

# Texas Youth Commission Journal

News and information from throughout the agency.

March 1997, Spring Issue

4900 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78765

97-356

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to impact agency**  
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## TYC watching legislation which will impact agency

While more than 4,500 bills have been filed during this session of the Legislature, TYC staff is tracking over 600 pieces of legislation.

Executive administrators are following key legislative initiatives which will directly impact the agency.

Among those are:

**House Bill 1550** (Goodman) which would authorize TYC to accept youth with mental illness.

This bill is described as a "clean-up bill" for last session's HB 327.

It would require TYC to discharge youth with mental illness who cannot progress in TYC programs because of their illness or retardation -- if they are not determinate sentenced offenders and have completed their minimum length of stay.

This bill also allows TYC to release information to the public related to an escaped youth's identity and whether the youth is dangerous.

It further adds arson (if bodily injury or death results) to the list of determinate sentence offenses.

A substitute version *eliminated* authorization for TYC to administer psychoactive medication to youth who refuse to take medication voluntarily.

**House Bill 2074** (Hightower) and **Senate Bill 363** (Brown) is TYC's sunset legislation, which continues the agency's existence until September 1, 2009.

This legislation will require the agency to establish county pilot programs with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to allow pooling

of state and local funds to provide services.

Funds used would be offset by a reduction in the number of youth committed to TYC by participating counties. Goals, outputs and outcomes in residential services contracts; sanctions for breach; and accounting, reporting and auditing requirements would be established.

These bills also require TYC to apply for Medicaid benefits if it is cost effective in reducing health care costs.

Also included are provisions to require the governor to designate the chairman of the board; require board members to complete certain training before assuming duties; and require that a plan be developed to describe how a person who does not speak English can be provided access to TYC programs and services.

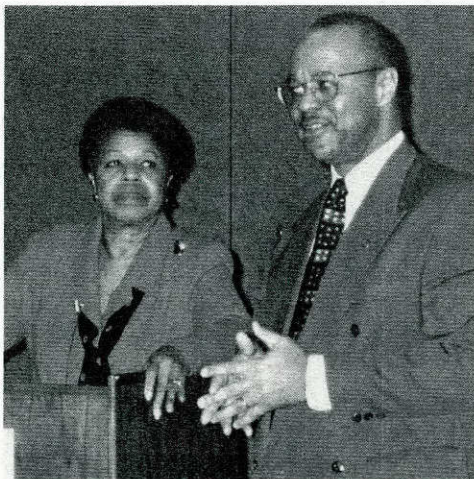
**House Bill 1756** (Telford) extends to TYC volunteers the same liability protection that is now provided to volunteers of other charitable and non-profit organizations.

**House Bill 2075** (Hightower) would clarify TYC's authority to obtain from DPS background information on employees, volunteers and employees of contract providers.

**House Bill 2082** (Hightower) would allow TYC to sell or lease agency treatment programs (such as resocialization) with proceeds being appropriated to the agency.

**House Bill 2152** (Allen) removes the

(Continued on Page 16)



DWIGHT HARRIS, TYC's assistant deputy director for juvenile corrections, introduces former State Representative Wilhelmina Delco, who spoke February 6 at the central office intercultural awareness committee's program in honor of Black History Month.

# 13th annual volunteer conference features outstanding speakers

The 13th annual TYC volunteer conference, held Feb. 21-23 at the Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, featured Dr. Sam Souryal as keynote speaker.

Speaking to nearly 200 conference participants, Dr. Souryal spoke on "Ethics and Criminal Justice."

"Legal ethics is a misnomer," said Dr. Souryal. "Laws can only deter us from doing wrong deeds, they cannot make us do good and honorable deeds."

He also spoke to loyalty at the workplace: "Loyalty to principles is more worthy than loyalty to persons," he declared.

Guest speaker for the noon luncheon was humorist Frank Minton, and Delvin Atchison, chairman of the Crockett volunteer council, was speaker at the awards brunch.

Atchison likened being a volunteer to "raking leaves against the wind."

Special entertainment provided by the Crockett Council was a barbecue dinner, catered by Gulf Coast Trades Center (a TYC contract program) in New Waverly, and a historical dramatic presentation entitled "Gone To Texas," featuring the flamboyant life of Sam Houston.

Twelve workshops were conducted during the event, ranging in topic from "Parenting -- A State of Emergency," to "Interns: The Untapped Resource."

Two special presentations featured Operation Kick-It by prison inmates and Voice of the Victims, with highlights from crime victims and the role they play in the victim empathy program at Crockett State School.

Guided tours to four adult prison units in Huntsville were given Friday afternoon.

The annual meeting of the State Volunteer Resource Council was also held Friday and included the election of officers for the coming year. (See Page 4)

A silent auction with more than 100 items for sale netted the Crockett council more than \$1,000 to help defray their portion of the expenses in hosting the conference.

The awards brunch included the

presentation of plaques to the agency's outstanding volunteers by Executive Director Steve Robinson, Chief of Staff Judy Briscoe, Deputy Executive Director for Juvenile Corrections Dwight Harris and two TYC board members: Pete Harrell of Austin and Pete Alfaro of Baytown. (See Pages 10-15)

A special guest for the awards brunch was State Representative Jim McReynolds.

## Agency annual report highlights critical issues

The 1996 TYC Annual Report, entitled "Back to Basics, now available for distribution, outlines current issues in TYC and the changes that have occurred within the agency.

The booklet highlights some of the critical issues now facing TYC. Copies are available in Research and Planning, according to Stacy McDonald, who did the research on the report with layout and design by Carolyn Rogers.

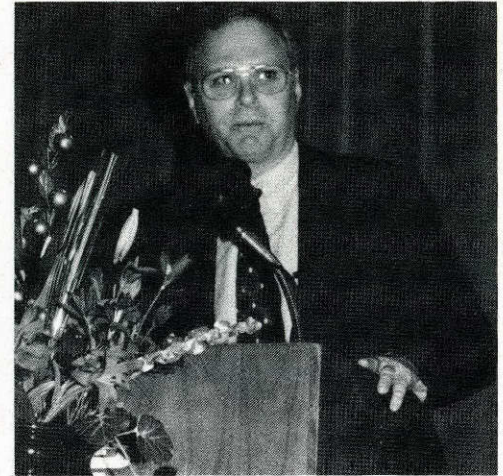
The 30-page report includes numerous graphics, photographs and maps to illustrate the agency's programs.

## New recreation policy being developed

Policy is being developed which will prohibit TYC staff members on duty from participating in recreational activities with youth, as a result of numerous staff injuries.

Since 1993, injuries resulting from staff participating in recreational activities with youth have resulted in 50 worker's compensation claims -- at a cost of \$100,000, said Richard MaCuk, TYC risk manager.

Field administrators are supportive of the new policy, and feel staff cannot provide adequate supervision while



STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIM McREYNOLDS of Lufkin was a special guest at the TYC volunteer awards presentations in Huntsville Feb. 23rd.

## EXPRESS-NEWS volunteers recognize GED recipients

The San Antonio EXPRESS-NEWS volunteer corps has donated \$25 to each of eleven TYC students at Ayres House and on parole in San Antonio after they have received their GED certificates, according to parole supervisor Dora Ramirez.

**TYC JOURNAL**

*published quarterly by the*  
**TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION**  
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**BOARD MEMBERS**

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# AROUND TYC

## Cooperative model developed to provide support services for West Texas

A cooperative plan to provide numerous support functions to residential programs in West Texas has been developed by a team from West Texas State School, Sheffield Boot Camp and Schaeffer House in El Paso.

The project was developed by Alex Escarcega, director of juvenile corrections/aftercare; John Franks, assistant deputy director of finance; and Eric Young, director of human resources.

The model includes consolidating budget reports, travel arrangements, travel vouchers, travel advances, laundry, risk management, plant and vehicle maintenance and repairs, purchasing, accounting, and staff training through staff in the West Texas business office.

Also included in the comprehensive shared model are human resources services, including personnel records, payroll processing, timekeeping reports, performance evaluations, recruitment, disciplinary action, and employee grievances and complaints.

Purpose of the consolidation is to lower costs and increase efficiency.

Under consideration is adding the Midland and El Paso district offices to the

model, and also including the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center, Bronte, a contract program for TYC females operated by the Wackenhut corporation, according to Franks.

The model was implemented March 1, 1997.

The next support model will be the "Central Texas Support Model" to include Brownwood State School, San Saba State School and the Brownwood Sanction Unit.

Escarcega pointed out that the Central Texas model may operate in a different manner than the Western model.

"We anticipate that the Central Texas plan may be similar to a corporation, with the three institution superintendents acting as a board of directors," he said.

The Central Texas model is scheduled to be in place by May 1, 1997, with a 90-day trial period to determine feasibility of the model.

The local purchasing limit will be increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 in both models through a waiver of policy.

## TYC prevention website receives recognition

TYC's Office of Delinquency Prevention has received several prestigious awards for its World Wide Web site, the Prevention Yellow Pages.

In November 1996, the Mental Health Net, the largest catalog of mental health, psychology and psychiatry resources online today, gave the Yellow Pages a two star award.

In January 1997, INFOSEEK, one of the busiest search engines on the Internet, listed Prevention's Yellow Pages in first place among 84,647 web sites on the topic of prevention.

Also in January, the Yellow Pages was selected as one of twenty educational web sites to receive the honor of "Best of January" given by Education World, and The Blue Web'n Learning Applications Library gave four stars. This recognition is reserved for the best instructional lessons, activities, projects, resources, references and tools on the Web.

The top ten countries to visit the Prevention Yellow Pages during the period of December 1, 1996, to January 17, 1997, were U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Israel, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, Singapore, and Norway.

Texas, Virginia, California, Ohio, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Washington and Michigan were the top ten states to visit the Yellow Pages during this period.

All 50 states and 43 foreign countries have downloaded information from TYC's web page.

## TYC participates in nationwide boot camp study

The Texas Youth Commission will be participating in a nationwide juvenile boot camp study involving approximately 15 states and funded by the National Institute of Justice, according to Dr. Chuck Jeffords, director of research and planning.

Principal investigator will be Dr. Doris MacKenzie with the University of Maryland's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Texas sites include the Sheffield Boot Camp, Schaeffer Halfway House in El Paso and contract boot camps in Hemphill and Texarkana. The Texas control group will be Brownwood State School.

The study consists of surveys of youth and direct care staff. Videotapes will be made at each facility, with youths' faces being blocked out for purposes of confidentiality.

The study will begin this summer and data will be collected through the summer of 1998.

Benefits of participation, according to Dr. Jeffords, include gaining program information, providing national exposure for TYC as a model program, and possible inclusion in a future study examining outcome effectiveness.

## State Council elects Bob Frisby of Corsicana as new chair

The State Volunteer Resource Council elected officers for 1997-98 during its annual meeting Feb. 21 in Huntsville, in conjunction with the 13th annual TYC volunteer conference.

Bob Frisby of Corsicana, who just completed a two-year term as vice chair, was elected chair.

Eva Burford of Houston was elected vice-chair and Rosie Abreu of San Antonio was elected secretary. Viva Miller of Crockett was re-elected for a second year as treasurer.

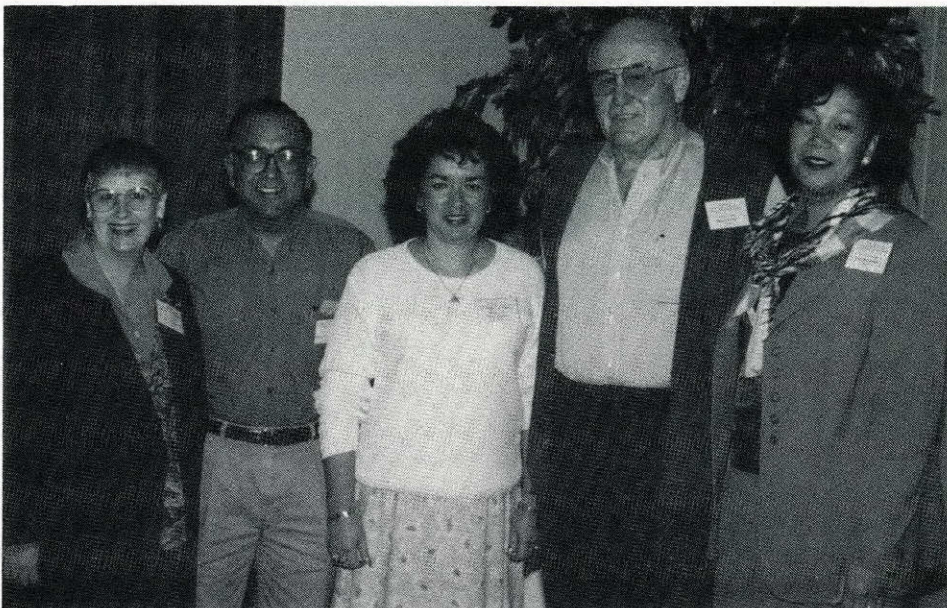
TYC Board Member Pete Alfaro administered the oath of office to the new officers during the conference luncheon Saturday, Feb. 22.

Outgoing officers Leo Rodriguez of Evins, chair; Frisby, and outgoing secretary Betty Kellar of Giddings were presented plaques of appreciation by TYC Board Member John Odam at the luncheon.

During the business meeting Feb. 21 the state council voted to provide funding of \$210 for rental of the capitol dining room of the state capitol for a reception in connection with National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 13-19. The request, made by Shirley Cochran, TYC victim services liaison, included an invitation for members of all TYC volunteer councils to attend the event at 7 p.m. April 13.

Representatives of each council made individual reports on activities at their local facility.

The State Volunteer Resource Council is made up of a representative from each of TYC's nineteen local volunteer councils. meets twice annually,



*ELECTED TO HEAD THE TYC STATE VOLUNTEER RESOURCE COUNCIL for 1997-98 are pictured here with TYC Board Member Pete Alfaro of Baytown, second from left. The new officers are, left to right, Viva Miller of Crockett, re-elected for a second year; (Alfaro); Rosie Abreu of San Antonio, secretary; Bob Frisby of Corsicana, chair; and Eva Burford of Houston, vice chair.*

## Hamilton, Victory Field hiring, training new staff

Youth began arriving at Hamilton State School in Bryan February 1, 1997, with population at 126 in four dorms, according to Superintendent Bob Woods. Capacity for the new institution will be 720 by the end of FY 1999.

Nearly 200 employees have been hired and many continue with training on campus.

The academic education programs will be operating on a half-day schedule until construction by prison inmates is completed.

Special services committee

meetings, core groups and cognitive life skills groups are occurring on schedule.

At Victory Field, Vernon, 71 staff have been hired with 23 receiving pre-service training from Vernon Regional Junior College.

Fifty-five employees are from Vernon and the surrounding area, although some staff members have transferred from other TYC programs, according to Superintendent Lemuel Harrison.

Employee orientation began March 1, followed by resocialization training and the Sgt. Henry Johnson Leadership training.

TYC will begin occupying one-fourth of the campus April 15 and will begin receiving youth shortly after that, said Harrison.

Capacity for the Vernon facility will be 336, including 48 females.

Opening ceremonies, including ribbon cutting activities, will be held for both new institutions this summer.

## Officials tour Sheffield Boot Camp

Officials from the South Texas area toured the Sheffield Boot Camp January 17 in conjunction with plans to open a day boot camp in the San Benito ISD. Also taking part in the tour were officials from the Sheffield-Iraan ISD.

They also attended graduation ceremonies and sat in on a level review board.

TYC officials who accompanied the San Benito group included Executive Director Steve Robinson, TYC Board Member Edna Tamayo, juvenile corrections directors Tom Tye and Alex Escarcega, and Dennis Payne, media manager.

## TYC training academy administration transferred to Corsicana February 1

The administration of the agency training academy and conference center has been transferred to Corsicana State Home, effective February 1, 1997.

Floyd Hall, who has been coordinating the training at that location, has been named director for the academy. Forty hours of pre-service training is held monthly for newly employed staff members.

Hall has been with the Youth Commission 15 years in the following programs: community resource specialist at Cottrell House; administrator of TYC's former boys' group home in Austin; administrator of TYC's former girls' group home in San Marcos; assistant superintendent at Willoughby House; and superintendent at York House.

He holds an MS degree from Abilene Christian University in human/personnel relations and management, and has 15 certifications in advanced training areas.



## Corsicana breaks ground for aquatic building

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a permanent cover over the swimming pool at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center were held in January. Completion of the project is slated for the end of March. The project was funded by money raised by the Community Advisory Council and Wende Funds. Taking part were, left to right, Lucy Humbert, volunteer coordinator; council members Billie Carroll and Mary Rozelle; Loran Seely, general contractor with Watkins Development Co.; Bob Frisby, council member and aquatic building project chair; Aline Marshall, council member; John Hopkins, business manager; council chair Lynn Anderson, council member Darrell Beauchamp; Roy Davenport, Corsicana maintenance supervisor; and Chester Clay, Corsicana superintendent.

## Victim involvement in TYC expected to impact operations

Bills pending before the state legislature may increase the number of victims the agency serves, said Executive Director Steve Robinson, "creating a dramatic impact on the way we do business."

"We may need to develop new policies and methods of operation as we continue to include victims in our release process," he added.

A new brochure outlining TYC Victim Services has been printed and is being distributed to all programs, according to Shirley Cochran, central office victim services coordinator.

TYC's current victim notification program was created as a result of Texas law giving victims of violent crimes the right to be informed when the offender is being considered for release under supervision (parole).

Effective January 1, 1996, the definition of "victim" was expanded to include property crimes.

Local law enforcement staff is responsible for informing victims of their rights; and most counties now offer services to victims, such as explaining rights, accompanying in court, and assisting with paperwork.

"Bexar County has historically filed more victim statements because of their pro-active approach toward victims rights," said Cochran. "However, TYC has received statements from counties throughout the state."

The document requesting notification is usually included in the packet that accompanies a youth to Marlin, although a victim may request notification at any time during the youth's stay at TYC.

Staff at TYC's Marlin Assessment and Orientation Unit flag the youth's master file in green, and send a copy of the victim's statement to Cochran. She in turn writes to the victim to acknowledge receipt of the statement and includes the date of the youth's commitment and the minimum length of stay.

She enters information into a database which she transmits to staff in Information Resources who include it in the automated movement report. This report is automatically sent to Cochran when a youth who has a victim statement moves within TYC, is released under supervision, or escapes.

When a committed youth is assigned to permanent placement, Cochran again

*(Continued on Page 8)*



*TYC BOARD CHAIRMAN Dr. Leonard Lawrence of San Antonio, Texas Youth Commission Board chairman, right, accepts a plaque in appreciation of his serving as guest speaker for Corsicana's Black history program from Superintendent Chester Clay.*

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### **TYC Board chair speaks at black history program**

Dr. Leonard Lawrence of San Antonio, Texas Youth Commission Board chairman, was guest speaker at the Corsicana black history program February 26.

"Keeping the Dream Alive" was the theme for the program, attended by 120 students, staff members and volunteers.

The "Praise Dancers" from the Corsicana ISD, under the direction of Audrey Burke, entertained, and state school students read biographies of various famous black Americans.

The program was sponsored by the Intercultural Awareness Committee, chaired by Rauslyn Canady.

### **MLK Day celebrated at Schaeffer House**

Schaeffer House celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with activities arranged by staff members Javier Reza and Jerome Green.

Residents traveled to the McCall Center, which houses a library collection dealing with African-American issues and history.

After returning to the halfway house, residents heard talks from resident Lindsey Griffin, Rev. James Millender, pastor of That Marvelous Light Baptist Church., and Johnnie Washington, president of the local NAACP. Ms. Washington provided a presentation on "Equality."

The day concluded with a buffet style dinner for residents and guests.

### **Central Office Cultural Awareness Committee**



*The TYC Central Office Intercultural Awareness Committee posed for this photograph recently. Pictured are, left to right, Glen McKenzie, chair; Lisa Anderson-Harrell, vice chair; Raymond Leach, Patti Hayes, Jimi*

*Chow, Charles Richards, Sandra Norwood, Monique Fisher, Dolly Galindo, Stacy McDonald, Sylvia Perez, Yolanda Hall, Michelle Pundt-Miller, Larry Groah, and Thomas Little.*

## New TYC administrators begin work

**CHRISTI MALLETTE** began her duties as parole administrator January 1, 1997. She replaces Jules Franklin, who transferred as director of training. Mallette has been employed by TYC since 1975. She began as a caseworker with the Crockett Wilderness Program.

Other positions have included camp director for females; CHINS camp director and director of the Fairfield independent operations camp; management auditor in central office; administrative assistant to the deputy director; and program administrator to the director of community services. Since last May she was worked as program assistant to the director of juvenile corrections and aftercare.

Mallette holds a BA in sociology from UT-Arlington, and an MS in criminal justice management from Sam Houston University.

**PATRICK McGEE** was named principal for the West Texas State School academic department and began his duties December 1, 1996. McGee has served as assistant principal since 1991, and has been employed at WTSS since 1987.

**DIANA MOLDER**, formerly case manager supervisor for the Ft. Worth office of TDCJ, assumed the position of Dallas parole supervisor January 15, 1997. She has also served as acting parole supervisor and contract monitor for TDCJ.

Molder earned a BS in criminal justice from Tarleton State University and holds an MA in social rehabilitation and social service from Sam Houston State University. She is certified as a licensed chemical dependency counselor and has taught a variety of courses at the Tarrant County Junior College.

Retired Army Command Sergeant Major **JAMES O. HARTSFIELD JR.** has been named captain for the TYC boot camp at Sheffield. He recently completed 30 years of military active duty at Fort Hood. Capt. Hartsfield also served as command major of the Frankfurt, Germany, military community where he provided guidance and

supervision for 60,000 soldiers, families and civilians in matters related to discipline, morale, health and welfare. He is currently finishing course work toward completion of his college degree in business management.

**JEROME PARSEE**, who worked as a youth activity supervisor and a caseworker at Brownwood State School from 1981 to 1988, has been named assistant superintendent at Vernon Victory Field.

Parsee also designed and implemented the behavior management program at Brownwood. In 1988 he went to Travis County as a juvenile probation officer. He also served there as detention shift supervisor, manager of residential services, and most recently as assistant chief of juvenile probation for detention services.

Parsee has a BS in sociology from Howard Payne University and a master's in sociology from Prairie View A&M.

Central office Rehabilitation Services has four new staff members.

**BRADLEY BERGESON**, former program director of the chemical dependency treatment program at Giddings State School, has been named chief of substance abuse.

Three new treatment specialists are **PAT LOGTERMAN**, former program director for the adolescent sex offenders unit at Meridell Achievement Center; **MARK BAUMGARTNER**, who has experience as a treatment provider for adolescents with chemical dependency and psychiatric problems; and **THOMAS LITTLE**, who has 20 years as a treatment provider for adolescents with mental illness, mental retardation and chemical dependency in San Antonio.

**BARTLEY CALDWELL**, formerly a nine-year staff member of the Corpus Christi State School, has assumed the duties of director of operations at York House, TYC's halfway house in Corpus Christi.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JIMMY FLINN** has been promoted to program administrator II

over casework at San Saba State School. He formerly served as caseworker III there, and prior to March of 1996 was employed at the Giddings State School as a youth activity supervisor and a caseworker.

**TONY KNEUPPER**, a former superintendent of schools at Devine ISD, Caldwell ISD and Thorndale ISD, has joined the central office education department as director of career & technology. He has also served as school principal at Luling and Bandera ISDs and assistant principal at Killeen ISD.

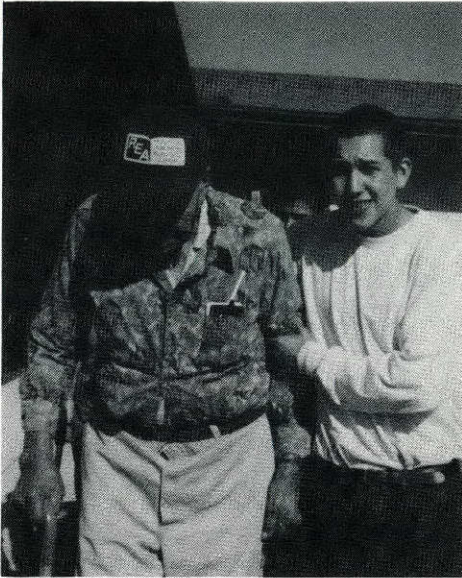
**J.D. RICH** is the new risk management specialist at Corsicana State Home. His responsibilities also include risk management at Gainesville State School, Victory Field, and the halfway houses and offices in the northern service area.

A new research associate in the research and planning department at central office is **CHRIS DE LA RONDE**. She holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Texas and has served as a research specialist with TXMHMR and TDHS.

New administrators at Brownwood are **DONALD DAVIS**, plant maintenance manager; **ERMA 'CHARLIE' ELLISON**, youth rights specialist; **MACK ALFORD** training specialist; **DOROTHY ROBERTS**, food services manager; and **CHERYL CAMPBELL**, Project Rio-Y specialist.

**SUSAN DESEMAR** has transferred from West Texas State School to Program Administrator II at the Brownwood Sanction Unit.

**TYC student Michael Green** recently participated in the San Antonio citywide CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) basketball championship tournament. The team, set up by his CD counselor Paul Trevino, went on to win first place, according to his parole officer



### Students Adopt Nursing Home

*Former Crockett State School employee Charlie Davis, now a resident of Whitehall Nursing Home, enjoys frequent visits from state students and volunteers, who have 'adopted' the nursing home. Shown here with Davis is student Josh Harvey.*

**(Continued from Page 5)**

notifies the victim of the movement and provides the name of the staff contact at that permanent placement, and a copy of this letter is sent to the facility, usually an institution or contract program.

At that point, TYC requires field staff to become responsible for notifying the victim in advance of release hearings, allowing sufficient time for the victim to provide a written statement or to make plans to attend the hearing.

There are currently nearly 200 victims listed in TYC's database.

"Most are victims of violent crimes, but many victims of property crimes have also asked to be notified of pending release," said Cochran.

Cochran concurred that the number of victim statements and requests for information is expected to increase as the victims rights movement continues to grow, as additional counties develop more comprehensive victim services programs, and as citizens become better informed of their rights under the law.

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### Crockett students 'adopt' nursing home

Students at Crockett State School and residents of Whitehall Nursing Home in Crockett have many things in common: both groups experience feelings of loneliness and despair; and approximately 60 percent have no regular family visits.

Consequently, the statewide 'Adopt A Nursing Home' Program fills the needs of both groups of residents. The program matches groups of volunteers with nursing homes to help enrich the lives of the nursing home residents.

Crockett youth who are members of the Crockett choir volunteer to sing and visit three local nursing homes each month. The choir is under the direction

of adult volunteer Kathy Hollis.

The interaction helps build self worth, bridges the generation gap and offers encouragement to both groups.

Whitehall Nursing Home residents were invited to the Crockett State School family center during Christmas and treated to dinner, hugs, smiles, Christmas cards and goodies from the youth. The nursing home residents designed a giant poster board card signed by each for the youth.

One of the highlights of their trips to Whitehall is visiting with Charlie Davis, who worked as a night watchman at Crockett State School many years ago. He and his wife worked with the female offenders.



### San Saba students provide community service

*San Saba students (left to right) Billy Nichols, Alonzo Pipkins, Matthew Lee and Christopher Castaneda prepare flower beds at Mill Pond Park in San Saba during a community service project.*



### Student Talent Show

The Brownwood student council staged a campus-wide talent show featuring students and staff called "Christmas Among Friends." The top three performers were awarded ribbons and photographs. Shown here are students Steven Cosper and Carlos Mims, who took second place with their performance of "There's No Business Like Show Business."



### 42 students receive GED's in Crockett ceremony

Forty-two students participated in GED graduation ceremonies at Crockett State School January 24.

More than 100 family members and guests attended. Guest speaker was Kevin Johnson, D.A.R.E. officer for Houston County.

Presentations were made by Superintendent Rey Gomez and TYC Superintendent of Education Dr. Judy Huffty.

Jane Richmond is GED coordinator.

A reception hosted by the community advisory council followed the ceremony. Each student received a framed 8x10 photo, courtesy of the volunteer council.

### Postal employees donate cards

The Post Offices' Tri-County Employee Involvement Group at Marlin donated 600 Christmas cards for youth at the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit to send to family members back home.

The group also regularly donates undeliverable newspapers, books and magazines to the unit, and hosted a Christmas party at one dorm.

Adam Reeve and David Ortiz, TYC students at the Mel Matthews Boys Ranch contract program, made the A-B honor roll for the last six weeks period. They attend Cisco High School in Cisco, according to Louis Laster, Fort Worth QA specialist.

### Girls at Coke County involved in scouts, service

Seven TYC female students at Coke County Juvenile Justice Center in Bronte have graduated from high school since last June. They are Priscilla Ambriz, Angela Barbo, Kristy Griggs, Krizzye Gordwin, Jennifer Toon, Charlotte Walker and Precious York.

The majority of females committed to the Youth Commission are placed at the Bronte institution, which is a contract program operated by the Wackenhut Corporation.

Among the other activities at Coke County is a Girl Scout program. Girls earn badges, compete in scouting

contests, decorate parade floats, sell candy, and in February, sold Girl Scout cookies.

Among the community service projects at the Bronte facility is making decorations for residents of the Bronte Nursing Home.

Residents attend church services on a weekly basis. Bishop Michael Pfeifer has prepared Catholic residents for confirmation and communion.

### San Saba student wins 4-H science project division

Fourteen students from San Saba State School participated in the county youth fair sponsored by the local 4-H program. A SSSS entry by student Eric Pena -- a Bohrs Model of Atom & Isotopes -- was overall winner in the science project division.

Other first place winners in the poster division were Anthony Fuentes, Paul Thompson, Chris Easley and Lonnie Bo.

In the history projects division, first place awards were received by Josh Johnson, Eric Pena, Paul Thompson, Jermaine Jones, Brandon Forbes and Gary Delaney, for a project on the presidential seal; and Thomas Wood and Eric Pena for a framed poem.

### Weight Club promotes positive behavior

The Brownwood State School recreation program's Weight Club, under the direction of Monte Atchley, requires students to achieve top behavioral levels before becoming involved.

The Weight Club has a waiting list, but currently has only 15 members. Members "in good standing" receive a team shirt, a positive motivator according to coach Jeff Harrell, assistant recreation supervisor.

## Corsicana Christmas letter results in \$9,610 in donations

The Corsicana Community Advisory Council raised \$9,610 through their annual Christmas fund raising letter.

Donations included \$3,244 from NationsBank Perry D. Graham Trust; \$1,000 from Corsicana National Bank's Rena Fleming Foundation; \$500 from the Wolens Federation and \$500 from the Corsicana Ex-Students Association.

The council used part of the funds to purchase "Santa" gifts for students, including watches, stationery, pictorial calendars, journals, thermal shirts, gloves and a Christmas stocking containing hygiene items and candy.

## San Saba council formed

TYC's newest volunteer council was organized at San Saba State School last fall, with the assistance of superintendent Lydia Barnard, assistant superintendent Donald Brooks and volunteer coordinator Buck Martin.

Elected as officers of the group are Alonzo Calderon, president; Keith Shahan, vice-president; Maurene Romero, secretary; and Connie Hamrick, treasurer.

The council's first fundraising effort resulted in a collection of \$1,380 from local community residents.

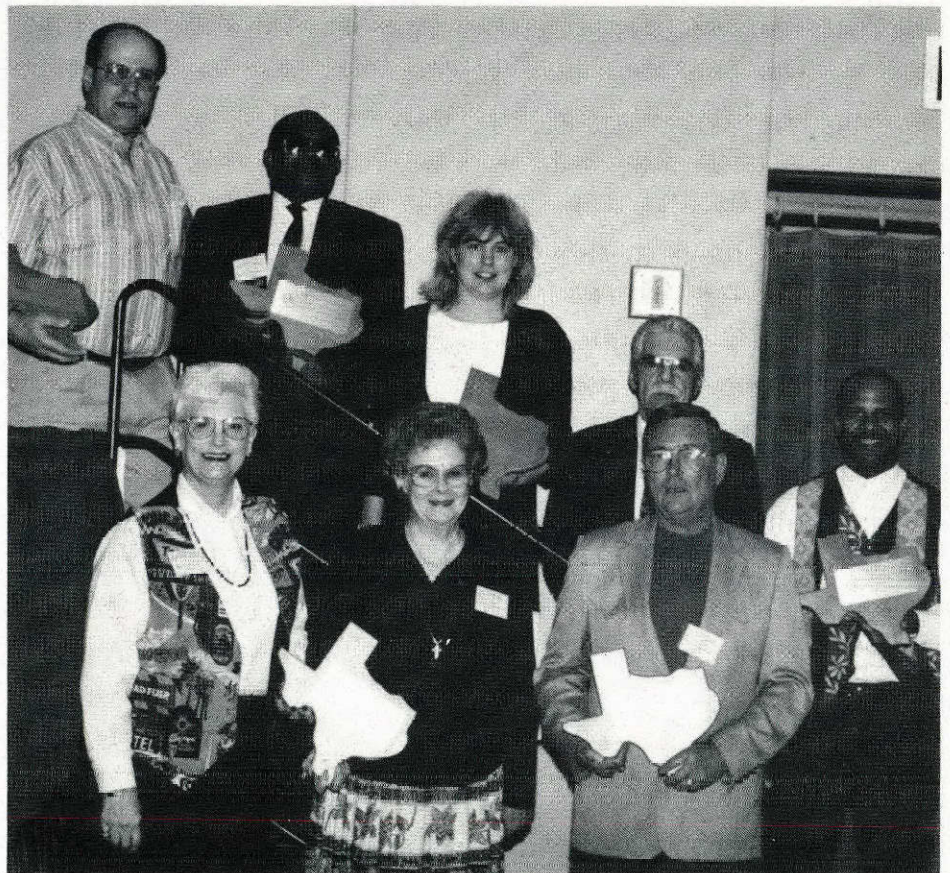
## Brownwood receives grant

The Brownwood Community Advisory Council raised \$1,350 after sending out more than 500 direct appeal fund-raising letters in November, encouraging recipients to "spread the love of Christmas" with a donation to the council to purchase gifts for students at Brownwood State School and the Sanction Unit.

Benefactors were honored with a Christmas tree ornament with their name displayed in the state school administration building.

The council also received \$1,500 from the J.R. Beadel Foundation which funds the family involvement program.

# VOLUNTEERS



## Agency's top volunteers

*Recipients of this year's outstanding volunteer awards, which were presented at the annual TYC volunteer conference in Huntsville in February, are, left to right, (front), Marcia Lalky and Amanda Deicke, representing the Alamo Chapter, Telephone Pioneers of San Antonio, Outstanding Volunteer Group; and Verlyn Douglas of McFadden Ranch, Outstanding Individual Volunteer; (back) Steve Macias of Crockett, Outstanding Staff Volunteer; Michael Carraway of Houston, Outstanding Individual Volunteer; Angela Schum of Brownwood, Outstanding Individual Religious Volunteer; Don Dennis of Don Dennis Ministries Inc., Outstanding Religious Group Volunteers; and Keith Alexander of Ayres House, who accepted the Outstanding Student Volunteer award for Jesse Griffin. (Not pictured is Jay Torres of Dallas, also an Outstanding Individual Volunteer recipient.) (See Page 11)*

## Three top nominees selected as Outstanding Volunteers

Three men were named top winners in the Outstanding Individual Volunteer category -- out of 20 nominees.

"The judges had a difficult time coming up with ONE winner," said TYC executive director Steve Robinson. "All

three contribute differently, but their contributions to the future of the youth they come in contact with, are a little different from the norm." They are Jay Torres of Dallas, Verlyn Douglas of McFadden Ranch, and Michael Carraway of Houston.

### Jay Torres, Dallas

Jay Torres, originally recruited four years ago as a Spanish-bilingual translator for the Dallas and Irving parole offices, has expanded his involvement with TYC to include membership on the Dallas Community Advisory Council (he's co-chair this year); he wrote a proposal for an SMU Graduate School of Business project to help TYC retain Hispanic employees; he was a one-to-one volunteer with a

"hardcore" difficult youth who was Spanish speaking, as was his family; and he raised hundreds of dollars for Dallas council activities.

Jay's ability to translate has been valuable in working with families because he was not an "authority figure" from TYC. The families trusted him -- often because he did not know TOO MUCH about TYC. When he takes on a

fund-raising project, he not only raises funds at his corporation, but goes the extra mile and writes personal thank-you letters to everyone who purchases a fund-raising item from him..building up a base of future "buyers."

Melinda Matthews, chair of the Dallas volunteer council, received the award on Jay's behalf, since he was unable to attend.

### Michael Carraway, Houston

"Michael Carraway has been nominated for this award for the past three years -- and has reportedly placed second each time!" said Robinson. "This year the judges just couldn't pass him by."

Michael has worked as an individual volunteer with seven young men in Houston.

"He got the tough assignments," said Robinson. "youth who were recommitted, those with undesirable home situations, those with nowhere to go when they were paroled."

"He has found tutors for youth; he has helped with homework; he has

worked with TYC youth in college -- visiting them on campus, making sure they were in class, trying to make them feel at home in a college....no small task! He has helped kids obtain social security cards, birth certificates, ID cards -- all the necessities of life the rest of us take for granted.

"Michael actually went to court with a TYC youth who had received several hundred dollars in traffic fines -- and worked with the judge to find a way for the young man to pay the tickets and not end up in jail.

He has gone to the county jail looking for the parents of one of his

parolees. He has assisted youth in getting set up to live independently, showing them how to shop, budget and set up a checking account. He has donated furniture to make the youth feel more like he "has a home."

"Michael is known for going to the areas of Houston where our parole officers don't even go," said Robinson. "He also stays in contact with his youths' parole officers.

"Michael serves as an exemplary role model for TYC kids. He has contributed over 800 hours to TYC. so far! We hope he'll continue his service," Robinson added as he presented the award. plaque to Carraway.

### Verlyn Douglas, McFadden Ranch

Verlyn Douglas, better known to the youth at McFadden Ranch as "Mr. Doug," has been a TYC volunteer for only 18 months, but he has averaged 200 hours per month with youth at McFadden.

"That's more than a full-time job, folks," said Robinson.

"Mr. Doug" has been a major influence on youth and staff. His initial involvement at the ranch was through his

participation and leadership with the weekly in-house AA meetings. He has continue to be available to ANY youth at ANY time regarding addiction recovery.

His big project was helping youth prepare and plant a vegetable garden last year -- resulting in bumper crops of veggies used in preparation of McFadden Ranch meals.

He has also gone on camping trips with the youth, and helps transport them to medical appointments, takes them to bus and airport terminals for furloughs and releases, brings snacks and movies for Friday night recreation.

"And he even sat through 40 hours of TYC's Resocialization training so he would understand the

(Continued on Page 12)



*NOMINEES FOR OUT-  
standing Individual  
Volunteer who attended  
the awards ceremony in  
Huntsville were, left to  
right, David Williams,  
San Saba; Elnora  
Johnson, Willoughby  
House; Verlyn Douglas,  
McFadden Ranch; Ther-  
esia Bobalik, Crockett;  
Rosie Abreu, San An-  
tonio; Betty Kellar, Gid-  
dings; Vicki Smith,  
Brownwood; Michael  
Carraway, Houston; and  
Richard Deupree, Corsi-  
cana. Eleven others  
were also nominated.  
(See Page 11)*

## Telephone Pioneers, San Antonio, named top volunteer group

The Telephone Pioneers, Alamo Chapter, of San Antonio, was named TYC's Outstanding Volunteer Group during the annual TYC volunteer conference, from a field of twelve nominees.

"Many outstanding businesses, civic and service groups serve as valuable volunteers for this agency, contributing funds, sponsoring activities, and providing volunteer members as representatives for TYC councils in all programs," said TYC Board Member Pete Alfaro of Baytown, who made the presentation.

Members of Telephone Pioneer Clubs are retired from Southwestern Bell. Their purpose for existence is "community service," along with companionship.

"The Alamo Life Club of San Antonio has been involved with TYC youth in that city since sponsoring a team in the TYC Bowlathon," said Alfaro.

And that was just the beginning.

One of the club's projects is making

Christmas stockings for TYC youth in San Antonio. Each stocking is filled with pens, pencils, stationery, notebooks, socks and candy.

But the club's most innovative project was "Fresh Start Boxes," prepared for TYC youth when they

moved from Ayres House to independent living in apartments. Each box contains two sets of dishes, mugs, bowls, glasses, a set of flatware, a frying pan, can opener and towels for youth to set up housekeeping. Each box also comes with a poem encouraging the recipient to have a dream and keep working toward high goals.

"Interestingly enough, the Alamo Life Pioneers was formerly involved with the TYC program in San Antonio 17 years ago when they helped furnish bedrooms at the original Ayres House when it first opened in 1980," Alfaro added.

\*\*\*\*\*

*ALSO NOMINATED FOR OUT-  
STANDING GROUP were Navarro Com-  
munity Foundation, Corsicana; Conoco  
Inc., Sheffield Boot Camp; Southwestern  
Bell Corporation, Houston; Bill Glass  
Ministries, Gainesville; Rio Grande  
Valley Master Gardeners, Evins; Teen  
Court Team, McFadden Ranch; Parents  
Against Crime & Drugs, Cottrell House,  
Dallas; Don Dennis Ministries, Marlin;  
Streetwise Ministries, Turman House;  
People Against Violent Crime, Crockett;  
and Sonic Drive-In, Giddings.*

*(Continued from Page 11)*

program," Robinson added.

A significant part of his volunteer work has been to assist with the "Speaker Team," a group of youth who give programs throughout the area in an effort to prevent other youth from crime.

In addition, Douglas has donated thousands of dollars in money and donations.

\*\*\*\*\*

*NOMINEES FOR OUTSTANDING  
INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER also  
included David Williams, San Saba;  
Cindy Drobeno, Marlin; Giles & Mae  
Holmes, Sheffield; Mickey Harr,  
Brownwood Sanction Unit; Vicki Smith,  
Brownwood State School; Rosie Abreu,  
San Antonio; Betty Kellar, Giddings;  
Patrick Collier, Cottrell House; Dr. and  
Mrs. Joe Heath, West Texas; Betty  
Gueder, Evins; Elnora Johnson,  
Willoughby House; David Hagerla,  
Turman House; Richard Deupree,  
Corsicana; Deborah Allred, Gainesville;  
Theresa Bobalik, Crockett; Juana  
Ureno, El Paso and J.A. Summers, El  
Paso.*

## Don Dennis Ministries receives top religious group award

Recipient of this year's Outstanding Volunteer Religious Group award is Don Dennis Ministries Inc., which is currently working in two TYC institutions and is set to expand into four others.

"Fourteen outstanding dedicated religious groups were nominated for this award, and I can assure you, they all deserve it," said TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson.

Only five institutions have paid chaplains -- so six others now rely on volunteer groups exclusively for religious programming, and all halfway houses rely on volunteers for religious activities.

"Actually, TYC's paid chaplains also depend extensively on volunteer church groups and ministries to assist them and to be involved with TYC youth," Robinson explained.

Don Dennis Ministries, an interdenominational ministry sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is currently providing activities at Gainesville and Marlin.

The group is serving as a catalyst to equip Christians throughout the state to serve incarcerated young people with significant Christian faith.

"Their leader, Don Dennis, understand the frustration, loneliness and hopelessness of being incarcerated," said Robinson, since he spent nearly 20 years in and out of prison before becoming a Christian.

The ministry recruits and trains its own volunteers in each community where a TYC facility is located.

During the past three years, volunteers have preached in numerous chapel services and provided Bible studies at Marlin and Gainesville. They write letters to TYC youth in institutions.

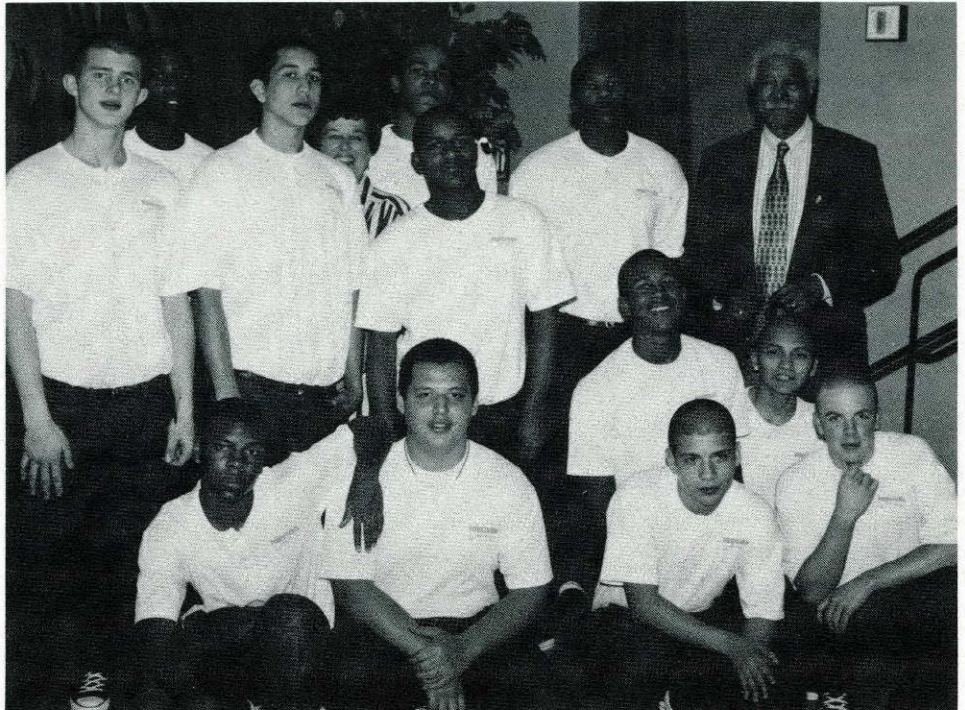
Don provides his book, *Breaking Crime's Vicious Cycle*, to every TYC youth entering at Marlin (at no cost). At Gainesville, the ministry has developed a year round curriculum for youth.

Robinson presented the award "in recognition, praise and gratitude. We very much appreciate the positive values you are helping instill in our students," he concluded.

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OTHER NOMINEES FOR OUTSTANDING-Religious Volunteer Group included Calvary Ministries of Odessa, West Texas State School; Pate Circle, Corsicana; First Baptist Church of Iraan, Sheffield Boot Camp; Seasons of God Ministry, Marlin; St. Michael's Catholic Church, Houston; Trinity

Chapel, Brownwood Sanction Unit; The H.E.A.R.T.S., Evins; Family Praise Center, Ayres House; Greater Works Baptist Church, Austin; Welcome Christian Center, Brownwood; Wesley Foundation Campus Ministries, El Paso; Northwest Community Baptist Church, Crockett; and Power Christian Ministries, Giddings.



TYC BOARD MEMBER PETE HARRELL of Austin poses with the Crockett State School student choir, which performed at the 1997 TYC Volunteer Conference held in Huntsville in February. They are directed by volunteer Kathy Hollis, also shown with the group.

## Student accomplishments....

Daniel Mendoza, a recent "grad" of the independent Living Program at Ayres House, is enrolled as a freshman at Blinn College in Brenham. Daniel served as a peer staff counselor for a cultural awareness workshop with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and presented a workshop for Turman House youths while at Ayres House.

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Former Ayres House student Michael O'Connor recently enrolled in the Art

Institute of Dallas, studying computer animation and multi-media.

Other Ayres House residents Jesse Griffin, Omar Ojeda and Jose Ruiz Jr. all graduated from the independent living program and the "Real Men Don't Run" program

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Giddings student Derick Leon LeBlanc received his high school diploma in December. He also successfully completed all sections of the TAAS testing.

## Brownwood woman named agency's top religious volunteer

Angela Schum of Brownwood was named the agency's Outstanding Religious Individual Volunteer during the recent TYC volunteer conference in Huntsville.

"Angela began serving as a religious volunteer when she was a teenager," said Judy Briscoe, TYC chief of staff, who made the presentation.

"Over the years, her commitment to TYC has grown and she now actively recruits chaplaincy volunteers for the institution," Briscoe said.

Angela provides weekly Bible studies and assists in organizing the study groups on the entire Brownwood campus. She serves as a trainer for new volunteers and

accompanies them to new dormitories until they are ready to work alone.

She also serves on the Brownwood Community Advisory Council and participate actively in the council's fund-raisers and other student activities.

Angela's approach to volunteerism is always positive and cooperative. She believes, as do most of our religious volunteers, that touching the life of one student at a time is worth all the energy and effort put forth.

She has been a valuable volunteer by demonstrating flexibility -- and has been able to tolerate the ever-present "red tape"

and resistance involved with volunteering in TYC institutions.

"That ALONE should result in an award!" added Briscoe, as she presented the plaque of appreciation from the agency.

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*Other nominees in the Religious Individual category included Harvey Acker, West Texas; Sam Pack, Giddings; Jerry Fortune, Sheffield; Pam Whitworth, Evins; Barbara Delps, Ayres House; Rev. Steve Holloway, Crockett; Paul Fulbright, Corsicana; Sherry Sampson, Turman House; Rudy Martinez, Marlin; Marie Henry, Gainesville; and John Shero, San Saba.*

## Ayres House youth named outstanding student volunteer

Named outstanding student volunteer at the TYC volunteer conference this year was a young man from Houston, Jesse Griffin, who has been at Ayres House in San Antonio.

"Nine student groups and individual TYC students were nominated for the Outstanding Student Award this year," said Dwight Harris, TYC deputy executive director for juvenile corrections. "All have been outstanding public relations representatives in their communities -- and positive role models for other TYC students," he added.

The winner serves as a positive role model for incoming students at Ayres House -- and is often asked to mentor a new resident.

Jesse served over 150 hours at the Salvation Army for his compulsory community service time, until he started working full time.

Last fall he did volunteer work beyond what Ayres House youth were doing. While working with the youth to serve meals at a dinner which served over 4,000 people at Thanksgiving, he became aware of the elderly and those who came in wheelchairs, and took it upon himself to pay special attention to their needs. He

ended up volunteering over 30 hours that weekend to help the disabled during the dinners.

He was one of the first to enthusiastically volunteer to help at the HEB Feast of Sharing just before the Christmas holiday.

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*Also nominated in this category were Keelin Menefee, Sheffield Boot Camp; Anthony Judge, Cottrell House; Jonathan Williams, Turman House; Faustino Hernandez, Crockett; McFadden Ranch students; Corsicana RTC students; Willoughby House students; and Giddings State School student council.*



*TYC BOARD MEMBER John Odam of Houston presented a plaque of appreciation to Leo Rodriguez, outgoing chair of the State Volunteer Resource Council, during the 13th annual TYC volunteer conference in Huntsville in February. Rodriguez, representing the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, served two years as chair.*

## Parenting program underway in parole

The San Antonio district parole office started its third parenting program in February -- a series of six weekly sessions for parents of newly committed TYC youth.

The program is a collaboration between TYC, Youth Alternatives Inc. and Our Lady of the Lake University. Sessions are held in the evening.

Bilingual family therapist Teresa Beltran and TYC volunteer Maria Velasquez conduct five of the sessions. The program is offered every three months. The TYC volunteer council in San Antonio provides funds for refreshments.

## Crockett employee named outstanding employee volunteer

Steve Macias, a five-year employee at Crockett currently serving as Youth Rights Specialist, was named the agency's Outstanding Employee Volunteer primarily for his work toward establishing a victim empathy program at Crockett, said Pete Harrell, TYC Board Member from Austin, who made the presentation at the TYC volunteer conference February 23.

"Macias hopes to see a similar program in every TYC facility in the future," he added.

"Many of our paid staffers go the extra mile to help TYC kids -- whom they already work with 40 hours a week on

their jobs!" said Harrell.

While a caseworker Macias asked for permission to volunteer his time and money to obtain training and knowledge to develop a Victims Empathy Program at Crockett, so strongly did he feel the need for it.

More than 1,000 youth have participated in the program at Crockett which he subsequently set up -- featuring presentations by victims of violent crime coming to the institution to spend entire days with youth, caseworkers and other staff members.

Macias' training and experience at Crockett has resulted in his being sought

by other agencies to provide training for their employees.

He is also noted for being generous financially when various other student needs at Crockett are made known.

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*Other TYC employees nominated were Teresa Hernandez, Sheffield; Alice Morris, Brownwood; Rebecca Dimock, Willoughby House; Diane Watson, Corsicana; Ericka Barrera, Ayres House; Eudelia Guerrero, Evins; Cindy Vaughan, Gainesville; Paul Coghlan, Brownwood Sanction Unit; and Larry Johnson, Turman House.*

## Noted Christian author visits Gainesville youth

Dr. Henry Blackaby, author of the "Experiencing God" series of Christian Discipleship materials, visited Gainesville State School youth in January, and encouraged them to 'strive to seek God.'

A former gang member who witnessed the death of friends during gang rivalry, Dr. Blackaby receives hundreds of invitations -- and chose to come to Gainesville, according to John Stutz, administrator of chaplaincy services for TYC.

"He was recently the guest of President Clinton," Stutz added.

Don Dennis Ministries sponsored his visit in connection with a nine-week study being conducted at the state school.



## Physician retires after 47 years' service to TYC

Dr. C.O. Murray, who has retired from Crockett State School after 47 years of service, was honored at a luncheon sponsored by the Crockett Community Advisory Council and the school's nursing staff.

Attending the event were medical staff from the East Texas Medical Center, Primary Care Clinic, Family Medical Center, and numerous local civic and business leaders, as well as state employees.

*TYC VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS were recognized with plaques of appreciation by Joan Timmons, Chief of Volunteer Services, for their continuous work year-round in recruiting, training and working with the agency's volunteer program. Pictured are front row (left to right): Buck Martin, San Saba; Raul Arredondo, Evins; Timmons; Jane Parker, San Antonio/Austin; Virginia Lewis, Corsicana; Allan Spearman, West Texas; and Bill Bradbury, Giddings. Back row: Kaycee Pollock, Dallas/Ft. Worth; Lucy Humbert, Corsicana; Edwin Simmons, McFadden Ranch; Tammy Vega, Brownwood; Keith Alexander, Ayres House. (Also receiving plaques were Denise Kennedy, Shannon Ford and Maria Ruiz.)*

## Schaeffer students serve as hospital volunteers

An experimental community service project has turned out to be a positive community service partnership between Schaeffer House in El Paso and Columbia West Hospital, thanks to the efforts to TYC volunteer Dick Robinson.

The program began in November, 1996, with two residents, Lauro Herrera and Anthony Cano, volunteering at the hospital. Robinson provided the necessary training and orientation so the boys could get started.

The boys volunteered their time every Saturday, under Robinson's guidance, in pediatrics, admissions, oncology and intensive care.

Since the first two residents completed the Schaeffer House program, two more have begun as junior hospital volunteers: Daniel DeLeon and Kham Phiathep. They volunteer not only on Saturday, but also seven hours per day on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The work at the hospital has given

the youth a sense of well-being, personal satisfaction and a newly found appreciation for their own good health, according to Robinson.

"They have been touched by many patients, particularly the children on the pediatrics floor," he said.

Both Daniel and Kham say they want to continue doing hospital volunteer work after they leave Schaeffer House.

## Legislation....

(Continued from Page 1)

current prohibition that prevents franchise tax credits for businesses which employ sentenced offenders in industry programs.

**House Bill 1822** (Maxey) would require TYC to provide specialized services to 100 percent of youth assessed with a need for chemical dependency, sex offender or emotional disturbance treatment before they could be released.

In addition, no youth could be returned home until family members living in the home identified with substance abuse problems had successfully completed an approved substance abuse recovery program.

"This bill has major impact and would require TYC to increase contract care and specialized treatment significantly," said Executive Director Steve Robinson.

Total fiscal impact to TYC would be an increase of \$65 to \$72 million each year from FY 1998 through FY 2002.

**House Bill 2153** (Allen) relates to the priority given to certain victims' compensation funds by TYC when apportioning wages earned by certain youth.

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TYC's appropriations request will not be finalized until later in the session when a conference committee is appointed.

The House Appropriations Committee has included additional funding requested over and above last year's amount; and the Senate Finance Committee include all of TYC's

exceptional requests in their mark-up.

\*\*\*\*\*

Several bills relate to "streamlining and consolidation" of administrative support functions of state agencies.

One bill includes a limit on management to staff ratio of 1 to 11, although further clarification is needed to define the term "manager."

Other bills seek to develop a "pilot program" for bidding out the administrative services for the Health and Human Services Commission and TYC.

These bills would have a significant impact on TYC, since they could remove the human resources, business services, finance, and information resources functions from direct operational control of the agency.

**TYC JOURNAL**  
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