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Journal

A Quarterly Publication of Texas Youth Commission



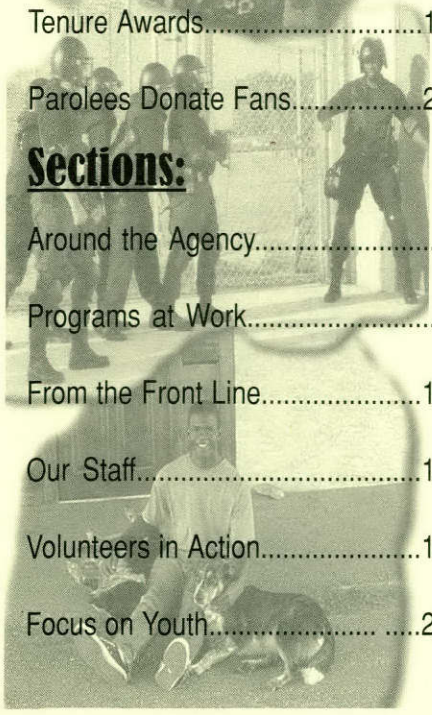
In this issue:

Brownwood is Accredited.....	3
Sheffield Celebrates Anniversary.....	6
Valedictorian Address.....	12

Tenure Awards.....	16
Parolees Donate Fans.....	25

Sections:

Around the Agency.....	2
Programs at Work.....	8
From the Front Line.....	12
Our Staff.....	14
Volunteers in Action.....	18
Focus on Youth.....	22

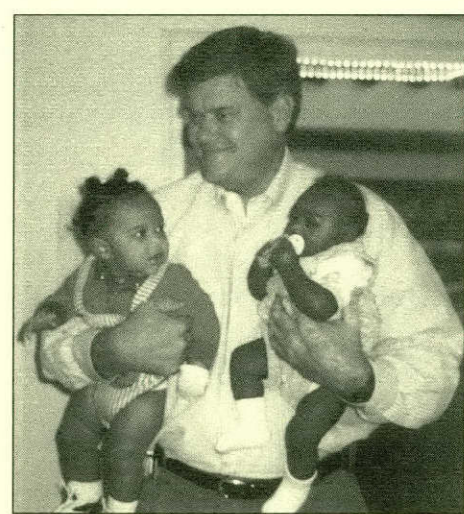


Innovative Residential Program Opens for Girls

Baby formulas and diaper-changes have become a part of the 16-hour-day in a unique TYC contract program that has opened near San Antonio.

Associated Marine Institutes, Inc., which won the request for proposals.

WINGS is the first juvenile corrections-sponsored residential program for girls and their children in Texas, and possibly the nation. It was made possible by the Texas Legislature, which authorized the program in 1999.



Texas Youth Commission Executive Director Steve Robinson has his hands full during a visit to the new WINGS residential program for young TYC mothers and their babies in Marion, Texas.

Approximately 14 girls arrive pregnant at TYC each year and give birth while in custody. Many more who are sent to TYC leave children behind and miss spending important formative years with their babies. Research shows that the children of incarcerated teenage parents are at increased risk for aggressive behavior, poor school performance, abuse and neglect, truancy, teen pregnancy, mental illness and criminal activity.

WINGS (Women in Need of Great Strengths) allows TYC to place up to 12 teenage mothers and their babies together in a program that combines Resocialization and parenting. WINGS, a medium-security program, opened in August on a four-acre ranch in Marion, Texas. The program operator is

To be eligible for WINGS, girls must have attained Phase 3 of Resocialization, and must have served at least half of their minimum length of stay. Sentenced offenders are not eligible. Children up to age 3 are allowed. Twin baby girls are among the first residents at WINGS.

(continued on page 2)

Lovett Named Outstanding Woman in Texas

Around the Agency



Gainesville State School Principal Dr. Ann Lovett was recently honored and awarded with an Outstanding Women in Texas Government Award, at an awards dinner in Austin, Texas, on November 10, 2000. The awards are given for seven different categories including professional development, contributions to other women in state government, management, leadership, community involvement, customer service, and state pioneer spirit. Winners are chosen by a panel of distinguished judges based on nominations submitted by agency executives. Dr. Lovett was chosen to receive the award for Customer Service from a pool of 76 nominees.

Submitted by Fidel F. Garcia

Innovative Residential Program *(continued from page 1)*

WINGS has on-site education, day care, parenting classes and independent living skills training. The girls are responsible for the care of their child. The young mothers are taught the necessary skills to be an effective and loving parent. They also receive vocational classes and parenting lessons with hands-on learning in a lab at the on-site daycare. The young mothers are assigned homework to complete with their children.

The Southern Service Area is very excited about this unique program. If you would like further information, please contact Elizabeth Lee, Quality Assurance Administrator, at (210) 222-0359, ext. 202.

Submitted by Janette Torres-Gloria

Brownwood State School Accredited by ACA

The American Correctional Association (ACA) audit of the Brownwood State School was successfully completed on March 8, 2000. Superintendent Daniel P. Humeniuk, and Assistant Superintendent Kay Doebbeling appeared before the Hearing Panel of ACA Commissioners at the ACA national conference in San Antonio, Texas on August 13, 2000. The Commissioners awarded accreditation to the Brownwood State School saying they were "very impressed with the conditions of confinement and the conditions indicated a Quality of Life rating of excellent to outstanding." Commissioner R. Daniel McGehee, Panel Chair stated that he was "also very impressed with the Resocialization program and the structured environment it provided for juveniles."

On behalf of the staff at the Brownwood State School, Superintendent Daniel P. Humeniuk and Assistant Superintendent Kay Doebbeling accepted the Certificate of Accreditation in a ceremony following the Awards Luncheon.

The audit team consisted of corrections professionals from New Mexico, Georgia, and Tennessee. Jeanette Kinker, Chairperson for the ACA audit said, "The agency's commitment to provide youth with consistent, meaningful treatment options is the driving force behind the success of this program." Mr. Humeniuk, Ms. Doebbeling, and Assistant Superintendent Eddie Hernandez have demonstrated their understanding of the importance of the accreditation effort and its impact on day-to-day operations. Following the hearing, Mr. Humeniuk said, "I am impressed with how the accreditation process helped us to strengthen our operations. Our ACA auditors were quite experienced in the field of corrections and were able to share information with us to make us have an even stronger operation."

The American Correctional Association and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections are private, non-profit organizations which administer the accreditation process, currently the only program addressing all components of adult and juvenile corrections.

The accreditation process offers the opportunity to evaluate operations against national standards and TYC agency policies, to remedy any deficiencies and to upgrade the quality of correctional programs and services. The recognized benefits from such a process include improved management, a defense against lawsuits through documentation and the demonstration of good conditions of confinement, increased accountability and enhanced public credibility for administrative and line staff, a safer and more humane environment for personnel and offenders, and the establishment of measurable criteria for upgrading programs, personnel practices, and physical plant on a continuous basis.

Congratulations to Superintendent Dan Humeniuk and all the staff at the Brownwood facility for their success and diligence in achieving accreditation from The American Correctional Association.



Proudly displaying Brownwood's new ACA accreditation certificate are from left, Assistant Superintendents Heriberto Hernandez and Kay Doebbeling and Superintendent Daniel Humeniuk.

*Submitted by Glen E. McKenzie
ACA Accreditation Coordinator*

Judy Briscoe Retires; Chester Clay, Jr. Promoted



It was hugs and tears aplenty when Judy Briscoe retired. Here, Director of Corrections Tom Tye offers his best wishes to Ms. Briscoe at the Aug. 31 Central Office reception in her honor.

Judy Briscoe, Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Juvenile Corrections, has left the Texas Youth Commission for retirement after 31 years of state service. Giddings State School Superintendent Chester Clay, Jr., was promoted to fill the position.

Ms. Briscoe started her career in state government at the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission, but soon joined TYC when it was the Texas Youth Council. She later worked at the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and at the Texas Department of Mental Health and Retardation. She returned to TYC in 1993 where she served in a variety of capacities, including Director of Delinquency Prevention, Chief of Staff, Acting Director of Community Services and Acting Deputy Executive Director.

She received a number of awards through the years in recognition of her contributions. Another award - TYC Administrator of the Year - was bestowed on Ms. Briscoe at the TYC Administrator's Conference in October. TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson made the presentation.

Ms. Briscoe, in a farewell letter to colleagues, said, "I have always been proud to be a public servant because we touch those lives that, but for us, might not have been touched. To begin and

end my juvenile justice career at the Texas Youth Commission has been a phenomenal experience. I have been lucky to work with and learn from some of the most dedicated, hard working, fun-loving, intelligent and caring people in the country." She said, "TYC has always been ahead of its time. And our profession is an honorable one. Because, at it's core is the belief that we can make a difference in the lives of these youth. And despite those days when you think it can't get any worse, and with the constant battle of competing interests and never enough resources, there's always the spark in some kid's eye when you know you've made a connection. Never forget that every minute of every day is an opportunity to role-model what it means to be a caring individual and a good citizen." Ms. Briscoe added, "I've been out there and I've seen you, and I've always been amazed at your dedication and commitment. I am just proud to have been a part of what I believe unequivocally is the best agency in Texas and the best juvenile corrections agency in the country."

Mr. Clay assumed his new duties on Nov. 1. He is a 25-year veteran TYC employee whose experience spans every facet of field management.

Mr. Clay began working for TYC as JCO staff at the Brownwood State School. He became Assistant Superintendent at Turman House, served as Superintendent of York Halfway House and then became Regional Director for the East Region. Mr. Clay served as Superintendent of the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center from 1994 to 1999 and as Superintendent of Giddings State School starting in 1999.

Submitted by Pamela Ward

New Internet Site Targets Underage Drinking

The Alliance Against Underage Drinking, which includes the Texas Youth Commission, launched a new Internet site in September. The new site, www.2young2drink.com, will serve as a toolbox for community groups by providing information, statistics, a media kit, activities for youths and links to other resources.

The Internet site includes tips for parents, a roundup of underage drinking programs in Texas, information about law enforcement efforts and resources for retailers. The 2young2drink site also includes information in Spanish.

The Internet site was launched September 18 in Austin during a ceremony that included the release of new statistics from the 2000 Texas School Survey which showed that student alcohol use was not declining as fast as the use of illicit drugs and tobacco.

While past-month use of marijuana fell 10 percent among secondary students from 1998 to 2000, past-month alcohol use dropped only 5 percent, according to the survey. Secondary students reported a 15 percent decline in past-month use of tobacco.

"Clearly, the state's prevention efforts are working," said Jay Kimbrough, executive director of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "But we want to see the same dramatic declines in teen alcohol use that we're seeing today in tobacco and marijuana use."

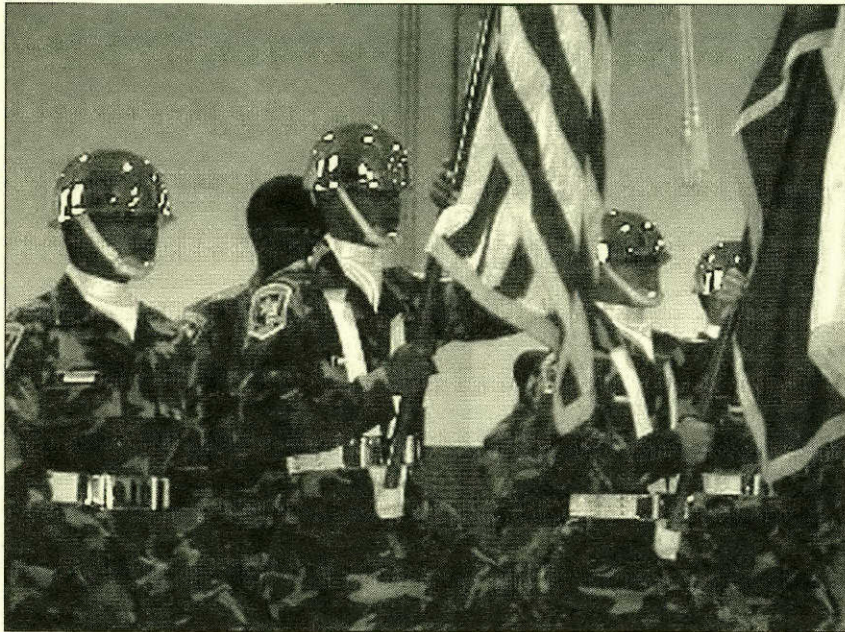
More than 200,000 Texas students in grades 4-12 participated in the survey, the largest of its kind in the nation. The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has been conducting the statewide survey every two years since 1988. Other findings from the survey included:

- Alcohol continues to be the most widely used substance among Texas students with 71 percent of students reporting they had used alcohol at some point in their lives. This percentage has remained relatively steady in recent years; however, the rate fell 7 percent among seventh graders. Seventh graders also reported a 14 percent drop in past-month use of alcohol.
- More than 9 percent of students said they had attended class while drunk at least once during the past school year.
- Binge drinking, defined as having five or more drinks on one occasion, was reported by 27 percent of students.
- One in four seniors said they had driven a car after having a good bit to drink at least once during the past year. This represents 80,000 impaired drivers on Texas roads each year.
- The percentage of past-month alcohol users who reported it was easy to get alcohol from stores has decreased 38 percent since 1994. The percentage fell 14 percent from 1998 to 2000.
- Among seventh graders, 74 percent reported that their parents strongly disapproved of underage drinking; however, the rate fell to 54 percent among seniors.
- Only 22 percent of students who said their parents disapproved of teen alcohol use reported past-month drinking, compared to 55 percent of their peers who reported their parents approved of teen alcohol use.

The Alliance Against Underage Drinking is a coalition of more than 40 public and private organizations working together to prevent underage drinking in Texas.

Submitted by Pamela Ward

Sheffield Celebrates Five Years; Cadets Present at ACA



The Sheffield Boot Camp Honor Guard presented the colors of the United States and the Texas Flags to the Canadian and National Anthems and the ACA ceremony ended with the retiring of the colors.

Sheffield Boot Camp celebrated its fifth anniversary with a special ceremony honoring the facility, its employees, the Iraan-Sheffield Independent School District, and the communities of Sheffield and Iraan. State Representatives Pete Gallego and Robert Turner attended the ceremony, along with other local and state dignitaries and agency administrators. In her keynote address, then-TYC Assistant Deputy Executive Director Judy Briscoe thanked the communities of Sheffield and Iraan for their continued support of the facility. Bob McCall, Superintendent of the Iraan-Sheffield ISD, gave a summation on how the facility came into existence through a partnership between TYC, I-SISD, and Texas Tech University. McCall thanked the School Board for their continued support of the TYC program. State Representative and

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety Robert Turner and SBC Teacher Judy Brown presented awards to those participating in the Excellence in Reading Contest.

State Representative Pete Gallego presented SBC's Commandant, Bill Roach, with a flag that had flown over the Capitol Building in Austin. Representative Gallego was instrumental in establishing the boot camp program. Former Commandant Lemuel Harrison shared his memories of opening the Boot Camp and praised the Sheffield and Iraan communities for their support given since that time. Harrison, currently the Superintendent of West Texas State School, stated that the Sheffield Boot Camp has been a model facility not only for Texas but for the nation as well. He presented certificates to the five original remaining employees of SBC: Lieutenant Charles Caldwell, Sergeant Catherine Caldwell, Cadet Leader Fred Stricklin, Cadet Leader Ronald Ervine, and Tommy Greer, Caseworker.

Cadets who form the Honor Guard at Sheffield Boot Camp performed both at the anniversary celebration and before an international audience later in the summer. The four cadets presented the United States, Texas and Canadian colors at the American Correctional Association summer conference, held at the Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The cadets, accompanied by Lt. Watson and Sgt. Galvan, were proud to be selected to perform at the convention.

Submitted by Barbara Register

West Texas Organizes Agency-Wide Tournament

In August, The Brownwood State School hosted the 1st Annual TYC Staff Softball Tournament. The tournament was organized by the staff at the West Texas State School in an effort get to know other TYC staff across the state in both a fun and competitive environment. While WTSS has had a league team for the last several years, playing in Monahans and Pecos, the idea for a TYC tournament developed about two years ago after WTSS and Sheffield Boot Camp played a few games against each other to “put [staff] faces with names and just have some fun,” according to WTSS team coach and Maintenance Mechanic, Robert Garcia.

Following the success of the WTSS/Sheffield matches, Garcia and others including Maintenance Clerk Denise Valles, Data Coordinator Stephanie Escamilla, Superintendents Chip Harrison and Dan Humeniuk, and Assistant Superintendents Kay Doebbeling and Eddie Hernandez organized the tournament choosing the Brownwood State School as the site for the first tournament due to its central location.

Participating in the tournament were teams representing Brownwood State School, Brownwood Sanction Unit, Crockett State School, Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Gainesville State School, San Saba State School, and West Texas State School. Taking first place in the contest were the Evins Rangers, who were presented with the “traveling trophy” to be displayed at their facility

until a new tournament champion is crowned. Crockett State School finished second and WTSS came in third. All three top teams received commemorative T-shirts of the event.

At the conclusion of the tournament, the team coaches and umpires selected the TYC “All State” team including: Evins’ Joey Salinas, Danny Ozuna, Carlos Garza, Alan Maria and Ralf “Animal” Murin; Crockett’s Johnny Ervin, Gary Farek and Albert Mills; West Texas’ David Vejil and Fane Valle; and Brownwood’s Michael Luckey. Alan Maria of Evins was also named MVP.

Along with great softball and fellowship, the participants, their families and supporters were all treated to a barbecue lunch prepared by the Brownwood State School staff. Everyone enjoyed the competition and camaraderie, and Plans are already underway for next year’s tournament, which will be hosted by the reigning champion Evins Rangers in Edinburg, Texas.



The Evins Rangers show their pride in winning the TYC softball tournament. The trophy is theirs to display for the year.

New Security Unit Opens in Brownwood

For many staff at Brownwood State School, Unit I, it seemed as though the doors to the new security dorm would never open. However, on July 28, Brownwood's new security dorm became a reality.

The 29-bed security dorm replaced an older model security dorm, originally built in 1970 to house female offenders. The new dorm not only increases the number of security cells, but it includes many state-of-the-art features, including in-room plumbing and sprinkler systems, cuffing ports, and intercom capabilities. The enhanced

features on the new dorm will allow for better use of staff time and an overall increase in safety for both staff and students.

Currently, the older dorm is being used to house students in the process of being transported from one location to another. As a result of the use of the old dorm, Brownwood State School's Unit I population has increased from 328 to 348.

Submitted by Shelly Dobbins

McFadden Ranch Adopts Mascots

Programs at Work



Rancher and Ranger keep good company at McFadden Ranch with one of their many fans.

McFadden Ranch, located in Roanoke, has long been the home for two very special occupants. Rancher and Ranger, abandoned littermates, made their way to the ranch in the spring of 1996 and immediately became the facility's only permanent residents, a.k.a. mascots. The dogs were probably drawn to the bustling activity of the boys who reside at the ranch. Everyone knows how well dogs and kids get along!

Rancher and Ranger perform many duties at the ranch. They are protective guard dogs that chase away stray animals and keep loose cattle out of the garden. They participate in recreational therapy with the youth, counsel kids during "time out" and warm secretaries' feet during the winter. Occasionally, they provide comic relief; such as the time Rancher absconded with a box of dog biscuits, carried them into the center of a core group, set them down and patiently waited for help in opening the box! The group of youth pointed out Rancher's Thinking Errors and gave solutions for the future.

The dogs help teach important lessons to the youth, such as empathy. One of the dogs was run over by a truck and the driver didn't stop. When asked why he didn't stop, the driver replied, "It's just a dog". One of the youth overheard his answer and quickly responded, "Quit justifying!" Most of the youth wanted to "huddle-up" the driver and were truly concerned about the dog's injuries. Luckily, the dog was only bruised and enjoyed a lot of care during his recovery.

Volunteers supply dog food, medical care and daily attention to the dogs. Since the ranch is located in the country, the dogs have run-ins with other animals and the occasional barbed-wire fence. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated veterinarian who donates immunizations, sutures and medication whenever the dogs need it. At any given time, one of the youth serves as the "Dog Warden" and is responsible for feeding, grooming and reporting injuries of the dogs. This position is appointed to a youth that staff feel will benefit the most from the relationship with the dogs. Some of the most difficult good-byes are when a dog warden is released and must leave the dogs behind.

(continued on page 9)

Bell County Facility Keeps Busy

Youth at the Bell County Juvenile Detention Facility, a TYC contracted program located in Killeen, have been busy with a variety of activities. The Attorney General's Office conducted a Resource Fair at the Bell County Juvenile Detention Facility in July for TYC students and county residents. Representatives of the United States Army, Central Texas College, Temple College, Texas Workforce Commission, MHMR, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Families in Crisis, Child Protective Services and Child Support Division provided information and resources to those attending.

Each resident who attended the Resource Fair received a 460-page Youth Resource Manual published by the Office of the Attorney General. This manual contains information from education and job training to nutrition and child support. These Resource Fairs are conducted regularly at all TYC facilities across the state by the Attorney General's Office.

The facility's Drill and Dance team performed in the second annual TYC Talent Show held in Austin, Texas. In September, the team participated in a program sponsored by Fort Hood at the Palmer Auditorium in Austin. The team has been invited back to perform at other functions at Fort Hood. Additionally, the Drill and Dance team was one of two opening acts for the Seattle Sea Hawk Cheerleaders. The Bell County Team performed two routines and at the end of the program, the girls had group pictures taken with the Sea Hawk Cheerleaders.

Captain Dylan Lustick in the Community Relations Office at Fort Hood is working with members of his staff and other armed forces units to adopt the Bell County Facility. Captain Lustick is also a member of a fraternity, and his fraternity brothers have volunteered to work with the Drill and Dance Team to help them develop new moves and routines.

Glenda Anderson, TYC Quality Assurance Specialist for Bell County, has taken on a project of obtaining library books and videos for the TYC residents. Anderson has made contacts with the Killeen Public Library, Harker Heights Public Library and local churches. She has received book donations from these sources and has started a book and video exchange program with the Killeen Public Library. These resources have added a new dimension to the Bell County Program.

Submitted by Glenda Anderson

McFadden Ranch Adopts Mascots *(continued from page 8)*

The dogs provide an excellent source of unconditional love and they have an uncanny way of knowing when a youth is upset. When an angry youth is sent to the time out bench to calm down, one of the dogs will walk up and lie at his feet. Many times the youth's trembling hand will drop down and begin gently stroking the dog's fur. Their mere presence can sometimes say what a counselor's words cannot.

When asked about the dogs, McFadden youth will say that the dogs are fun, keep them company and listen to their feelings without giving "feed-back". Rancher and Ranger are one of the many ingredients that make McFadden Ranch a special program. The dogs have touched the lives of countless youth and taught lessons as they played with the kids. The next time you visit the ranch, make sure to bring a treat for these hard-working dogs!

Submitted by Jackie Davis

Eastern Service Area, Corsicana Involve Parents to Help Youth

HOUSTON - The Eastern Service Area, along with its Parent Involvement Program, sponsored the seventh annual Parent Workshop on September 23, 2000, at the Judson Robinson Community Center. The theme focused on "Families Moving Forward." The workshop serves as a forum for sharing information and enhancing the knowledge and skills of TYC parents.

The Keynote speaker was Sandra Cloud, Parent Educator with the Alief Independent School District and Executive Director of Family Network Support System, Inc. Cloud spoke about cultivating a winning parent image and shared several anecdotes. Cloud stated, "Parents must remember that change is a process, not an event." The parents in the Eastern Service Area are making the change by leaving the past behind and moving forward to be the experts on their own children, learning to improve family relationships, and working in communities.

Another workshop highlight was Cynthia Darthard, a TYC parent and volunteer who presented a personal perspective entitled, "Out Free, Now What?" Other speakers included Parole Officers Sherrell Kivumbi and Todd Novak and Education Liaison Vernon Broussard. Two former TYC youth shared their success stories and offered tips for parents. After hearing the stories, the parents who attended said they felt more hope and encouragement.

Submitted by Carolyn Rogers - Eastern Service Area

CORSICANA - The Corsicana Residential Treatment Center held its first annual Goofy Olympics Sept. 15 to kick off its new family involvement program. Caseworkers personally invited families of 60 youth to attend the special event. A total of 86 family members and 15 volunteers attended. The first half-hour of the event started with a visitation between the families, volunteers, TYC staff, and the youth.

The youth participated in Olympic-style recreational activities while their families looked on. Parents were able to see that the interaction between the youth and TYC staff was positive and team-oriented.

Program Administrator Kimberly Fowler states, "We wanted the families to be able to see their youth doing something positive. We believe that to reduce the recidivism of these youth we have to aid in family repair and help the families begin to understand the emotional nature of the youth that will eventually be back in their care."

Following the activities, all guests, youth, and staff adjourned to the gazebo for a barbecue and continued visitation time. "Part of rebuilding the relationship is getting the families involved in the youth's success and helping them start communicating about the good instead of the bad. From there we can start to talk about the hard truths of family dynamics and the health of family relationships," Fowler said. The facility plans to hold four such events during the year.

Submitted by Kimberly Fowler

San Saba Youth Demonstrate Leadership Skills

On September 19, 2000, 52 San Saba youth graduated from Project RIO-Y. Six out of the 52 completed the leadership program offered by Ms. Lane Yardley, the RIO-Y Workforce Development Counselor. Part of the leadership program is to plan and organize a big event, such as a graduation. The group of six leaders stepped up, with help from Ms. Yardley, to plan the RIO-Y 2000 Graduation.

Guest speaker and Project RIO-Y Director, Lane Roos, explained what RIO-Y and the Texas Workforce is doing for youth and the important skills that are gained through completion of the program. Assistant Superintendent Marian Deans gave the closing remarks in which she expressed her congratulations and approval to all 52 youth, as well as thanking counselors and staff for their ongoing support. The ceremony ended with refreshments provided by Ms. Kraft and Aramark.

The program was a big success, showing how youth can come together to accomplish a common goal. Events like this can develop problem-solving skills, build self-esteem, and help others. Ultimately, this would instill and support values aimed toward successful living.

Submitted by Gilberto - a youth at San Saba State School

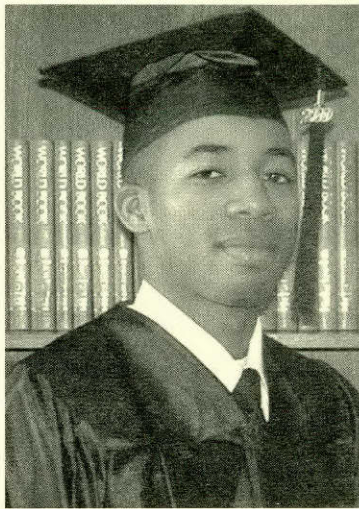
Hamilton State School Hosts TDCJ Training for S.T.A.R. Teams



TYC Special Tactics and Response (S.T.A.R.) teams from Hamilton and San Saba State Schools recently participated in emergency response and riot control tactics training provided by TDCJ on the Hamilton State School campus. The training provided the S.T.A.R. Teams with a better understanding of how to handle such volatile situations in the safest most effective manner.

Valedictorian Address

From the Front Line...



VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS
*BRANDON DAVIS, Jefferson
County State School*

The guest editorial in this issue comes from TYC youth Brandon Davis who recently graduated as valedictorian at Jefferson County State School, a local designation for the graduating student of this particular group who achieved the highest GPA while earning a high school diploma. While few students accomplish the requirements for a diploma, we are very proud of those who complete both the required coursework and the TAAS exit exam.

Good evening ladies and gentleman, family, friends, as well as staff and graduates. First and foremost, I would like to take time to thank all of the families and other motivational supporters who are here with us tonight, as well as those who couldn't make it. I would like to say that it is an honor to be named Jefferson County State School Valedictorian for the class of 2000. Despite the circumstances of being incarcerated, I have come to realize that many of my fellow students don't value their lives, others' lives, don't have goals or realistic dreams, and aren't aware of their many strengths. Most of us approach incarceration as cynical, pessimistic, and view the world as our personal enemy. I can identify because I used to view life from that same perspective. As I matured over these last few years, I've come to realize that being incarcerated is a form of cleansing, a new beginning, and a challenge. I have come to know that if you focus on what you have, you will end up possessing more. If you focus on what you lack, you will never have enough.

Gratitude is an attitude that every one possesses. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. The question I ask is this: If we have no

(continued on page 13)

Valedictorian Address *(continued from page 12)*

plans for tomorrow, how can we prepare ourselves for today?

Every one of my fellow graduates who will walk this stage tonight to receive their G.E.D. or high school diploma will eventually be released into society. These are some of the things that we all need to ponder. The main issues we need to focus upon are choices, decisions, and consequences. Inside each of us lies the dark and light. Our choices determine our fate. I've learned that if we judge people, we leave no time to love them. The society we live in is so busy judging each other's lifestyles, we leave no room to open up and learn to love someone outside of ourselves. Before we love someone else, we have to learn to first love ourselves. When you love, you must also learn to forgive individuals. Forgiveness is not the misguided act of condoning irresponsible, hurtful behavior. Nor is it the superficial turning of the cheek that leaves us feeling victimized and martyred. Rather it is the finishing of old business that allows us to experience the present free of contamination from the past.

Before I leave you, I would like to read to all of you a passage I read on wisdom. It is called "The Power of One"

I am only one man but...

There was a man who spent his life in poverty. He was born to humble parents and never traveled further than 200 miles from his home. He had an impact upon mankind that has never been equaled. His name was Jesus.

I am only one man but...

There was a man who believed that people should be free. He denied himself the many luxuries of life, even though he possessed a college degree that allowed him to practice law. Because of him, millions of his fellow countrymen were able to rid themselves of foreign colonial oppression.

His name was Ghandi.

I am only one man but...

There was a man who took to heart the words of Abraham Lincoln that "all men were created equal." His belief in civil disobedience and non-violent social change led an entire nation to a rebirth.

His name was Martin Luther King Jr.

I am only one man but...

There was a man who spent nineteen years in prison doing hard labor, because he believed his fellow countrymen deserved equal rights. His beliefs had him branded a "traitor" and yet, despite torture, and deprivation, his faith was so strong that after nineteen years of inhumane treatment, he became president of a new, free republic.

His name is Nelson Mandela.

It is true that I am only one man, but I can make a difference...

Thank you for your time,
Good night and God bless.



Brenda Barnett (seated left) and Nancy B. Jones were honored as outstanding public employees by the Texans Caring for Texans.

Amarillo Parole Employees Honored

Congratulations go out to Amarillo District Parole Officer Nancy B. Jones and Secretary Brenda Barnett who were honored as Outstanding Public Employees at the Texans Caring for Texans recognition ceremony, held at the Amarillo College Business and Industry Center on August 24, 2000.

Guest speaker, Texas Speaker of the House James E. "Pete" Laney, D-Hale Center, told the crowd, "The greatest reward for public service...is the personal satisfaction and the fulfillment of knowing that your work is making a difference in people's lives."

Ms. Jones and Ms. Barnett joined TYC in December 1999, and have worked as a team to established rapport with Amarillo-area law enforcement, courts, schools, social agencies, parents and others in the community. According to J. Ed Edmister, TYC parole supervisor for western Texas, "These individuals have provided the Amarillo Parole Office and the communities of Potter and Randall counties with needed stability in the supervision of juvenile parolees."

Submitted by J. Ed Edmister

Our Staff

Steve Robinson Honored by Colleagues

Texas Youth Commission Executive Director Steve Robinson returns from a Kentucky-based leadership development program with a new distinction - "Class Leader."

Mr. Robinson spent part of October as a Henry Toll Fellow in Kentucky. The Henry Toll Fellowship Program, sponsored by The Council of State Government, brings together 40 of the brightest and best state leaders each year from the three branches of government. They receive interactive training and education directed by a faculty of experts from across the country.

Mr. Robinson was elected Class 2000 Leader by his Toll Fellow colleagues. As Class 2000 Leader, he will return to Kentucky next fall and give a speech to the Class of 2001. Mr. Robinson said he had a wonderful time participating in the program.

The fellowship is named for Henry Wolcott Toll, the founder of The Council of State Governments, who served in the Colorado Senate during the 1920s when much of the Legislature was controlled by the Ku Klux Klan. Toll led the fight to defeat the Klan and its agenda. He served as The Council of State Government's first executive director through 1938, and as the organization's president until his death in 1975.

Mr. Robinson was nominated for the fellowship honor by then-Governor George Bush.

Submitted by Pamela Ward

Arturo Subia Retires after 27 Years

On August 25, 2000 with mixed emotions, family, friends and coworkers of West Texas State School Maintenance Supervisor Arturo "Tudy" Subia came together to bid him "Happy Retirement," after 27 years of service with the Texas Youth Commission.

Mr. Subia came to work as summer help at the West Texas Children's Home (WTCH) in 1966, and took his first full-time position with TYC as a groundskeeper in the WTCH Maintenance Department in 1973. Since then, Tudy has worn many hats, including Maintenance Mechanic, Motor Vehicle Mechanic, Electrical and A/C Mechanic, Maintenance Foreman, and finally in April of 1993, Maintenance Supervisor.

The campus of West Texas State School saw many improvements during Tudy's tenure, such as the 1994 installation of a wastewater treatment pond, and the WTSS receipt of the Region 7 Water Quality Award from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC), in 1998. Tudy also served many years as chief of the WTSS/Pyote fire brigade, providing fire-fighting services to the WTSS campus as well as the community of Pyote, Texas.

At a luncheon held in his honor, Tudy was presented with an engraved clock, a portable camping stove and a plaque thanking him for his dedication and service to the Texas Youth Commission and the troubled youth of Texas.

Submitted by Donna Garcia

Lynn Durrenberger Recognized for Food Service Systems

Lynn Durrenberger, Chief of Nutrition Services, received national recognition in two magazines, INSIDER, an international publication of the American Correctional Food Service Association (ACFSA) and CORRECTIONAL FOOD SERVICE magazine, for the comprehensive nutrition and food service inspection, monitoring and training system that she has developed and implemented.

Durrenberger, the co-chair of the Dietitians in Corrections committee of ACFSA, spoke at the organization's international conference last year where she reviewed the system with over 600 people in a presentation entitled "QA/QC in Nutrition and Food Service". Since that time she has taken additional steps to enhance food service systems within TYC. The new automated system will enable sites to use software to generate useful reports including recipe sizing, production schedules, shopping lists, and nutrient analyses of menus reflecting food brands actually used. The comprehensive inspection system, coupled with the new automated system, will ensure youth have proper nutritional care, the agency remains in compliance with standards mandated by the American Correctional Association, the Texas Food Establishment Rules, and the National School Lunch program/National School Breakfast Program, and programs remain funded in the amount of \$6 + million per year.

Through collaboration with Systems Analyst Michael Francis, an automated system for nutrition and food service is being developed for fiscal year 2001. A pilot for the new automated system ran successfully from July through September 2000 at Crockett State School with the assistance of Food Service Manager Fredia Hutcherson and Business Manager Thomas Phillips.

Tenure Awards & Tributes

Tenure Awards for Fiscal Year 2000

30 Years

Giddings State School

Walter Stevens

25 Years

Cottrell House

Robert E. Louis

Giddings State School

Carol Carmean

Chester Clay, Jr.

Jo Ann Bradshaw

Karen Siegmund

Larry Reue

Marilyn Alexander

Gainesville State School

Billy D. Liddell, Jr.

John A. Powell

20 Years

Brownwood Complex

Betty J. Kennedy

Joe H. Reno

May J. Sutton

Oliver Hair

Willie L. Morgan

Central Office

Marie Murdoch

Stanley C. DeGerolami

Cottrell House

Travis Wortham, Jr.

Corsicana RTC

David Farr

Crockett State School

Arthur L. Murphy, Jr.

James L. McCullough

Michael W. Tutt

Eastern Service Area

Debra A. Bickerstaff

El Paso Parole

Benjamin Martinez

Evins Regional Juvenile Center

Elita Ellison

Giddings State School

Anthony Francis, Sr.

Darrell Sanders

Dinah Akin

Francisco Soto

Milton Hobbs

Sam Rogers

Stanford Patridge

Gainesville State School

Vicky L. Tuggle

Marlin Orientation & Assessment Unit

Robert Henderson

San Antonio District Office

Juan A. Deleon, Jr.

Schaeffer House

John D. White

Tyler Parole Office

Sharon A. Hambrick

Victory Field Correctional Academy

Albert B. Benson

West Texas State School

Linda M. Brady

Manuela U. Dunham

Mary P. Taggart

15 Years

Brownwood Complex

Aleta L. Lowe

David W. Tyler

Don L. Stephens

Jerry M. Jameson

Melvina E. Hughes

William K. Croft

James C. Hampton

Central Office

Joyce Gremillion

Judy Briscoe

Sandra Norwood

Corsicana RTC

Birdell Toliver

Don Owen

Linda Smith

Terry Thomas

Thelma Neal

Crockett State School

Randy L. Woolley

Thelma L. Jolly

Theodore B. Shorten, Jr.

Thomas Phillips

Giddings State School

Magarita Soto

Glenn Kurio

Johnnie R. Moore

Peggy Ott

Ted Wolridge

Gainesville State School

Doris F. Rippey

Elsie McKinney

Gerrie A. Burr

Karen K. Bates

Monty G. Womack

Ora J. Phillips

Prudence D. Mack

Sidney H. Riley

Hamilton State School

Terry Williams

Midland Parole

Mark S. Shaw

San Antonio Parole

Larry Griffin

Tamayo House

Homer S. Gonzalez

West Texas State School

Jennie L. Clark

Jose A. Morales

Joseph M. Mohler

Mickey Clark

Romalisa J. Martinez

Roy M. Gray

Scott F. Lindsey

Tommie Young

Wilmot R. Bridges

Yolanda Salgado

10 Years

Ayres House

William C. Wilborn

Beto House

Maria Cantu

Brownwood Complex

Joe Mena

John Langley

Barbara S. Henderson

Buddie H. Latham

Christy L. Doyal

Glenda J. Schenk

Ira C. Hull

Jonathan W. Desemar

Juan M. Arreola-Hurtado

Linda Loyd

Linnie K. Fagan

Mack G. Alford

Nancy Adams

Raymond M. Scalf

Robert J. Harrell

Rolanda D. Burchett

Syble L. Thompson

William W. Reece

Central Office

Annette Lovett

Carolyn J. Rogers

Cynthia Park

Daniel Hamer

Melissa Headrick

Patricia Hayes

Shirley Cochran

Corsicana RTC

Kelly Jenkins

Lucy Floyd

Scott Jessie

Cottrell House

Wallace Smith

Crockett State School

Willie Parker

Debbie K. Smith

Edward P. Goodnight

Gene C. Roberson

Harold P. Clebourne

Jack H. Burns

John L. Lockhart

Larry R. Young

Robert A. Cummins

Will A. Moore

William D. Dykes

Dallas Parole

Paul Ruiz

Steven Ota

Evins Regional Juvenile Center

Blanca E. Soto

Carlos Garza

Joel Lara

Margot Chapa

Mary Vargas-Ybarra

Orlando Zepeda

Santiago Quintanilla

Santiago Reyes

Ft. Worth Parole

Jeffrey Manuel

Harlingen District

Alan Maria

Houston District

Helen George

(continued on page 17)

Tenure Awards (continued from page 16)

Houston District cont.	Cecil Whitehead	McFadden Ranch	Victory Field Correctional Academy
Delphine Decuir	Elfriede Stockl	Britton Canary	Robert H. Smith
Julian Hinojosa	George Allen Perry	Edward Garza	
Gainesville State School	Jane Anderson	Northern Service Region	West Texas State School
Alfred Johnson, Jr.	Juana Faye Moore	Clyde McClatchey	Cynthia R. Titus
Dennis A. Westerlin	Maxine Cooper	Eugene Edwards	Elvira Garcia
Hector J. Cervera	Ralph Beard, Jr.	San Antonio District	Frank L. Rios
Howard C. Stone	Ramon Campos	Karen Turcotte	Henry N Hicks
Marsha R. Harris	Rayfield Benson	Rose Mary Gomez	Marcela Marengo
Rebecca B. Dimock	Tamara Coy	Patrick Williams	Mark S. Strickland
Ronnie D. Lewis	Troy Rudloff	San Saba State School	Nancy J. Jones
Sheena D. Berryman	Hamilton State School	Jimmy B. Flinn	Woody V. Randolph
Wayne B. Coats	James Henry	Michael A. Davis	Willoughby House
Giddings State School	Jean Tomlinson	Tamayo House	Naomi George
Cathy Cooper	Katherine Harrison	David Gomez, Jr.	
	Mary Henry		

Facilities Announce Employees of the Year

Over the past several months, TYC facilities have been recognizing their Employee(s) of the Year, 2000. Among those outstanding employees, Jackie Davis, Secretary III at McFadden Ranch, was selected by her coworkers because of her cheerful demeanor, her ability to successfully manage a variety of tasks simultaneously, and her endless willingness to take on additional responsibilities in her already busy schedule. Like her extraordinary colleagues around the state, Jackie has been an integral part of the TYC facility where she has worked since October 1995.

Executive Director Steve Robinson values our employees and praised, "TYC is truly blessed with a high quality work force, people who are dedicated to working with children...who believe in the underlying goodness in these children. I offer my sincere appreciation to all of our employees and my utmost gratitude and respect to our Employees of the Year."

The following employees were recognized as *Employees of the Year* in 2000:

Virna Perez, Independent Living Accounting Clerk, Ayres House, 3 years service
 Robert Blankenship, JCO IV, Brownwood Unit I, 3 years service
 Tresha Jordan, Human Resource Clerk V, Brownwood Unit II, 2 years service
 Pam Mathis, JCO III, Brownwood Unit II, 18 years service
 Willie Brown, Recreation Director, Corsicana Residential Treatment Center, 25 years service
 Harold Paul Clebourn, Caseworker II, Crockett State School, 10 years service
 Michele Williams, Case Aide, Dallas Parole, 3 years service
 Danny Ozuna, JCO IV, Evins Regional Juvenile Center, 6 years service
 Robert Dotson, JCO III, Hamilton State School, 2 years service
 Renita Jones, JCO III, Jefferson County State School, 4 years service
 Bobby Medlock, Quality Assurance Specialist, Northern Service Area QA, 6 years service
 Marian Michael Deans, Assistant Superintendent, San Saba State School, 5 years service
 Natalie Reeves, Caseworker, San Saba State School, 3 years service
 Bobby W. King, Principal, Victory Field Correctional Academy, 4 years service
 Jesse Nunez, JCO IV, West Texas State School, 3 years service

Volunteers in Action

Brownwood Council Raises Funds

The Brownwood Community Advisory Council raised much needed funds at an Arts Festival, held in the newly restored Railroad Depot. This two-day event originally began as the Pecan Valley Arts Festival, which has been an annual fundraising event for the Council for nearly two decades. Now that the old Depot has been renovated and is home to the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce, the festival's name, theme and location were changed to highlight Brownwood's newest attraction.

The fund-raiser netted \$600 for the Council. Funds raised from the event will be used to purchase holiday gifts for students at the State School. The booth provided the Council and the Texas Youth Commission facility positive community exposure.

Submitted by Shelly Dobbins

Hip-Hop Group Entertains at Evins

Judging from the applause, smiles and keen attention, it was clear to see that youth at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center enjoyed a performance by the Houston-based hip-hop gospel group, Eternal Praise Entertainment.

Mixing drama, rap, music and testimony, the group presented their play titled "Ill Gotten Gains" which depicted the rise and fall of a rap mogul. The three-person troupe depicted how drugs and gang life style might at first seem alluring but the ultimate result was misery and self-destruction. Presenters using the names "Profit X" and "Madame CJ" were the main characters in the hour-long presentation.

This was the group's first visit to Evins. However, they are not new to TYC facilities, as they have visited Giddings, Marlin and Hamilton. It was while the group performed at Marlin, that a youth heard about them and after transfer to Evins, he wrote a letter inviting them to visit the Evins facility. Eternal Praise then contacted staff, and arrangements were initiated.

Submitted by Raul Arredondo

Gainesville Recognizes Contributions of Volunteers

The Gainesville State School recently held its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for volunteers. Superintendent Eduardo Martinez welcomed the volunteers, praising their contributions to the facility.

The appreciation luncheon was dedicated to the memory of volunteer Jim Reed who passed away recently. His wife, Jean Reed, stressed the importance of volunteer work at the school by recalling Jim's devotion to "his" students.

Texas Youth Commission Executive Director Steve Robinson, in his keynote address commended the volunteers for their efforts in making a difference in the lives of the students. He reported that the Gainesville volunteers contributed more than \$163,000 in volunteer service and other donations at Gainesville this past fiscal year.

Kanita Maxwell, master of ceremonies and president of the Gainesville State School Community Advisory Council, expressed her sincere thanks to all the volunteers and council members for "bridging the gap" between the agency and the community. Coordinator of Volunteer Services Fidel Garcia stated that Gainesville State School has the largest volunteer program among TYC institutions, with volunteers coming in from as far away as San Antonio, Lubbock, Dallas, and Oklahoma.

Wearing white long sleeved shirts and black bow ties, several students served the volunteers their meals to show their gratitude. The event took place in the school's cafeteria, which was decorated with a fall theme décor by Judy Fuller, Kanita & Mack Maxwell and Ann Ramsey.

Award plaques were presented to Richard Fuller as Outstanding Employee Volunteer; Mike Hines for Outstanding Religious Individual Volunteer; Noteworthy Ministries for Outstanding Volunteer Group; Concord Missionary Baptist Church as Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group; Jim and Jean Reed as Outstanding Individual Volunteers; Wayne Coats, Spirit Award; and Julie Wyatt for the Shining Star Award.

Community Advisory Council members and officers also received a plaque in appreciation for their service. Other Central Office administrators attending the luncheon were Director of Juvenile Corrections Marie Murdoch and Media Services Coordinator Dennis Payne.



Executive Director Steve Robinson awards Gainesville volunteer Julie Wyatt the Shining Star Award for her outstanding contributions to the facility and students.

Vernon Holds First Volunteer Banquet

Community volunteers were recognized during the First Annual Victory Field Correctional Academy Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, held at Calvary Baptist Church Family Life Center on Sept. 26. More than 100 volunteers and staff attended the event. Texas Youth Commission Executive Director Steve Robinson delivered the keynote address. He commended the volunteers in reaching out to the cadets of Victory Field. "There is no more valuable gift than one's time," Robinson said.

Volunteers and community supporters were presented certificates of appreciation as well as individual gifts. Rev. Derrell Patterson, former pastor of First United Methodist Church, was named the Outstanding Religious Individual. The honor of Outstanding Religious Group was awarded to the twelve Adopt-A-Group churches: First Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church, Central Christian Church, Second Baptist Church, Carpenter's House, First United Methodist Church, Holy Family Catholic Church, Calvary Baptist Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Faith United Methodist Church, Wilbarger Street Church of Christ and First Presbyterian Church.

Leon Speer was named Outstanding Individual Volunteer and Casandra Snow was honored as Outstanding Employee Volunteer. The Spirit Award was presented to Lt. Jack Whipple, JCO IV. Thirteen local community supporters were recognized for their ongoing support of the cadets, staff and volunteers at Victory Field. Those recognized included: Wright Brand Foods, Inc., Rhodia, Inc., AEP/West Texas Utilities, Gibson's Discount Center, United Supermarket, TXU Electric and Gas, Larry Drennan/Southwestern Bell Telephone, Bank of Vernon, Herring National Bank, Waggoner National Bank, Joe Rogers/Village Inn, Sweet Delights and E. Paul and Helen Buck Waggoner Foundation.

Others in attendance were Directors of Juvenile Corrections, Alan Steen and Marie Murdock, Administrator of Volunteer Services Tammy Vega, Administrator of Chaplaincy Services John Stutz, Victory Field Superintendent Jerome Parsee and Victory Field Coordinator of Volunteer Services Jean Bice.

Submitted by Jean Bice

Brownwood Students Enjoy Cookouts

During the summer months at Brownwood State School, students were treated to hamburger cookouts with all the trimmings, cookies, and punch. The cookouts are an annual tradition sponsored by the Community Advisory Council, local businesses, churches and civic organizations.

A total of ten cookouts were sponsored for twelve dorms, giving the students a break from their structured routines and an opportunity to visit informally with volunteers and community representatives. The students enjoyed the special activity and are already looking forward to next year's cookouts.

Submitted by Shelly Dobbins

Watermelon Blast Brings Relief at WTSS

Students and staff at West Texas State School got a break from the heat in August with a "watermelon feed" sponsored by the WTSS Community Advisory Council.

Students from each dorm participated in watermelon-eating contests, with JCO dorm supervisors serving as judges. Community Advisory Council members Julian Dawson, Gerald McGuire, B.F. Clark and Bill and Dottie Slattery were on hand to share in the festivities.

WTSS volunteer B. F. Clark, maintenance mechanic Robert Garcia and business manager Greg Rogers traveled to Coyocona, Texas to pick up 120 watermelons, fresh off the vine. August temperatures in West Texas routinely reach 100 degrees or more, so the ice-cold watermelon provided some much welcome relief from the heat, as well as a chance for staff, students and volunteers to have some fun.

"I enjoy seeing everyone having a good time. I think we (CAC) should consider making the watermelon feed a yearly event," said Clark. The West Texas State School Community Advisory Council marks its 17th anniversary in December.

Briscoe Shares Story of Hope

Focus on Youth

Judy Briscoe, who was TYC's Assistant Deputy Executive Director of Juvenile Corrections at the time, spoke to 12 graduates, family members, staff, volunteers and campus youth during the recent Corsicana Residential Treatment Center GED (General Equivalency Diploma) graduation.

As Briscoe talked about setting milestones and reaching goals, she told a story about a father who delivered a speech at a fund raiser for a school for children with learning disabilities.

The father spoke, "God does everything with perfection. Where is the perfection in my son Shaya? Where is God's perfection in a child that cannot understand things as other children do?" As the audience looked on in shock, the father answered, "When God brings a child like Shaya into the world, the perfection that He seeks is in the way people react to this child."

The father then related a story of when he and Shaya were in a park where boys were playing baseball. Shaya wanted to play and the father knew it would give him a sense of belonging, but that most boys would not want him on their team.

The boys agreed to let Shaya play and to try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning. The team was losing by six runs and the game was in the eighth inning. In the bottom of the 9th inning, the team was behind by two runs, and Shaya was scheduled to bat.

Surprisingly, the team gave him the bat. The pitcher moved closer and lobbed the ball softly. As Shaya missed, a teammate came up and together they hit the ball. The pitcher easily picked up the ball and threw it in a high arc to right field.

As everyone yelled to Shaya to keep running, and as the field players kept missing the plate to which Shaya ran, he reached 1st, 2nd and 3rd base before reaching home. All the boys from both teams lifted him on their shoulders, making him the hero. "That day," said the father softly, "eighteen boys reached their level of God's perfection." Briscoe concluded with, "Everyone in this room has made mistakes or done something they wish they could change. The key is to learn from our mistakes and make better choices."

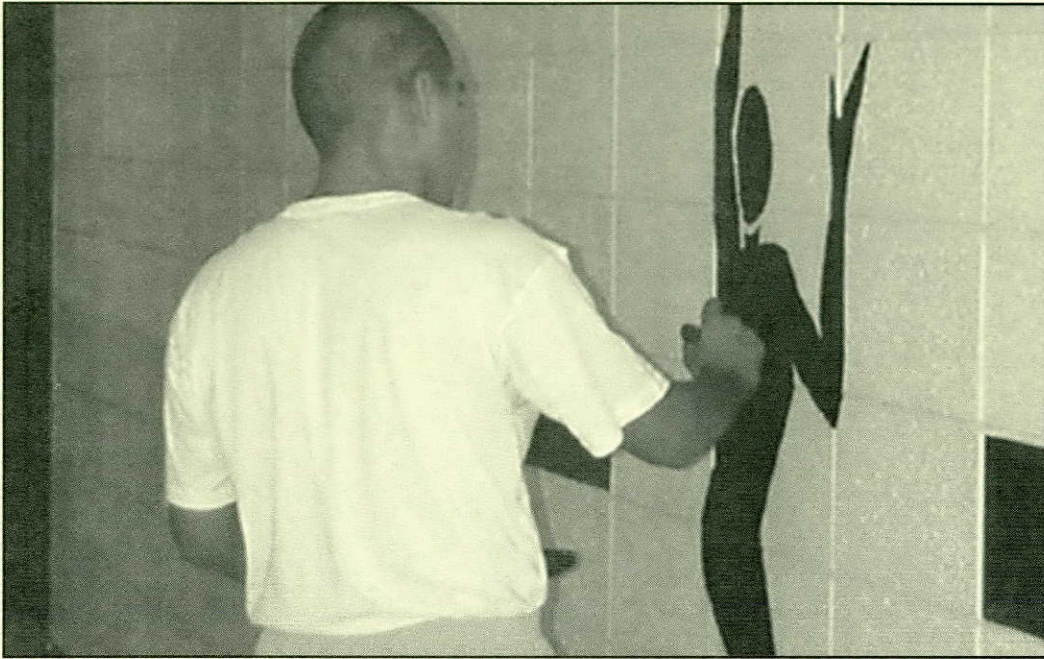
Dr. Don Brantley, Corsicana Superintendent; and Dr. Gerald Rosebure, Principal presented the diplomas. Brantley remarked, "These graduations are a real accomplishment for the youth and help them to make a life for themselves when they leave. It is also an accomplishment for the staff in Corsicana, both in education and on the dorms."

"Many youth come here way behind in their academic skills," Brantley stated, "and it's a real testament to the kids' efforts and staff efforts when they can succeed like this."

The Education Department sponsors the campus graduations. All graduates received monetary gifts from the Community Advisory Council, the non-profit board of volunteers who serve the youth and program.

Submitted by Lucy Humbert

Cadets Paint Mural



Three Victory Field Correctional Academy cadets painted abstract murals depicting sports figures at the King Physical Education Center at Vernon Regional Junior College. College officials voiced their appreciation of the cadets' behavior and manners while on their campus. The work of these talented cadets adds a special touch to the physical education building.

Students Excel During Marching Contest

Heads were turning and the movements were sharp as students from six dorms at Brownwood State School, Unit I, recently participated in a marching competition. The competition, sponsored by Assistant Recreation Supervisor Jeff Harrell, provided students an opportunity to display their coordination and marching skills, as well as their teamwork.

The dorms presented a fifteen-minute drill, led by a student drill leader and each team member had to meet certain eligibility criteria in order to participate. Performances were judged by administrative staff and the dorms taking top honors included: Trust dorm, first place, Success dorm, second place and Hope dorm taking third place.

Due to the success and popularity of the contest, plans are being made to sponsor the competition on a regular basis.

Submitted by Shelly Dobbins

Corsicana Students Participate in Walk-a-thon

The Corsicana Residential Treatment Center youth, along with community volunteers and staff, took steps to help end child abuse and neglect during the 3rd annual Walk for Families walk-a-thon. On September 23, they participated in the walk-a-thon and raised \$900 in funds donated and pledged for Parents Anonymous programs.

Staff and volunteers joined thirty-four youth as they walked a total of 136 miles during the hour-long walk-a-thon. Afterwards the participants enjoyed pizza, drinks and treats that were sponsored by community businesses and individuals.

Sponsors of the 2000 walk-a-thon included Corsicana Kiwanis Club, K-Mart Distribution Center Good News Committee, Corsicana National Bank (sponsored "Walk For Families 2000" caps for participants), Cici's

Pizza, Papa John's Pizza, and CRTC Community Advisory Council. Other sponsors included Dr. Pepper Bottling Co., P & S Pharmacy, St. John's Episcopal Women's group, Gillian Coulson, and Mike E. McCoy, CPA.

Parent's Anonymous of Texas, Inc, a nonprofit organization, has been involved in strengthening families and stopping child abuse for more than 25 years, providing services at no cost. Their services include parent support groups, children's programs, parent and adult recovery programs, and HEARTline (1-800-554-2323) a statewide crisis intervention telephone service offered free of charge to all Texas families - available from 9 am to midnight seven days a week.

Submitted by Lucy Humbert

Parolees Recognized for Presentation and Achievement

Three San Antonio parolees, Xiomara Hernandez, George Ramirez, and AuaLynn Gardner were recognized at a presentation ceremony held at the San Antonio District Office in September. The youth assisted Parole Administrator Christi Mallette and Program Administrator Sherma Cragg as presenters on a Panel for Crime and Delinquency Prevention at the Juvenile Justice Conference held in June. The parolees demonstrated how TYC helped them during their stay at a residential facility, and how parole expectations and supervision continue to keep them on a straight path away from crime and delinquency.

The youth talked about how the skills and knowledge they have learned helped them be successful on parole. The students also thanked their Parole Officers, Ericka Barrera

and Karen Denny Tillotson, for their influence, assistance and dedication.

Xiomara is now employed with Southwestern Bell and attends college. George was recently promoted to Assistant Manager at Direct Enterprises, a digital satellite company. AuaLynn is presently enrolled in the George Gervin Youth Building Program in San Antonio where she is learning housing construction. The parolees were presented with a \$50.00 stipend, issued from Sam Houston State University, sponsors of the Juvenile Justice Conference, as well as with a TYC certificate of appreciation. Dr. Tracy Levins and Christi Mallette presented the certificates.

Submitted by Dora Ramirez-Itz

Graduation Ceremony Teaches Unique Lesson

The September GED Graduation Ceremony at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center was, in itself, a learning event for graduates. Guest speaker Guillermo Medina, who is the Human Resources Director for the City of McAllen inspired graduates and audience with a simple lesson in self-determination. Before finishing his address, he asked all graduates to stand and space each other at arm's length. He then asked them to close their eyes. As they stood with eyes closed and arms outstretched, he asked them to take a step back, then a step to the left and then to the right.

Finally, he asked them to take a step to the front. After asking the youth to open their eyes, he asked them which step was the easiest

to take. Some youth replied, "To the front." Medina responded, "That is the lesson! You are not made to walk backward, or to the sides. Even with your eyes closed, it is easier to go forward." He then asked the youth to apply that exercise to real life. "If you ever run into obstacles. You must confront them head on. It is easier to go forward. Do not go around them or sidestep them or back away from them. If you do this and practice it, you will always be successful in you life."

TYC Superintendent of Education, Dr. Deborah Nance, joined Superintendent Butch Held and Assistant Principal Rosalinda Ruiz in presenting the diplomas.

Submitted by Raul Arredondo

Parolees Donate Fans across the State

This summer all across Texas, temperatures surpassed the 100-degree mark with the heat index rising to more than 105 degrees in some areas for weeks, with deaths attributed to the summer heat. The Texas Youth Commission decided to get involved in communities across the state.

The First Statewide Fan Drive was held this summer among all TYC Parole offices. The Fan Drive was so successful that it will be an annual event held every summer in collaboration with local agencies to help the elderly and needy families get through the summer heat wave. Parolees, who worked and earned their own money this summer, were given the opportunity of donating a new fan in exchange for community service hour credits.

Parole Offices in San Antonio, Houston, Ft. Worth, Dallas, Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Austin collected over 160 fans from participating parolees and donated them to various community agencies. Case Aids coordinated this effort in each of the Parole Offices. In Austin, the fans were donated to Family Eldercare and in

San Antonio the fans were taken to Central Fire Station for distribution to the elderly and needy families. In Houston more than 80 fans were distributed to the Houston Junior Forum Help Line for Seniors, and Sheltering Arms Senior Services Agency.

Parolees reported feeling good after doing something for someone who needed their help. Shonda Baines, an 18 year old youth from Houston, says she got involved in this fan drive because, "I always wanted to work with elderly people in a nursing home or program, even though I haven't had the chance. I now have an opportunity to give my help by providing this fan". In San Antonio parolees got their picture taken with the firemen from Central Fire Station. One of them requested a copy of the picture for his grandmother because as he stated, "my grandmother is not going to believe me unless I get her a picture".

*Submitted by Dora Ramirez-Itz
and Denise Kennedy*

First Annual Hamilton State School Talent Show

The Intercultural Awareness Committee of the Hamilton State School hosted the first annual talent show at the campus on September 18, 2000. The students were allowed an opportunity to demonstrate their unique talents to an audience that included both staff and higher phase students.

Chaplain Dan Warden entertained the audience between acts with magic tricks. In addition, Program Administrator Jean Tomlinson surprised everyone with her talent on the harmonica. Both individ-

ual students and groups presented a variation of performances, which included song, dance, and musical instrument acts.

Following the event, the ICAC members treated all students to cookies and punch. Award winners received a special meal, recognizing their courage and cooperation in making the event such a success.

Submitted by Nancy Jo Kuder

Students' Education Success Keeps Hamilton Staff Pushing

Over the last two years, 141 students at Hamilton State School have taken college courses through Blinn College of Bryan, Texas. The students have earned an average of six semester hours in everything from Anthropology to World Geography.

Some of those students have left TYC and are continuing to pursue college degrees. Some stay in contact with Hamilton employees. During stressful days, staff often view saved e-mails from former students. Somehow that always helps put everything back in perspective...

"I will continue to push forward for meaning in life as I progress toward my destiny and I think that all of you should know that I appreciate all the effort that was given to help me to do the right things in life."

"As time pushes me to prioritize my values and make wise choices, I have to first acknowledge the fact that I am no longer a kid...but an adult. It's not hard to apply one-

self to something productive, especially when that person has been taught to use his head in all situations." - Love always, Anthony

Anthony was committed to TYC at age 14 in 1993. His last school records were from the 6th grade. At Giddings State School, he earned his GED, and once at Hamilton, he earned his high school diploma and 24 college hours with an impressive GPA of 3.6. Anthony now lives in the community and attends Blinn College where he will have 36 college hours as of December.

Adrian arrived at Hamilton at age 17 with a three-year sentence. Here, in his own words, is Adrian's story:

Entering TYC as a 17-year-old senior was more onerous for me than what most people might have expected. In high school I held goals academically, but at a minimum standard. Now, after learning responsibility, perseverance and facing the reality of life, I've become mature to the point that I

TYC Students take Top Awards in Contest

In April, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) sent a contest announcement to 2,700 correctional professionals in the United States. The announcement asked that the staff working with detained or incarcerated youth assist youth to create innovative HIV and AIDS prevention messages through art and poetry.

San Saba State School teachers incorporated this contest into instructional units in Health, Science and Language Arts. Students composed poems, designed posters or researched science projects on AIDS prevention. Sixteen poems and seven posters from San Saba State School were entered in the second annual NCCHC art and poetry contest for incarcerated youth.

By the end of July, a panel of judges convened to select the winning entries. Monetary awards and certificates were awarded to youth that demonstrated excellent artistic abilities as either an artist or a poet, as well as delivered an effective HIV prevention message. San Saba State School is proud to announce that:

- Javier won a \$100 first place award for an outstanding and innovative poetry entry in the age category of 14 and under; and
- Randu won a third place award of \$25 for an outstanding and innovative poster entry in the age category of 15 to 17.

Of the 1000 plus entries, only 75 submissions were selected to receive certificates of recognition for honorable mention. Four San Saba State School students and three Jefferson County State School students received honorable mention certificates.

The winners from the top three youth for each age category for both poster and poetry were displayed at the NCCHC Conference in St. Louis, Missouri in September 2000. In addition, they will be featured in an article in the NCCHC quarterly newspaper, CORRECTCARE, and displayed on their website at, www.ncchc.org.

*Submitted by Connie Dewbre
and Dagmar Poteet*

Student's Education Success *(continued from page 26)*

hold my morals and goals at a much higher standard.

I've accomplished many things here at Hamilton State School. I believe that my key to these accomplishments is the advice I received from my father: "Don't try your best, always do your best." People have to understand that some are successful just because they are destined to be, but most people succeed because they are determined to. And I am determined to succeed! The college program here at Hamilton has put into perspective for me what I need to accomplish towards my future goals. This experience has been a great investment in that endeavor.

As of December 2000 I will have

acquired 44 college credit hours that will be accepted by Southwest Texas State University as part of my degree plan in Mass Communication. The last math course I passed was Calculus Math Analysis II. If all goes as planned, I will enter SWTSU in San Marcos as a junior in the fall of 2001.

- Excerpts from the September 2000 Hamilton State School education department newsletter

Senator David Bernsen Visits JCSS



Three Jefferson County State School youth pause for a moment with Senator Bernsen after showing him around the campus and explaining their TYC experience.

State Senator David Bernsen, (D-Beaumont), selected Jefferson County State School as one of the educational and correctional facilities he is touring before the legislative session reconvenes. TYC Deputy Executive Director Dwight Harris and Chief of Staff Joy Anderson accompanied Senator Bernsen, along with his Director of Special Projects Reginald Sutton. Three JCSS students assisted in explaining the agency's resocialization program.

On his first visit to a TYC facility, Senator Bernsen was very interested in the educational component of the program and how students progress within the system. The Senator stated that he would be back to visit again and was very impressed with the young men and their presentations.

Submitted by Rose Chaisson



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

