

November 1989

Austin, Texas

# Workstream

Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons

## Forty-seven San Antonio employers participate in job fair

The San Antonio Mayor's Committee sponsored its 9th annual job fair this October. More than 180 job applicants attended and interviewed with local employers. As a direct result, four persons with disabilities were hired. Complete statistical placement information will be available the end of November. In preparation for the job fair an applicant seminar focused on interviewing skills and resume writing was held to enhance face-to-face meetings with employers.

Donna Jones, chairperson of the job fair said, "I feel the job fair was very successful. Because of the committee's hard work participation was up 50% from last year." Jones went on to say that the pace has been set for next year. "The word is out and if the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passes, I feel next year will provide a real opportunity for employers to find qualified job applicants and for persons with disabilities to find meaningful employment," said Jones.



Employers held on-the-spot interviews at the San Antonio job fair this October.

### DID YOU KNOW?

▼ As part of an aggressive employer outreach program, the Governor's Committee and Mayor's Committees across the state will be sharing information with employers at 12 Texas Business Council meetings. Employers will be informed about incentives to employ workers with disabilities. Approximately 6,000 employers are expected to attend the Texas Business Council meetings sponsored by the Texas Employment Commission.

▼ The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is proposed legislation to protect people with disabilities from discrimination in employment, transportation, public accommodations, activities of state and local government, and telecommunications. ADA passed overwhelmingly in the Senate, but currently needs your support for House passage.

▼ Pat Stewart, co-chairperson of the San Angelo Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, passed away on October 6, 1989. Pat was actively involved in the Great American Wheelchair Race as well as wheelchair basketball games in the San Angelo area. Pat will be sorely missed by us --- her associates in the many volunteer activities that she valued so highly.

▼ The National Council on Disability (NCD) held their quarterly business meeting in Austin on October 30 - November 1. NCD is an independent federal agency comprised of 15 members appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate.

## Local Committee Activities

National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October, 1989

*Austin* awards ceremony, employer breakfast, and disability simulations

*Beaumont* employer breakfast and awards ceremony

*Corpus Christi* awards luncheon

*Dallas* awards luncheon

*Denton* employer luncheon and awards ceremony

*Harris County* awards luncheon

*Nacogdoches* employer luncheon and awards ceremony

*San Angelo* awards luncheon

*San Antonio* applicant seminar, job fair, and awards luncheon

*Temple* employer luncheon and awards ceremony

*Waco* employer luncheon and awards ceremony

## Workstream . . . our new newsletter

Our new newsletter name, Workstream, was selected to focus on Governor's Committee work in the area of employment of persons with disabilities and promotion of mainstream participation and total accessibility in all aspects of life for individuals with disabilities.

With a new name, logo, a different paper and new ink colors, the transition might require a "breaking in" period. Look for your next quarterly issue of Workstream. The Committee will continue to provide up-to-date information through Workstream.

### HIGH PROFILE

## Lorenzo Rodriguez, Chairperson Harris County Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons

**Birthdate and place:**  
May 15, 1947 - Havana, Cuba

**Occupation:**  
Employment Specialist  
Coordinator of rehabilitation and return to work program

- I volunteered my time to the local committee because I am committed to full utilization (employment) of all people.
- If I've learned one thing about a local committee it is to follow up and express appreciation to all members for work done.
- Local committee volunteers like me because I am sensitive and delegate authority.
- The toughest assignments I've ever given to a volunteer were to handle the awards selection committee and to come up with a script for vignettes for a training tape for a first line managers.
- My best local committee advice is to follow-up.
- My worst local committee advice was that the awards luncheon is not the most important activity.

My favorite magazine is National Geographic.

Behind my back people say I'm a slave driver.

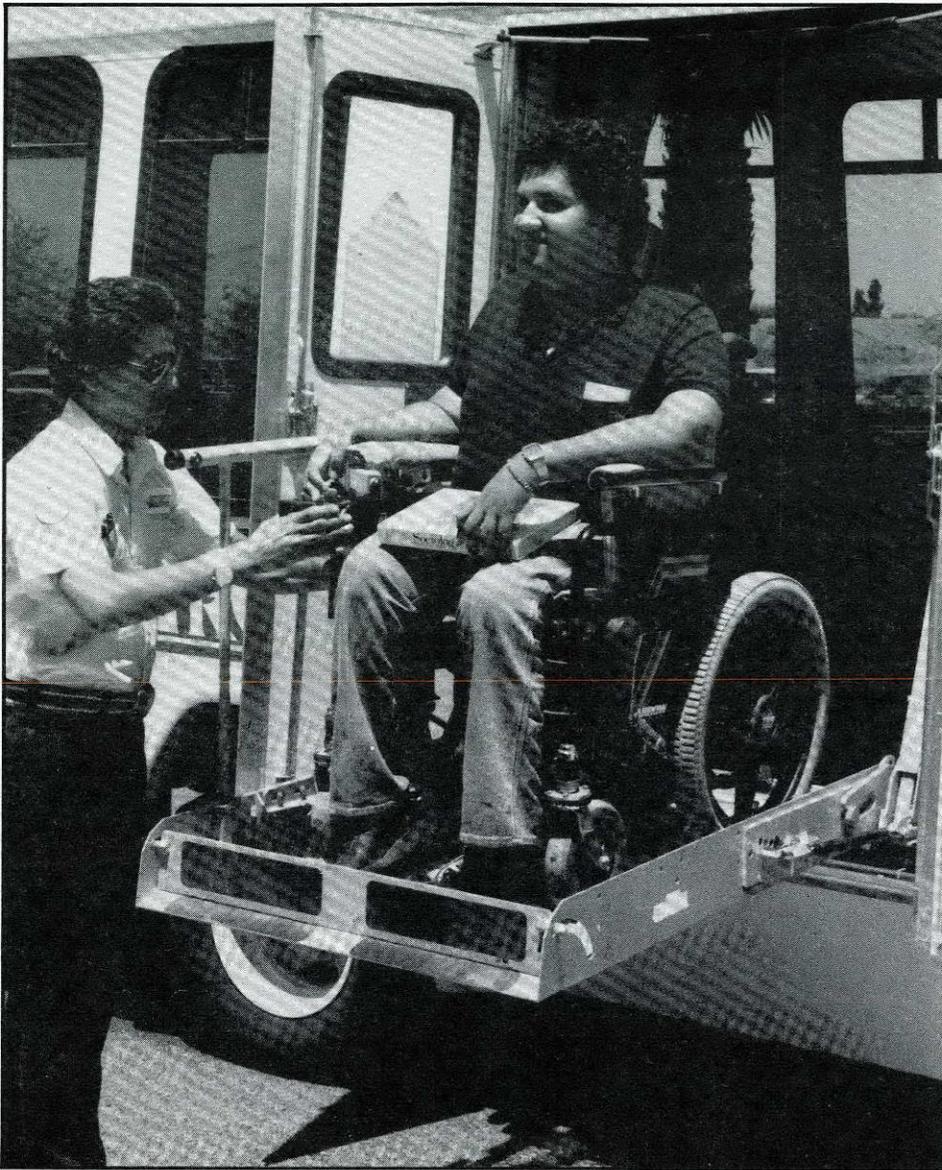
The persons who have had the most impact on my life are my parents and my teacher, Olga Chaffee.

I'm never surprised when a person with a disability is finally recognized as an able individual.

If I could share one thing with the next chairperson it would be to follow-up and appreciate your people. Always be sensitive to your volunteers.

**"To get  
volunteers  
involved,  
I communicate  
enthusiasm."**

Lorenzo Rodriguez



*Citizens with disabilities within the city limits of Laredo now have curb-to-curb transportation services available through two lift-equipped El Metro buses.*

## Laredo's B.E.S.T.

The goal of B.E.S.T., which is organized as a mayor's committee in Laredo, is to assist persons with disabilities in living their lives to the fullest extent.

A unique project B.E.S.T. has undertaken is to renovate a trailer home for Sarita Salinas at no cost. Construction work has begun and within months Sarita will have a new completely accessible ground level therapy room, bedroom and bathroom. The new addition will be joined to the trailer.

Salinas, 17, was partially paralyzed and sustained a head injury following a major head-on collision in the Laredo area in 1987.

She uses a wheelchair and at present can only get into her trailer home with the assistance of others. The new accessible addition to her home will allow her freedom to maneuver independently.

Materials for the renovation were donated by Victims of Crime and local merchants in Laredo. Job Core at Laredo Junior College is furnishing labor for this building project under the direction of Larry Clark. Project completion will depend on scheduling. Salinas' mother, Maria Farias, mentioned that Sarita is very anxious for her room to be finished and often asks when

she can expect the project to be completed.

As Salinas moves into her new addition, perhaps she can begin to focus on her love for dancing and music. Salinas' rehabilitation has progressed to the point that she can take steps with the support of a walker. Like many teenage girls, Salinas' interest in boys never wanes. "Sarita wants to be slim and trim and to have the boys chasing after her," says her mother.

"It is a wonderful thing to have cooperation of the community and to watch the awareness of persons with disabilities grow," said Henry Flores, president of B.E.S.T.

# 1989 Employment Award Winners . . .

to recognize individuals and organizations which have made outstanding contributions to the employment of persons with disabilities.

The winner of the Disabled Person of the Year Award, Wayne Oliver, explained his feelings about the award.

"This is truly an honor for me to receive this award although it was a joint effort." Oliver went on to thank the Governor, the Governor's Committee, Houston Lighting and Power, Thomas Halsam of Medical Center Prosthesis, and his family, especially his wife of 22 years Brenda.

He said, "Brenda always told me, 'I'm hard headed enough to do anything I set my mind to.'" She has never considered Wayne handicapped. Oliver said, "Anyone who has a handicap whether large or small--doesn't mean that they can't reach goals that you set your mind to."

Oliver cited a special saying which often encourages him, "Like a good friend told me two years ago (when Wayne lost his leg), 'if a rooster could pull a freight train, I say harness him up.' "This gave me the initiative to keep going when things got rough. If this episode with me helps one person then I have accomplished a goal."

### *Martha Arbuckle Award*

Beaumont Mayor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons  
Maurice Meyers  
Mayor of Beaumont

### *Governor's Citation for Meritorious Service*

Bonnie Martin accepting posthumous award for her husband, Ray Martin, Ralph Wilson Plastics, Co., Temple

### *Health Care Professional of the Year*

Nicolas E. Walsh, M. D.,  
San Antonio

### *Public Employee of the Year*

Dale Kennedy, Garland

### *Governmental Agency of the Year*

Jim Everett, Chief of Police  
Austin Police Department

### *Small Employer of the Year*

Joe Moore, Red Lobster  
Restaurant No. 105, Houston

### *Large Employer of the Year*

Chuck Nielson, Vice President  
U. S. Personnel  
Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas

### *Disabled Person of the Year*

Wayne Oliver, Houston Lighting and Power, Alvin

Mike Toomey, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office, presented these employment awards at a luncheon ceremony at the Wyndham Southpark Hotel in Austin on October 27, 1989.

## Workstream

Workstream focuses on the employment of persons with disabilities and promotes mainstream participation and total accessibility in all aspects of life. Workstream is published quarterly by the Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons.

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Taped copies of the newsletter are provided upon request.

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

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