley, Parole Officer III.

The Rattlers are being led by Coach Hal Kelly and Assistant Coach Richard Morris, two fine players with incredible coaching abilities. The team has many good players and is proof that professional teamwork goes along way in the office as well as on the field. Keep your eyes on the Rattlers!!!!!!!!!!



NINE TYC YOUTH in Houston participated in "Serve Houston" Day recently as a part of their community service work. They are shown with parole case aides Marvin Smith and Liliana Gamba.

Giddings capital offenders serve community

Under the leadership of program administrator Rebecca Thomas, students in the GSS Capital Offender Program have given up weekends to begin paying back the community.

Over the past several months, a crew of ten students and five or more staff volunteers have:

- manned water stations and cleaned up during the Human Race in Austin,
- planted trees for Tree Folks at the School for the Blind in Austin,
- pulled up fence posts and cleared land at Down Home Ranch camp,
- raised \$300 during a bake sale for a victim's fund , and
- painted a house for an elderly woman in Austin in cooperation with the Austin Metropolitan Ministries.

Future projects will be with the Capital Area Food Bank.

On a more local level, Giddings students continue to be involved in the town beautification project under the direction of City Manager D. Sosa.

In the past several months, vocational students have cleaned and repainted a gift and flower shop in the heart of Giddings. The owners of Blossoms and Bows made a \$175 donation to the GSS Community Advisory Council which in turn made a \$1000 donation to The Parents of Murdered Children, a victims relief organization.

Another project vocational instructor Martin Rangel and his class has taken on is the renovation of the old railroad freight building that was an eye sore on the west side of town.

Owner and managing editor of the local paper , The Giddings Times and News stated in his editorial ; "It's really great to see the student volunteers from GSS helping to spruce up some downtown buildings. The volunteer work by state school students is another step in making the Giddings business district more attractive— not just for travelers but for all of us who live in the community."



AS PART OF THE GIDDINGS downtown renovation, Giddings State School students worked to restore the old railroad depot.

NEW EVINS DORM IS FOR THE BIRDS!

The new 14-bed dorm at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center really is for the birds. Teacher David Ellison and students recently built a birdhouse, perched it on a twenty foot pole near the administration building.

Despite initial youth comments that the birds would never want to live there, they were proved wrong as the green and white birdhouse has been at full occupancy ever since it was "opened up."

Evins community service featured in newscast

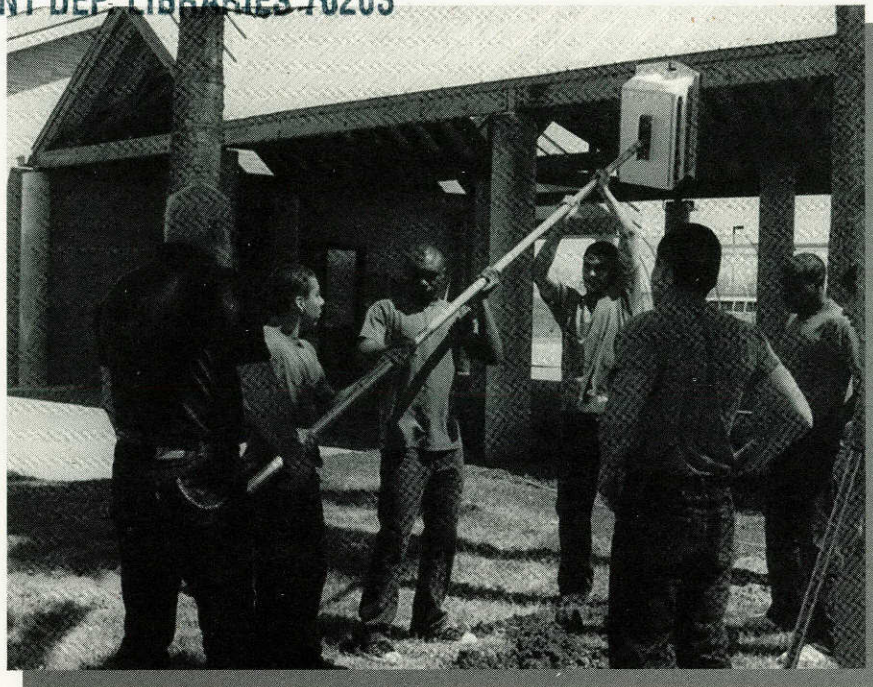
Evins Regional Juvenile Center recreation supervisor Jimmy Reyes regularly involves youth in the "Adopt a Beach" cleanup held twice a year throughout the State.

Reyes and his group were at South Padre Island during the last clean up and were interviewed by a local television news crew. The story made the evening news that day.

He was able explained TYC's community service role and gave some information on how TYC youth give back to the community. They picked up countless bags of trash, and were also able to help a stranded motorist who got stuck in the sand. With youth "push power" they were able to get the grateful motorist back on the road.

Volunteer council member Larry Contreras was the tournament chairman for the event. Winners were awarded gift certificates from the local pro shop. The event netted more than \$1,400-and resulted in \$4,155 in merchandise which was given as door prizes.

Dinner and awards presentations were held after the tournament.



EVINS YOUTH RAISE BIRDHOUSE on campus with assistance from teacher David Ellison. The new "bird" dorm is fully occupied!

Evins golf tournament raises funds for council

The 1998 Evins Regional Juvenile Center golf tournament raised money to support youth activities.

The tourney was held at the Palacio Real Golf Course, which is right across the street from the Evins Center.

Volunteer council member Larry Contreras was the tournament chairman for the event. Winners were awarded gift certificates from the local pro shop. The event netted more than \$1,400-and resulted in \$4,155 in merchandise which was given as door prizes.

Dinner and awards presentations were held after the tournament.

'Citizens Against Graffiti' active in Edinburg

Evins volunteer council members Johnny Rodriguez, Manuel Garcia and volunteer coordinator Raul Arredondo are members of the Citizens Against Graffiti Committee of Edinburg.

The City has taken an aggressive campaign to eliminate graffiti and the committee, composed of area representatives from schools, community organizations, and law

enforcement have teamed up to address the problem. Rodriguez is the committee chair.

A full time employee and a special truck named "The Eliminator" have been busy cleaning up the city. Since the program started last October, more than 923 areas have been cleaned up with 646 gallons of paint having been used.

"The program has been such a success," said Rodriguez. "Workers are now having to look for areas to clean up." Law enforcement has been stepped up and arrests have been made, especially at favorite "hit spots."

One graffiti vandal was of immense help to police. When arrested, police confiscated a camera in his possession, developed the photos and found many areas where he had documented his vandalism around town.

According to local police, the majority of the vandalism is not being done by gangs but by "taggers" a small group of youth who represent cross sections of the community. The committee will soon start an anti-graffiti educational awareness program at all school levels.

A graffiti hotline has been established and any vandalism is responded to within 24 hours.

TYC JOURNAL
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