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News and Information from throughout the Agency

In this issue:
**Medical services
contracted.**
Story on page 6.

Next issue:
**Details of legislation
affecting TYC.**

Agency 'culture' undergoes significant changes

***Standardized clothing,
haircuts to be required;
no jewelry, boom boxes
radios, allowed.***

Many visible evidences of a lenient lifestyle for TYC youth will soon be disappearing, thanks to public pressure and the agency's increased emphasis on security, control and public safety.

"In restructuring the way the agency performs its mission, it is necessary to do more than simply change for change's sake," said Executive Director Steve Robinson.

Upon arrival at the Youth Commission, our students should realize they are not here for fun or for an easy time, Robinson added.

"I want them to understand that their unlawful, antisocial behavior has a cost; they not only have to pay for this behavior, they will be expected to learn NEW behaviors," he said.

"As our operations continue to be taxed to their limits, we must increase efficiencies at every opportunity," he explained. "Not only will there be visible changes in our facilities, but the overall administrative organization of the agency is being studied to determine how decisions are made and how this process can be streamlined... and how communications can be improved."

Policies, procedures and rules which govern day-to-day operations are also being examined.

"I am personally interested in encouraging field staff to come up with innovative methods to get the job done, while main-

taining accountability and methods to track the use of our resources," Robinson added.

Rehabilitation and treatment will be delivered through the agency's new resocialization program, under the guidance of Linda Reyes, Director of Mental Health Services. (The new resocialization program is outlined in a separate article. See page 4).

Students will no longer be allowed to have jewelry (other than religious) while in custody. No personal possessions will be allowed, including most clothing, radios, boom boxes, etc., during the initial phases of resocialization.

"Only youth on the highest performance levels will have the privilege of personal clothing during special events and off-campus activities," said Director of Institutions Dwight Harris. "Television and radio will be reserved for higher privileged youth."

(Continued on page 5.)

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Legislature approves terms of Board Members

Two TYC Board Members have received approval of the Texas Legislature for six-year terms.

Mrs. Edna Tamayo of Harlingen, who completed an unexpired term on the Board in August of 1993, was reappointed by former Governor Ann Richards to an additional six-year term. Her new term expires August 31, 1999.

Attorney John Odam of Houston, also appointed by former Governor Ann Richards, has already served 18 months on the Board. His six-year term runs until August 31, 1999, also. ☼

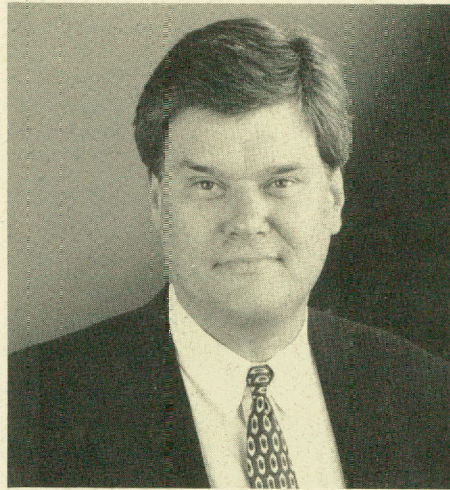
From the Executive Director

As everyone is aware by now, the Legislature has passed a comprehensive juvenile justice reform bill which is expected to significantly change the public's expectations of the Youth Commission.

We will be expanding the number of beds and programs we operate in a very short time.

This new direction will result in a tremendous challenge as we shift the focus of this agency and change the nature of our programs.

There will continue to be a spotlight on this agency. In order to perform, we will



Steve Robinson, Executive Director

need a system which is capable of responding to the public.

During my first tour of duty with TYC I constantly heard criticism of Central Office - how bureaucratic it was, and unresponsive. I continued to hear those impressions. I am not sure though, that our field staff will ever understand the outside demands for information, data, statistics, justification, and measures the Central Office staff has to respond to.

Having been with the agency for eleven years (before being away for seven years) I now feel that it is time to look at our existing structure. We have to determine

how to respond during this period of growth.

Is this agency ready to meet the challenge of the changing environment?

That's just one of the important questions which must be answered — and soon.

I have retained the services of a consultant firm which has extensive experience with governmental organizations to assist us with a plan to restructure Central Office. They will also be developing recommendations regarding relationships of field positions to Central Office positions.

The firm, Ray Associates, which did similar consulting for me when I was appointed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Travis County, has interviewed more than 30 central office and field staff. It is expected that they will be sharing their recommendations with our executive staff prior to the July Board meeting.

I anticipate implementing a new organizational structure in Central Office which will be more responsive to the needs of the agency and the public. I am anxious to begin our new era with a focused, efficient organizational structure. ☼

Brownwood Reception Center changes focus

When the new TYC Statewide Reception Center opens in Marlin in August, the "old" reception center, which has been located in Brownwood since 1970, will become a facility for youth being returned to custody from parole, halfway house programs, or from contract placements.

Dan Humeniuk, currently superintendent of the Brownwood reception center, will remain in Brownwood as director of the new unit, which will be housed in the same building.

The intent of the new program is to provide a meaningful consequence for rule violators who have been in less restrictive settings.

"We expect to provide cost-effective

population management by diverting these youth from our large institutions," Humeniuk said. "We will address the reasons for their failure to adjust in the community programs."

The 90-day program will feature self-paced education, intensive physical exercise, cognitive life skills, and the agency's resocialization program.

"Focus will be on youth's need for personal discipline, behavioral control, self-image, prosocial choices and acceptance of responsibility for actions," Humeniuk said.

The program will have a capacity of 128. The first group of youth who are to be placed in the new program are expected to arrive in mid-August. ☼

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Hiring continues for August opening of new institution

Marie Murdoch, Superintendent of the soon-to-be-open Jefferson County State School in Beaumont, has announced the selection of several key staff members.

Kelly Tyson, formerly warehouse supervisor at Brownwood State School, has been selected as business manager. Tyson holds a BA in business finance from Howard Payne University.

Tyson, who assumed his new position June 1, began his career with TYC in 1975 as a stock clerk at Brownwood. He currently serves as president of the Early ISD school board.

Elaine Murdock has been appointed principal of the education department. Murdock has been with TYC at Crockett State School since 1987, first as a teacher, then as L.I.N.K. Program Coordinator. She also served as assistant principal prior to being promoted to principal.

Before her tenure with TYC, she was a high school principal in the public schools and a manager of chemical dependency programs for Comprehensive Care Corporation. She was also employed as a case-worker in the alcoholism/drug unit of Rusk State Hospital. She holds a B.S. degree from the University of North Texas and a Master of Education from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Ed Allen began work May 1 as the trainer for the institution. Allen, who has been a probation officer and a police officer, has worked with mentally retarded adults and abused children.

He was formerly the trainer for the Texas Air National Guard and holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters in education from Lamar University. ☼

Briefly noted ...

■ An open house was held for the **TYC Bootcamp** located at Sheffield, March 31. Several Central Office staff members and Board Members attended the event, which was sponsored by West Texas Utilities, the Iraan/Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, and the Iraan/Sheffield ISD.

Annual agency workshop in Austin July 5-7

The Texas Youth Commission's annual workshop is scheduled July 5-7, Wednesday through Friday, at the Stouffer Renaissance Austin Hotel.

This year's conference will address juvenile justice reform and the changes it will bring about for all juvenile justice professionals. Issues addressed include how the reform will impact our agency and the action that will be taken to address these changes.

Items on the agenda for July 5 include awards at 2:00 p.m. and a barbecue at the Old Settlers Park in Round Rock at 6:30 p.m. Awards to be presented include tenure; outstanding staff, contract, administrator of the year; and Executive Director's award. Training sessions are scheduled on Thursday July 6. On Friday, July 7, a breakfast buffet is scheduled at 8:00 a.m. before presentations are made on the relationship between local and state government and how to balance the upcoming changes.

? Questions should be directed to workshop coordinators Rita Zapata at 512/483-5002 or Jerry Dollar at 512/483-5008. ☼

AROUND TYC

\$250 million appropriated to TYC for next biennium

\$ Biennial operating funds of \$250 million have been appropriated for the Texas Youth Commission for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, following work by Legislative budget conferees.

An additional \$55.5 million was appropriated for construction, including conversion of several adult facilities, and construction and renovation of TYC facilities.

The funds will provide for a residential average daily population of 2,760 in FY 1996 and 3,675 in FY 1997.

In addition to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) facilities in Marlin and San Saba, a TXMHMR facility in Vernon has been preliminarily identified to be transferred to TYC. The funding plan would also provide for the conversion of an additional 356-bed unit and two 256-bed facilities from TDCJ.

The budget would enable expansion of specialized treatment programs, establishment of a gang initiative and follow-up services in aftercare.

Construction funds provide for expansion of the Evins Regional Juvenile Center at Edinburg with three new 48-bed dormitories, new administration/detention unit,

vocational/education building, and security fence.

The Jefferson County State School, Beaumont, (scheduled to open in August) would be expanded with the addition of three 48-bed dormitories and completion of the physical education/vocation building.

Also to be constructed are 48-bed dorms at both Brownwood and Giddings, and two 48-bed dorms at Crockett. Other construction includes perimeter fences at Crockett and Corsicana, and a new administration building at Crockett.

New riders will require TYC to contract with TDCJ for construction management services; and will require TYC to report on the effectiveness of specialized treatment programs.

Another rider requires the agency to increase contracts with local juvenile and adult probation departments to supervise parolees when cost effective.

Legislators also adopted funding for the Juvenile Probation Commission, including funds for 400 additional probation officers and 40 intensive supervision probation (ISP) officers. ☼

TYC Board hears presentation on 'resocialization'

Training, implementation for program underway

Dr. Linda Reyes, TYC Chief of Mental Health, outlined the agency's newly developed Resocialization Program for TYC Board Members during their March 16 meeting.

The idea of resocialization was the work of Dr. Reyes and a core group of field and central office employees who developed the program, which provides structure for effectively carrying out the TYC mandates relative to supervision and rehabilitation.

Assisting in the board presentation were Dr. Corinne Alvarez-Sanders, Director of Psychology, Giddings State School; Dr. Mercy Chieza, AIM Unit Director, Corsicana State Home; and Marshall Francis, YAS IV, Giddings.

Following the presentation, Board Member Dr. Leonard Lawrence of San Antonio shared a letter he had received from a Giddings youth, committed to TYC for murder. Dr. Lawrence commented that the letter "tracked" with the goals and processes outlined in the resocialization model.

Dr. Lawrence felt that the young man's story indicated that resocialization was "already working."

"No one can say if these changes will hold, but clearly the message is getting across," he said.

The term "resocialization" implies the need for learning or re-learning basic social skills. Additionally, it relates to the need for responsibility-taking and for exploration of the underlying reasons for which an adolescent adopts and lives a delinquent lifestyle.

TYC's resocialization program strives to provide the structure and supervision youth need, while encouraging responsibility for their actions, behavioral change, exploration of the underlying reasons for their behaviors and lifestyles, incorporation of new pro-social values, and development of skills to meet previously unmet needs in appropriate and socially acceptable ways.

Dr. Reyes explained, "Adolescents are in the process of forming their own identities and most can still change at this point.

"It is recognized that this could be a

final opportunity to effect change in their lives," she said.

In early 1995, TYC began implementing the newly developed program. In January a week-long training session was held in Austin to provide training to some 50 employees from various institutions and halfway houses.

Resocialization is based on the idea of a social contract wherein individuals 1) agree to abide by the rules of society for the benefit of all members of that society; 2) take responsibility for their own actions; and, 3) make restitution where harm is caused intentionally.

The resocialization program is basically concerned with seven modules which serve as tools for effecting change in the youth's lifestyles: layout, life story, defensive thinking, offense cycle, victim empathy, values clarification, and success plan.

The expectation for all TYC youth is that they will willingly engage in the program, evidenced by their participation in doing and completing related assignments, sharing them with peers and staff; being open to feedback to experience change in their way of thinking, management of emotions, behaviors, and relational and interpersonal styles.

Group therapy is the primary modality of treatment for effecting change in adolescents since they are more open to peer feedback and evaluation than they are to that of adults.

"Because of their earlier experiences and because of the intrinsic need to estab-

lish some sense of autonomy from adults, it is often very difficult for them to trust adults," Dr. Reyes said. Therefore, this positively influenced peer environment, guided and supported by dedicated adults, was developed.

The "layout" module is the tool through which youth can and are expected to take full responsibility for the criminal offenses for which they were committed. It is expected that youth will internalize responsibility for the behaviors by doing and memorizing a layout, a necessary first step toward change.

As youth progress through other modules, it is expected that they will add to the layouts and demonstrate a willingness to take responsibility -- not only for their actions, but for their thinking patterns and antecedent behaviors or experiences which fueled their criminal behaviors and are demonstrated to be a part of their patterns in life.

"The idea of the 'layout' is not of shaming the youth into taking responsibility," she said, "but rather that of serving as a basis for honest disclosure which can lead to change."

Every youth is required to complete a personal life story as part of the resocialization process. This life story is designed to help that youth to identify and explore life events and experiences which have led to unmet needs, undesired and unexpressed emotions, and the development of antisocial values, behaviors, and relations.

(Continued on page 13.)



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS at Sherman has provided eight Business Pro Computers, eight 855 Dot Matrix Printers, and 49 miscellaneous software packages for the Gainesville academic school. The acquisition was made through a grant by math teacher Shirley Sprecher, (center), who accepted the equipment from Peggy League, assistant to the TI site manager, (left) and L.B. (Burney) Robinson, site manager and human resource director at TI, Sherman.

Commitments escalating

Commitments to TYC have escalated significantly since February, averaging 154 per month from September through January, and 201 per month from February through April, said Dr. Chuck Jeffords, Director of Research and Planning.

"The peak month for commitments was 254 in March, which exceeded by 13% the previously recorded high of 225, which occurred in 1985," he said.

...additional commitments resulted in TYC institutions operating at more than 300 over their budgeted capacity at their peak...

Automated records have been maintained since 1981.

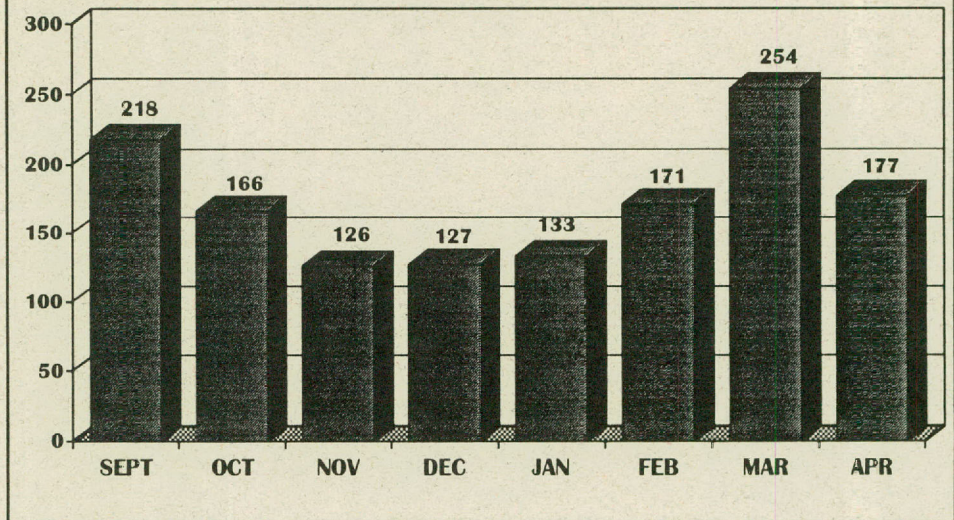
These additional commitments resulted in TYC institutions operating at more than 300 over their budgeted capacity at their peak, including a Statewide Reception Center population of 176 on March 29th, which was 38% over its budgeted capacity of 128.

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) had received nearly \$10 million dollars at the beginning of the fiscal year to reduce commitments to TYC from a projected 2,290 to 1,790.

"Although commitments for the first five months were very close to the pace necessary to obtain the 1,790 target, the escalation in commitments beginning in February led TYC's Research and Planning Department to revise its projections from the 1,790 target to 2,218 for Fiscal Year 1995," Dr. Jeffords pointed out.

It is projected that these additional commitments will increase TYC's populations by nearly 400 in August, 1995 above what they would be if the 1,790 projected commitments are maintained. ☉

FY 1995 COMMITMENTS TO TYC BY MONTH



Agency culture

(Continued from page 1.)

Standardized haircuts will be given to all incoming males and all will be required to wear standardized clothing, depending on their level, said Jay Lindgren, Deputy Executive Director.

Work programs will be initiated and required of all students, both on campus and in the communities, under strict supervision. Community service will be emphasized, particularly in TYC-operated programs.

Students will be shackled during initial transportation to placements, and during transportation between institutions.

TYC facilities which are capable of locking individual rooms within dorms will do so during the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift.

Students in TYC educational schools will be required to prepare for and take the GED exam as soon as they are age and academically eligible, said TYC Education Superintendent Byron Griffin. "After attaining a GED certificate, students will either continue to work toward a regular diploma or participate in specific vocational training programs," he said.

"Students with a GED must continue to participate in an educational program except for any part of the school day during which they have a job," Griffin explained.

Currently, approximately 35 percent of TYC youth return to public school.

A performance-based advancement and privilege system for youth is expected to be proposed and implemented. Performance will be measured in four areas:

- Resocialization core curriculum,
- Education,
- Work, and
- Discipline training.

"The Legislature has challenged TYC to put many new programs in effect—probably doubling our capacity in the next few years," Executive Director Robinson said. "We are being asked to change the very nature of our work...we are being directed to make punishment a part of our mission, as well as heightening the Commission's role of public protection." ☉

Kudos...

Lynette Monticolo, Willoughby House student who had volunteered to put up donated books, ran across a \$1,000 check for the Aerospace Optimist Club, which had inadvertently been left in the bag by Fort Worth volunteer Harold Nelson. Lynette promptly turned in the check, and Nelson successfully convinced previously apprehensive Optimists to re-think their attitudes about working with Willoughby House students.



TYC TRANSPORTERS completed 2 million miles of travel last August without a vehicle accident. Team members were presented jackets stamped with the Texas Youth Commission emblem. The team included ten staff members at Brownwood and two at Crockett. Left to right, front row—Rex Hudspeth, director; Anita Brice, Linda Deen, Michael Sheedy and Oliver Hair. Back row, Jim Hampton, Robert Williams, Ricky Henry, John Ward, Randy Wooley, Curtis Hull and Joe Gamboa, maintenance mechanic. The Transportation Unit is undergoing a change in operations and location. See related story on page 7.

Medical services, staff contracted

Contracted medical services for TYC clients will begin August 1, 1995, at Jefferson County State School, Beaumont, and the new Statewide Reception Center at Marlin, and will be implemented September 1 in all other TYC institutions and halfway houses.

The contract is with the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston (UTMB), and Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Lubbock (TTUHSC). TTUHSC will provide care for students at Brownwood, West Texas, Sheffield and Schaeffer House, El Paso. UTMB will provide services at all other TYC residential facilities.

'Managed Health Care' is a financing and delivery system which provides services within a network of health care providers, who have the responsibility to manage and provide quality, cost-effective care.

The agency has entered the contract in order to control costs, and because of the limited access to quality health care providers in rural areas.

"The contract protects existing employees," said Ferrara. All current TYC medical staff (nurses, physicians, dentists) will continue in their present positions, but will be employed by UTMB or TTUHSC, rather than the Youth Commission. Salaries and benefits will be comparable or higher than those they currently have.

Services include medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, lab, X-ray, in-patient, out-patient and emergency services; medical supplies, nutrition consultation; statewide ambulances/careflight service; tele-medicine; and increased access to medical specialists.

Also available will be training, continuing education, and academic opportunities.

TYC will continue to provide medical equipment and maintenance, and Central Office staff will monitor compliance with TYC policies and standards.

"The advantages of managed health care for TYC include controlled costs, accurate budgeting, and access to technology," said Ferrara.

TYC Health Services Director Sandra Ferrara served as project leader of the implementation team. Others included Dr. George Willeford, TYC medical director; Cherie Townsend, Director of Community Operations; Dwight Harris, Director of Institutions; Eric Young, Human Resources Director; Terry Graham, Director of Accounting; and Emily Helm, Director of Legal Services. ☼

PROGRAMS

ACA reaccreditation audits progress

The first American Corrections Association reaccreditation audit of **East Region** was held in Houston March 13-14, with the region in 100 percent in compliance with mandatory and nonmandatory standards.

Reaccreditation audits cover a three-year period. Audit preparation was supervised by Region Director Helen George, case manager supervisor Rita Hughes and parole supervisor Joe Joseph.

Auditors Bill Weddington of Virginia and John Zachariah of Ohio reviewed masterfiles, interviewed most of the region staff and visited three placements. They observed intake sessions and family conferences.

Central Region field services scored 100 percent compliance on the mandatory standards and 98.2 percent on non-mandatory standards during their reaccreditation

audit April 26.

Staff was supervised by Region Director Adrian Moore, parole supervisor Dora Ramirez-Itz and case manager supervisor Gail Penney-Chapmond during the preparation for the audit.

South Region field services audit for reaccreditation was completed April 28. Auditor Jon Trzcinski of Oklahoma was impressed with the intermediate sanction model being practiced in the region, according to ACA manager Gail Graham.

The program received 100 percent compliance with mandatory standards and 98.8 percent compliance with non-mandatory standards.

Those responsible for directing work for the audit were Doris Davila, Region Superintendent, and Louis Lopez, parole supervisor. ☼

Reception Center program at Marlin features 2 month orientation

When the Youth Commission begins receiving newly-committed youth at the new Orientation and Assessment Unit in Marlin August 1, the entire concept of an "intake program" will be changed.

Marlin Superintendent Alan Steen has appointed Jack Patton, formerly Assistant Superintendent at the Gainesville State School, as his Assistant Superintendent.

Many support functions in budgeting, finance, purchasing, and warehouse staff will be provided by Corsicana State Home departments.

"We are making a conscious effort to change the way we do business," Steen explained. "We are attempting to increase efficiency for the agency with non-traditional staffing patterns.

The Marlin facility, transferred to TYC from the Department of Criminal Justice, expects to begin receiving newly-committed youth on August 1. Within three months it is expected that the capacity of 356 will be reached.

The average length of stay at Marlin will increase from what was typical at the Reception Center in Brownwood -- a two-week assessment period -- to two months, and in some cases, three months.

Youth at Marlin will undergo a more comprehensive assessment phase, with emphasis being focused on appropriate placement decisions to effect the agency's effort to increase public safety.

Following the assessment process, all will remain at Marlin for an additional 60-day orientation program. The only exceptions will be female students and those diagnosed as emotionally disturbed.

The orientation period is designed to teach youth the behaviors that will be expected when they arrive at their placement; such behaviors as proper dress, hair care, how to clean, how to do laundry, how to take part in group sessions, how to speak appropriately.

"Theoretically, 60 days should be ample time for these behaviors to be learned," said Superintendent Alan Steen. "There will be an objective checklist to record daily be-

Placement, transportation units combined

TYC's Transportation Unit has been combined with the Centralized Placement Unit to form a new department called the Statewide Placement and Transportation System (SPTS).

Paula Morelock, currently Chief of Community Placement, will head the new department.

Five transportation positions will remain in Brownwood at the current Statewide Reception Center. Two transporters will be located in Marlin with the soon-to-be open new Statewide Reception Center.

Two transporters each will also be located at Crockett, Gainesville and West Texas. The North Region is piloting a program for two transporters to serve the movement needs of the region, and several regions have contracts with other entities to assist with their transportation needs.

Prior to 1985 the transportation of TYC youth was a distributed system with a unit at each of the five institutions and at the reception center.

At that time it supported institutions' needs exclusively, with minimal coordination between facilities. Services were consolidated at the Statewide Reception Center in 1985.

With consolidation, the Transportation Unit began transporting all youth between institutions and from institutions to contract residential facilities. It was not responsible for subsequent movement from contract agencies unless youth were going to a TYC institution... nor was it responsible for transporting youth to parole placements.

"Frequently, TYC transportation was asked to provide additional courtesy transportation for other TYC youth and bring new commitments from the counties to the reception center," Morelock said.

The expansion out of Brownwood began in July 1993 when two staff were assigned to transportation at Crockett State School.

"The intent was to shorten the time for trips in the East Region and also to expand the capabilities for moving TYC youth for which the unit was not directly responsible," Morelock explained.

Planning for the new transportation system has been implemented by Morelock and Rex Hudspeth.

Six routes have been established to operate Monday through Friday.

ROUTE 1 will be based at Crockett and will serve Crockett, Marlin, Jefferson County State School, Giddings and the East Region.

ROUTE 2 will be based at Gainesville to serve Gainesville, Marlin, Giddings and the North Region.

ROUTE 3 is based at West Texas and will connect the Brownwood facilities, West Texas, Sheffield and the West Region.

ROUTE 4 is based at Marlin and will make short trips to connect with other routes. (This is considered the "extra van," to be used if others are in maintenance.)

(Continued on page 24.)

havior. If the checklist is not positive, an additional 30 days will be required."

After 30 more days in the orientation phase, a youth who has not complied with the objectives will still be transferred to placement, but will lose the 90 days' credit toward his total length-of-stay requirement.

There will also be a more extensive education component at Marlin, since youth will stay there for a longer period.

"However, the focus will be on the ba-

sic three R's -- with a number of practical educational modules being used," Steen said.

"School at Marlin will be a privilege... inappropriate conduct in the classroom will result in a security referral," he explained.

While the Brownwood Reception Center shared the security unit at the Brownwood State School, there is a 24-bed security unit at Marlin. ☼

The cycle of violence and the cost of child abuse and neglect

Delivered by Judy Briscoe, Office of Delinquency Prevention, Texas Youth Commission at the 1994 TCA Annual Conference, Irving, Texas

Reprinted from *Texas Journal of Corrections*, September-October 1994, p. 10-13.

Marian Wright Edelman, director of the children's Defense Fund, in Washington, D.C., stated the following in *Parade Magazine* on May 8, 1994: "I feel I am the luckiest child in the world to have had a mother and father who *lived*, rather than just preached their faith and family values - who taught their children that being honest was more important than being honored, and that faith was a safer and more enduring harbor than fame."

Most of us in this profession can say the same thing. We were lucky. We had parents who loved us and who served as role models for a value system that included a strong work ethic, belief in the Golden Rule, good manners and a respect for others, and a clear understanding of the difference between right and wrong.

Today, many children are being taught a very different value system. We have second and third generation criminogenic and substance-abusing families. Extended families are either non-existent or not held in the same regard as they once were. The church is not a focal point. Because people are more transient, communities aren't stable. Neighbors don't look after each other. Money and possessions, regardless of how they are obtained, are primary motivators.

In 1994, an American child is abused or neglected every 13 seconds; born to an unmarried mother every 26 seconds; born into poverty every 30 seconds; born to a teen mother every 59 seconds; arrested for a violent crime every 5 minutes; and killed by guns every 2 hours.

Every day, 1,234 children run away from home; 2,860 see their parents divorce; 100,000 children are homeless; and 1,200,000 latchkey children come home to houses in which there is a gun.

What has happened to society? Never before have children had such easy access to, and faith in, guns and gangs rather than in parents, neighbors, community institutions, and religious congregations. Never have children been forced to make life decisions without the security of nurturing fami-

lies and communities, a sense of right and wrong, enough adult role models to emulate - and without challenged minds, job prospects or hope. Never have children been exposed so early and relentlessly to cultural messages glamorizing violence, sex, possessions, alcohol and tobacco.

When I came to work in this field in 1973, the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) then, as today, handled the state's toughest kids. In 1973, the predominant offense for which kids were committed was stealing and the second most predominant offense was disobedience. We don't even use that term any more. Today, nearly 40 percent of TYC's kids are committed for violent offenses.

We all have anecdotal information about offenders who were abused or neglected as children. But more than that, these kids are being raised in a violent society and are becoming acclimated to violence as a way of life. In TYC's capital offender program, for kids who have committed murder, staff have become aware that the majority of these kids have witnessed three or four homicides prior to their 13th birthday.

Until recently, however, there have not been many good longitudinal studies that confirmed what we know intuitively. Cathy Spatz Widom, professor of criminal justice and psychology and director of the Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center at the State University of New York at Albany, recently completed a study entitled "The Cycle of Violence."

Widom's study tracked 1,575 cases from childhood through young adulthood, comparing the arrest records of two groups: a study group of 908 substantiated cases of childhood abuse or neglect and a comparison group of 667 children, not officially recorded as abused or neglected, and matched to the study group according to sex, age, race, and approximate family socioeconomic status.

The design also featured clear operational definitions of abuse and neglect
(Continued on page 11.)

TYC girls settle in at new Bronte residential program

The new Coke County Juvenile Center in Bronte, a facility run by the Wackenhut Corporation under contract to TYC, now has a population of 96 female TYC youth. The new residential center features sparse, bright, furnishings. Shown here are various scenes at the campus.

TOP LEFT: Stephen Lee, who is in charge of the Bronte canteen, shows some of the many items available for sale to the girls;

TOP RIGHT: Members of the Center's Community Advisory Council, who have formed a non-profit organization, elected officers, and already regularly provide special activities for the girls on a monthly basis. Standing at the left is Erika Olson, former TYC employee, who is the facility administrator, and who was closely involved in assisting the local residents to organize a volunteer council;

CENTER LEFT: A typical dayroom, featuring bright modular seating and colorful Southwest motif rug;

CENTER RIGHT: The covered corridor which connects the administration/academic/security/office building from the four dorms, on either side, and the gymnasium, at the end;

BOTTOM LEFT: Three girls sit on bed in an individual room;

BOTTOM RIGHT: Four girls have evening meal in their dorm dayroom. All meals are delivered to and served in the individual dorms. ☺



Giddings recognizes staff, students, volunteers

Giddings staff and volunteers participated in a barbecue chicken cook-off, bean-cooking contest and dessert contest during their recognition day April 28.

Over \$1,000 was raised on behalf of the Staff Quality Improvement Group and the Giddings Community Advisory Council.

Named outstanding student was Stephen Kidd; outstanding employee was Johnnie Green.

Numerous jackets, pen sets, cups, caps and flashlights were awarded to staff who had been accident free. Certificates of appreciation and embossed coffee mugs were presented to 69 staff and community volunteers.

Seventy-five Texas A&M University students, who are members of a sports psychology class, spent the day and participated in a variety of activities, including food judging, sports demonstrations, track events and the grand finale softball game. ☼

Donations received from community

HEB donated \$500 of "Nifty Gifty" coupons to the Corsicana State Home this year, since the State Home is one of their adopted schools. Coupons have been used mainly for academic school holiday parties and the Easter bags for students.

The Corsicana Noon Lions Club recently donated \$250 to the Corsicana Community Advisory Council. ☼

Easter bags given to Corsicana students

The Corsicana State Home community advisory council provided Easter gift bags for the 128 students on the Corsicana campus on Easter morning.

The bags included hygiene items, socks and candy. YAS IVs Mark Jessie and Raymond Rosas distributed the bags on Easter morning. ☼

TYC volunteers win Governor's award

Kathy, Lou Hollis receive recognition from Governor Bush

Lou and Kathy Hollis, longtime outstanding TYC volunteers at Crockett State School, were honored April 26 at the Governor's Mansion in Austin by Governor George W. Bush.

The couple was named winner of the Governor's Volunteer award in the "Family" category, since they contribute their volunteer work together.

Representing the agency at the event were TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson, Assistant Executive Director for Professional Services Neil Nichols, Chief of Volunteer Services Joan Timmons, Crockett State School Superintendent Rey Gomez and Volunteer Coordinator Virginia Lewis.

The Hollises were also presented a "Congratulations" plaque at the 1995 TYC volunteer conference in McAllen April 2 by Robinson.

"I daresay NO ONE else has voluntarily contributed as many hours to benefit TYC youth for so many years," Robinson said.

The Hollises run the Crockett canteen twice a week -- all afternoon each Monday and Friday. They stock and restock it, check each kid's funds, and virtually take care of all the headaches it could cause our staff, he explained.

"Kathy and Lou have contributed thousands of hours during the past nine years working with the Community Advisory Council, training each new superintendent



Lou and Kathy Hollis receive 1995 Governor's Volunteer Award from Governor George W. Bush.

and assistant superintendent, 'breaking in' each new volunteer coordinator, 'indoctrinating' each new chaplain, and generally doing whatever needs to be done -- but ALWAYS with the kids in mind," Robinson said.

"They have become such 'fixtures' at Crockett, it's hard to imagine how the institution could function without them," he added.

"We almost lost Lou last summer...he was in intensive care for weeks before waking up -- and his first words were: 'how are the kids at Crockett?' After months of rehabilitation, he is better than ever, and continuing to volunteer many hours each week." ☼

Giddings council concludes public forums

The fifth in a series of public forums sponsored by the Giddings Community Advisory Council and the Giddings Gang Task Force was held April 20, and concluded the series.

The Council has organized public meetings promoting community awareness of youth-related issues, including gangs, drugs, positive parenting, effective discipline, AIDS awareness and teen pregnancy.

The council developed the programs, scheduled speakers and meeting halls, sent out mailings and organized child care, refreshments and door prizes for the events held in various areas of Lee County.

CAC chair Betty Kellar directed the event, with the assistance of council members Lavern Moore, Donna Orsag, Susie Brown and Scott Rohloff. ☼

Cycle of violence

(Continued from page 8.)

which permitted the separate examination of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.

The findings were as follows:

Those who had been abused or neglected were 53 percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles; 38 percent more likely to be arrested as adults; and 38 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime. Females were 77 percent more likely to be arrested if they had been abused or neglected.

Abuse and neglect cases are more likely to average nearly *one year younger* at first arrest; commit *two times* as many offenses; and be arrested *89 percent* more frequently.

A more troubling find is that a child who is *neglected* is just as likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

These findings offer persuasive evidence for the need to take concerted preventive action. Texas' human services agencies are so overwhelmed and underfunded that services can't be provided except in extreme cases. For example, this year, of the confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) was unable to provide services to 45 percent of the children who needed them.

On a national basis, neglect reports are three times as high as abuse and unless there is neurological damage from the abuse, neglect has a longer term, more damaging impact to the development of a child.

Preliminary Phase Two findings of Widom's study, based on follow-up interviews with 500 study and comparison group subjects, indicate other negative outcomes to be as common as delinquency and violent criminal behavior. These findings include mental health concerns (depression and suicide); educational problems (inadequate cognition, extremely low IQ, poor reading ability); health and safety issues (alcohol and drug problems); and occupational difficulties (lack of work, employment in low-level service jobs).

As I said earlier, Widom's study confirms empirically what many of us know intuitively.

Violent crime is *imprisoning* our economy. Ted R. Miller, director of the Safety and Health Policy Program at the National Public Services Research Institute, published an article entitled "Victim Costs of Violent Crime and Resulting Injuries," in

Health Affairs, Winter 1993. He cites the Vanderbilt/Urban Institute Cost of Crime Study of 1993, which estimates that each year adds another \$178 billion dollars in lifetime costs to victims of violent crime. Michael J. Mandel's article, "The Economics of Crime," appearing in the December 13, 1993, issue of *Business Week*, estimates that if property loss, urban decay, private protection, and criminal justice costs are included, the annual financial loss to our nation is a staggering \$425 billion dollars. Imprisoning a 25-year-old for life costs a total of \$600,000 to \$1,000,000.

TYC's Office of Delinquency Prevention is spearheading a collaborative effort in-

***In 1973, the
two predominant
offenses for which
kids were committed
were stealing and
disobedience.
Today, it is for
violent offenses.***

volving researchers from the World Health Organization's Center for Health Promotion, the University of Texas School of Public Health, the Texas Department of Health, and the Children's Trust Fund of Texas, in an attempt to quantify the repercussions of those long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect, both in terms of potential years of life lost and direct and indirect economic costs to Texas in 1993.

John Walker, M.D., TYC's primary prevention specialist, has just completed the first phase of the comprehensive study. By using the statistical methods of population attributable risk (the method used to determine the correlation between cigarette smoking and lung cancer), and applying it to the root causes of youth problems, the study will determine what percentage of those problems can be attributed to child abuse and neglect and from that can determine the costs to Texas. The preliminary figures are staggering.

So, what can we do about it?

First, we must take courses of action to ensure the phrase "Children are our future"

is meaningful.

We must make prevention programs a priority and *investment*, not an afterthought.

I know the tremendous pressure under which this state is operating to try and manager the adult criminal justice system. But many of these problems are "old chickens coming home to roost."

We have never treated children in the context of their family or environment.

We have *just* begun to treat substance abuse problems in the criminal justice system.

What could we have expected?

I want to talk about solutions - and there are some, many in fact. They aren't rocket science, and they aren't magic.

Let's take the concept of partnerships. Federal, state and local governments, municipalities, churches, businesses, civic clubs, schools and neighborhoods need to work together. They must set aside territory, sit down at the same table, do a needs assessment, share resources and expertise, involve recipients of services in all phases, and build in an evaluation component. The concept of "inclusiveness" will help ensure ownership and commitment.

Let's talk about parenting. Several years ago, one of my good friends, who was a psychiatrist, was doing research for a book he was writing about successful people. What was the one common denominator in those people who had been successful? Someone had read to them when they were children. How many parents know to do that?

My first year out of graduate school, I went back to an alumni meeting where one of my colleagues had become a foster parent to a young child who had been born with fetal alcohol syndrome. When she first got the baby, she thought to herself, "This is the best baby I've ever seen. It never cries." As time went by, she became worried and took the baby to the pediatrician. The baby, who had been removed from her mother at a few weeks of age for severe neglect, had already learned that it did no good to cry. No one would respond.

The Hawaii Healthy Start program, now being replicated around the country, has workers go into the hospital and interview mothers shortly after they have given birth. If the mother agrees, a risk assessment is administered to determine whether the mother might be at risk for abusing or neglecting her child. If the risk assessment indicates the possibility of abuse or neglect

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Cycle of violence

(Continued from page 11.)

and the mother agrees to participate in the program, a home visitor schedules a time to meet with her once she leaves the hospital. The home visitor teaches her parenting skills, links her with AFDC, WIC, or whatever services for which she is eligible, and establishes a relationship with a primary care physician for the baby. That family is monitored for the first five years of a baby's life. Among those mothers who agreed to participate, *child abuse and neglect was averted in 99.7 percent of the cases.*

We now know the critical importance of the first three years:

- The brain development that takes place before age one is more rapid and extensive than previously realized;
- Brain development is much more vulnerable to environmental influence than ever suspected;
- The influence of early environment on brain development is long lasting.
- The environment affects not only the number of brain cells and number of connections among them, but also the way these connections are "wired"; and
- There is new scientific evidence for the negative impact of early stress on brain function.

Children must be nurtured from the very first moment of their lives. We can't wait until a child reaches school age to stimulate his or her thinking.

Let's look at preschool programs. As stated in *Significant Benefits; The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 26*, by Lawrence J. Schweinhart and David P. Weikart, "High-quality, active learning preschool programs can help young children in poverty make a better transition from home to community and thus start them on paths to becoming economically self-sufficient, socially responsible adults."

The High/Scope Perry Preschool Project is a study assessing whether high quality preschool programs can provide both short- and long-term benefits to children living in poverty and at high risk of failing in school. The study followed into adulthood the lives of 123 such children from African-American families who lived in the neighborhood of the Perry Elementary School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in the 1960s.

Findings at age 27 indicate that in comparison with the no-program group, the program group had significantly higher monthly earnings at age 27 (with 29% vs. 7% earning \$2,000 or more per month); sig-

nificantly higher percentages of home ownership (36% vs. 13%); a significantly higher level of schooling completed (with 71% vs. 54% completing the 12th grade or higher); a significantly lower percentage receiving social services at some time in the previous 10 years (59% vs. 80%); and significantly fewer arrests by age 27 (7% vs. 35% with 5 or more arrests), including significantly fewer arrests for crimes of drug making or dealing (7% vs. 25%).

What population could be more at risk than our criminal justice population?

- We must treat children in the context of their families.
- We must empower families to be self-sufficient.
- We must teach sex education, prenatal care, parenting. Make it a condition of probation or parole and as part of the curriculum while incarcerated.
- Why not bring children into prison programs? There are already "Girl Scouts Behind Bars" in Maryland.
- Provide healthy start programs in jails.
- Find out how many of our clients have children and teach them the responsibilities of being a parent.

We need to teach violence prevention and school yard mediation and implement fight-free schools. We need recreation centers, mentors, and tutors for kids. Intergenerational programs such as TeleFriends and GrandFriends have had amazing success for both youngsters and the elderly. We have forgotten what tremendous wisdom and life experiences an elderly person can provide. *These aren't high dollar programs.*

Needless to say, there are many wonderful programs from which we can draw expertise and experience. TYC's Office of Delinquency and Prevention has executive summaries of successful prevention programs from all over the country. Please get in touch. Our address and telephone number are: Texas Youth Commission, Office of Delinquency Prevention, 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751, 512/483-5269.

While we're trying to figure out what to do, if we understand that a child who is not nurtured is a child who never learns to trust, never develops empathy, never accepts responsibility for his behavior, and hurts others with impunity, then we will figure out a way to collaboratively make children and families a priority and support and empower them to take responsibility to rear healthy and productive children. ☺



DR. LEONARD LAWRENCE of San Antonio, TYC Board member and professor of psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center, was keynote speaker for the Giddings State School Black History program. He told staff and students of his humble beginnings and that he credits his success to positive relationships. Attorney Dwight Jefferson also was a special guest speaker. Those assisting with the program were Charlene Davenport, emcee; staff Alice Lang, Sam Rogers, Charles Etta Francis, Alex Warren, Nell Crayton-Dixon, Marilyn Alexander and Benjamin Smith.

Briefly noted ...

■ The Intercultural Awareness Committee at Giddings presented "Quilting A Framework of Cultural Understanding," a one-day workshop, on May 19. Presenters were Dr. Freddie A. Paniagua, a nationally recognized speaker presently with the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston; The Cultural Warriors, a troupe of young people who communicate through dramatic interpretation; and Roberto Loayza.

■ The Fifth annual chili cook-off at Pyote, sponsored by Aunt Jackie's Place, was held May 6th with proceeds benefiting the West Texas State School chapel fund.. The "gala" included crafts booths, a pool tournament, contests, an auction, a gunfight featuring "The Hangmen's Henchmen", and dancing to the music of "Hard Tymes."

Resocialization

(Continued from page 4.)

The life story serves as a tool not only for the youth to better understand himself, but also as a vehicle for connecting emotionally with staff and peers who are working with him in the process of change.

"All human beings engage in thinking which is sometimes used to defend against painful or uncomfortable feelings and action," Dr. Reyes said. "This is known as defensive thinking, or thinking errors. The youth we serve tend to demonstrate excessive use of defensive thinking patterns, and these serve to promote the negative and antisocial patterns of behavior in which they engage and for which they were committed to our agency."

An important part of resocialization is that of identifying, confronting, and changing the defensive thinking patterns to enable youth to take full responsibility for their actions.

As is the case that the youth committed to TYC were not born delinquent, so it is that the crimes they committed, and the antisocial behaviors in which they engage, don't just happen because of uncontrollable factors. It is important that these youth become familiar with the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral experiences which became the negative cycles which led to their offending behaviors. As part of resocialization for these youth, it is important that they understand the cycles of the past, in order to better identify and intervene in the cycles they experience currently.

Without being able to empathize with the experiences and feelings of others, the possibility of recidivism is greater. Youth must take responsibility for the harm they caused others by striving to understand the victims' losses and related emotional reactions.

"It is said that one can best identify with others by being able to relate to their experiences," said Dr. Reyes. "Thus, the chances for empathizing with victims is enhanced if the youth can identify and work through yet unresolved emotional responses to personal life experiences."

"We have alluded to the antisocial value systems of the youth committed to TYC," she added. "Therefore, an ongoing part of the resocialization process involves

constant identifying, challenging, and changing values which led to criminal lifestyles," she explained. The chance for a more successful lifestyle will be improved with the incorporation of prosocial values, and such results only from internalizing a sense of belonging through self-understanding and engaging in prosocial behaviors and meaningful relationships.

Finally, successful completion of the modules and personal integration of the information and insight gained must be used to develop one's individualized success plan. This is not only a plan to prevent recidivism into former antisocial patterns of behaving and relating, but also to enhance one's potential for a successful lifestyle.

The major components involved in the success plan module include identification of stimuli which could contribute to negative cycles and antisocial actions, escape mechanisms for avoiding or restraining oneself from responding to that stimuli, and concrete goals and plans for achievement

in the most important aspects of one's life: personal plans, family and social relations, school, and work.

Specific performance measures have been identified for five phases of the resocialization program. Phase I will be completed during the youth's stay in the State-wide Reception Center. In order to move to a less restrictive environment from an institution, youth must complete 70% of the criteria.

Finally, a youth must be in the final phase of resocialization to be eligible for parole, she concluded.

Following the presentation, Board Member Dr. Leonard Lawrence of San Antonio shared a letter he had received from a Giddings youth, committed to TYC for murder. Dr. Lawrence commented that the letter "tracked" with the goals and processes outlined in the resocialization model.

Dr. Lawrence felt that the young man's story indicated that resocialization was "already working." ⊕

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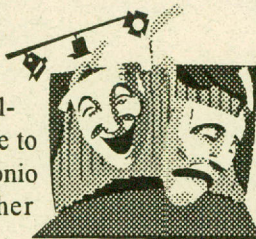
Southwest Key residents present drama

Residents of Southwest Key's Dallas residential treatment center recently completed a Texas tour of the client-produced play "Just Like My Brother." This production chronicled the impact of gang life on a typical family.

Written as a serious drama, the play depicted a gang-related shooting, a funeral complete with a real coffin, a gang-counseling scene and relevant musical accompaniment. The Southwest Key "theater company" presented the play at several sites, including TYC's McFadden Ranch, Cottrell House and the Ayres House.

Southwest Key's program director Martin McLee said, "The play and the associated travel allowed our youth to demonstrate their abilities. Moreover, the creative opportunity allowed our residents to explore an additional avenue of expression.

"Several of our staff were part of the cast and volunteered their time to travel to San Antonio and to our other stops," he added.



The Corsicana Kiwanis Club sponsored the twelfth annual Corsicana State Home campus olympics in April. Events included a football toss, basketball free throw, timed jump rope and frisbee throw. Top scoring boy and girl were Chris Williams and Jennifer Fillmore, pictured above.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Schaeffer residents providing services

Schaeffer House residents have continued to provide volunteer assistance to El Paso agencies, and help with yard maintenance and cleanup at local schools and cultural centers.

Assisting with handicapped children and adults at the Multi-Purpose Center are Ryan Webb, Donald Neville and Shawn Martinez.

Working at the El Paso Convalescent Center are Arthur Royal, Chris Cobos and Charles Goual, who work six to eight hours daily four days a week.

Three other youth volunteer their services on weekends and holidays at the McCall Cultural Center: John Orona, Ryan Webb and Omar Williams.

Assisting with painting and cleanup work at the Cesar Chavez Academy, an alternative high school in El Paso, are Omar Williams, Gabriel Magellan, Avery Hastings, Lionso Jimenez, Kenneth Parker, Ryan Arnzsaan, Mike Moreno, Brandon Hill, Edgar Gomez and Jose Carrasco. ☼

Two youth attend out-of-state meetings

Two Schaeffer House youth, Gabriel Magellan and Mike Moreno, participated in out-of-state conferences recently.

Gabriel attended the Seventh Annual Novanet User's Group Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Mike attended the Celebrating Opportunities for Hispanic Students in Albuquerque, New Mexico. ☼

"Violence Prevention Week" at Gainesville

Gainesville State School staff held a week of crime-prevention activities May 15-19 in connection with "Violence Prevention Week."

The theme for the week was *Kids Killing Kids: Let's Stop the Violence*.

Students participated in three categories: poems, posters, and rap lyrics. Pictures of posters, duplicates of poems and raps were displayed in the visiting center, according to staff member Phillip Cogan. ☼

Mayor commends Schaeffer youth

Schaeffer Halfway House residents' volunteers were recently cited by Art Franco, Mayor, Town of Anthony, Texas, for their work in cleaning a city park. His letter to John D. White, Schaeffer House superintendent, reads as follows:

Dear Mr. White,

As with any new venture there is always the possibility that it will not work as expected. But in the case of your youth cleaning our park, it was in my opinion a huge success. The youth did an excellent job and the amount of work done was more than I expected.

We had no problems as the supervision was excellent, and I can't express enough thanks to your staff and all involved in the cleanup. I hope that we can continue to help each other benefiting the youth and the Town of Anthony.

In return for your help, I would like to sponsor a trip for the group to the Santa Teresa (N.M.) Air Museum. I believe it would be educational and very interesting for them, and I would be glad to make all the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Art Franco, Mayor ☼

Excerpts from letter to Willoughby House staff from departing student...

"I am writing this letter in regards to my release on Tuesday April the 18th. I would just like to let you all know individually, how much you all have helped made me make a change:

Ms. White — I have enjoyed being here with you ... I am going to miss you very much and do not worry about these girls, if they don't want your help leave them be. You really helped me a lot...

Mr. Medlock — If you haven't taught me anything else you have taught me how to worry about myself and none of these girls in here and it helped me. ...

Ms. Smith — Lord have mercy. Ms. Smith you stayed on me so hard until it just became pitiful. But, I can honestly say that it really and truly helped me a whole lot. It made me take a different outlook on the future. If you had not been so strict on me I may have not made it this far...

Mrs. Pruitt — I don't know just what to say to you. I will miss you and your crazy self ...

Ms. Coy — Crazy, crazy, crazy...I know you are going to miss me. Believe it or not I am going to miss you too. Thank you for all you did for me ...

Ms. Seguin — Me and you have been through hell and back. We started off rough, but we put our differences to the side and together we managed to make it. Being around you has helped me to look at people for their personality and not their color. Thank you ...

Ms. McCarthy — We didn't get a chance to talk that much this time around. We also didn't get to argue much this time around. Keep doing a good job ...

Ms. Patrick — I am going to miss you a whole lot because you did help me to control my anger at times. You also taught me how to just keep my mouth closed when I am angry ...

Mrs. George — I have enjoyed your cooking and your silly jokes ...

Mr. McGee — If you had not kept calling the people down in Austin I probably would not be leaving this soon. Thank you for your effort and your concern ...

Mrs. Breland — The times me and you did get to talk we always found something to laugh about ...

Mrs. Gibson — Thank you for keeping me busy after school. It did help me stay out of trouble between two-thirty and four ...

Mr. Laster (graduate social work intern) — You have put smiles on a lot of people's faces since you have been working over here. I think you might ought to consider this job full time ...

Mrs. Banks (criminal justice intern) — I hope you get to finish school. I will miss you coming to talk to me when I am on bed rest ...

Mrs. Pelletier — Well I barely got a chance to know you but in the time I did get to know you I found out that you were a fair person no matter who it was or what it was. ...

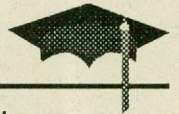
Mrs. Singleton — When I get into trouble I will not have you there to fuss at me and tell me you ain't going to talk to me unless I act right. All that really helped me. If you wouldn't have been so strict on me, I would probably be still sitting there looking crazy.

Thanks to all of you for all your help. I really do appreciate it. " ☺

Youth receives diploma through Vision Quest

Donald Stichert is the first TYC youth in the Vision Quest/Wagon Train - program to receive a high school diploma.

Donald went to school in an Indian-style tipi by day while camping in the wilderness at night. He has been at Vision Quest since July and is graduating with honors. He is scheduled to go to college in the fall and, according to Louis Laster, North Region case manager, will major in math. ☺



Nine earn GEDs at Brownwood

Nine Brownwood students passed the GED during March. They are:

William Blanchard	Chris Castillio
Toby Dillard	Anthony Garcia
Lorenzo Gomez	Nathan Higginbotham
Nicholas Rodriguez	Paul Paris
Jessie Wilder	

Valley House youth passed GED

Valley House student Pablo Blanco passed his GED test, the first youth from Valley House to get his GED since the halfway house opened again in November 1991.

Five pass TASP test

Five Giddings students recently passed all sections of the TASP testing required for college in Texas:

Christopher Baker
Ruben Flores
Ronnie Brown
Daniel Mendoza
Kevin D. Wilson

Giddings students graduate

Giddings students received high school diplomas in February and March:

James Ambers	Christopher Pleasant
Douglas Dean	Humberto Reyes
Timothy Grassity	Richard Sanchez
Joel Pastran	
Mark Simon	
Lee A. Evans	

The following students successfully completed the GED testing and have received their GED diplomas:

Jacob Baldwin	Boris McCray
Reginald Bowens	Venancio Medellin
Jose Garza	Anthony Serna
Marlon Johnson	Francisco Vasquez

Anthony Serna and Reginald Bowens qualified for scholarships through TEA's scholarship program. ☺

Cinco de Mayo in West Region

The West Regional Office Intercultural Awareness Task Force and the El Paso Community Resource Council cosponsored Cinco de Mayo activities at Schaeffer House, including a Mexican dinner and presentation of folkloric songs by El Paso's Bowie High School mariachi band.

Task force members served the meal. Lisa Compean donated a candy-filled piñata for Schaeffer House residents and Mirna Payan provided a "loteria" game. Joe Donacio donated decorations and videotaped the events. ☼

Youth hear noted Islamic speaker

Renowned speaker Imam Yahyah Abdullah, the resident Imam of the Dallas Masjid of Al-Islam, spoke to student members of the Islamic Fellowship of Gainesville State School in April.

Imam Abdullah, who co-produced a nationally-aired documentary, *The Hajj, Pilgrimage to Mecca*, founded African-American Men Against Narcotics (AAMAN). This organization focuses on education and the prevention of drug abuse, as well as linking abusers and addicts with appropriate agencies. ☼

Ayres House holds tribute

Several Ayres House youth presented readings from the poetry and prose of well-known African American writers during the San Antonio halfway house's black history event. A feast of various ethnic foods topped off the evening.

Dr. Harkless, head of the podiatry school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, spoke of his early struggles and the spiritual strength which gave him faith and perseverance to overcome obstacles of racism in his small East Texas Town.

Julian Rodriguez, former president of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, also spoke of overcoming prejudice and going on to attain an education which helped him build a successful career as head of a multimillion-dollar organization. ☼

CULTURAL EVENTS

Ayres House black history presentation

When we think about black history month one man is sure to come to mind. I am here today to talk about that man's dream and what has become of it. He was one of the greatest African Americans, or human beings for that matter, to ever walk this planet. His beliefs were based on a few basic principles such as non-violent protest and equal rights for all. I am talking, of course, about the great Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King had a dream. His dream was that one day all men would be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I could not imagine a society without this basic principle. We now live in a society that is basically racially biased. My brothers and sisters (and by saying brothers and sisters I am referring to people of all races) have learned to look past racial boundaries and have found something else to base their prejudices on. Now they look not to the color of their skin, but to the color that they wear. Brothers and sisters are now killing each other over colors.

The dilemma that our country now faces is not so much whites killing blacks, but blacks killing blacks. And by this we have turned Dr. King's dream into a nightmare.

Can you imagine the anguish, the hurt, and the pain that Dr. King must feel when he looks down from heaven and sees what has become of his dream? If people in heaven still cry, I believe that Dr. King lowers his head and weeps. He weeps because he saw the nightmare end, and his dream come true, only to be followed by another nightmare. He weeps because of how much his children have been misled.

I ask you this: Do you think that if Dr. King were still alive today, he would give up on the youth of today? I believe that he would not. I believe that instead he would struggle for peace and goodwill among all men, just as he did decades ago. So I say to you, let us follow in the great Dr. King's footsteps. Let's not give up the war against this widespread ignorance that has befallen our country. Let us fight a different kind of prejudice and let us do so together; for together we must not, can not, and will not fail. In closing I shall leave you with this verse from the Negro National Anthem:

"Let us march on till victory is won!"

*Speech by Jesus "Jesse", Ayres House Resident
February 24, 1995 ☼*

Corsicana celebrates black history

Music, poetry reading, and an African American game show were held during a black history program at Corsicana.

Performing solos and duets were Lola Searcy, Carolyn and Charles Webb, and a youth choir from Drane Middle School which was coordinated and directed by teacher Shonna Franklin. Dramatic poetry readings were presented by Rauslyn Canady.

Student winners Africa Moore and Ricky Johnson, of the schools' "I Too Have a Dream" essay contest, presented their essays.

Dr. Mercy Chieza (who came from Zimbabwe, Africa to Texas in 1981 and is the director of the campus AIMS Unit) directed the program. Remarks were made by superintendent Chester Clay, Jr.

The program was sponsored by the campus intercultural awareness committee, chaired by Floyd Hall. Members are Gran Hawthorne, co-chair; Lola Searcy, secretary; Joyce Brewer, Rauslyn Canady, Mercy Chieza, Barbara Dienda, Lucy Humbert and Ross Tuttle. ☼



NEW STATE VOLUNTEER COUNCIL OFFICERS, elected and sworn in during the recent volunteer conference in McAllen, are left to right, Betty Kellar of Giddings, secretary; Bob Frisby of Corsicana, vice chairman; and Leo Rodriguez of Evins Regional Juvenile Center, chairman. Richard Robinson of El Paso was re-elected treasurer. Rodriguez replaces Lou Hollis of Crockett in the leadership position.

Volunteers feted in Ft. Worth

Willoughby House residents hosted the 9th annual volunteer appreciation banquet April 25.

This event was coordinated by resource specialist Leaner Singleton with assistance from Willoughby staff.

Direct service volunteers, Ft. Worth Community Advisory Council members, major contributors, employee volunteers and student volunteers from Willoughby House and parole services were recognized at this event with a gift basket and flashlights donated by Radio Shack.

Willoughby residents presented all portions of the evening including invocation, door prizes, award presentations and a skit.

Luann Pelletier was introduced as Willoughby House's new administrator. ☼

Ayres House honors volunteers

Volunteers were honored by Ayres House staff with a spaghetti supper April 27. Volunteer council president Mark Padilla served as master of ceremonies. Central Region director Adrian Moore welcomed volunteers and new superintendent Rosie Labrado gave an overview of the house.

Work site coordinator Jesse Denny commended employers for providing guidance in the work place. Charles Wilborn commended community service site providers. Keith Alexander, assistant superintendent, and Daniel Glass, YAS I, awarded trophies to outstanding youth.

Youth advisors, interns and council members were recognized. ☼

Officials tour AIMS and acute units

Corsicana city, county and school officials toured the new AIMS (Aggression Intervention Management) unit on the Corsicana State Home campus in March as hosted by the Community Advisory Council.

Sixteen officials had lunch in the dining hall with students before touring the unit.

The volunteer council had hosted the officials touring the newly opened Acute Unit last fall. ☼

VOLUNTEERS

Corsicana holds annual recognition banquet

The Corsicana State Home recognition banquet held May 4 was sponsored by the state home and the community advisory council, volunteers, staff and students were recognized for achievement and service.

The theme for this year's event was "Bloom Where You are Planted." The flowering plants represented the students, the enriched soil and plant food represented staff, and volunteers were depicted by the water for the plants.

Announced as outstanding students were Lena Woods, Cottage 8; James Miller, Cottage 10; Michael Janes and Bobby Randolph, Cottage 14.

James Gooden was named outstanding child care worker. Charles Pearce, who contributed 500 hours of volunteer work last year, was recognized as the outstanding volunteer. Volunteer council chairperson Billie Carroll was recognized for her outstanding service to the council.

Students also received awards for being outstanding in campus employment,

scouting, GED completion, school citizenship, academic progress, academic achievement, superior behavior, and progress in treatment.

Volunteers who received awards for contributing between 100 and 200 hours during the past year included Jerry Cockerham, Paul Fulbright, Carol Hamann, Daisy Russell, and Richard Kelley.

Tracy Cunningham was awarded for contributing over 400 hours.

Staff recognized were Jimmy Alexander, outstanding clinical staff; James Gooden, outstanding child care worker; Dorcas Purdy, outstanding education staff; Kevin Steely, outstanding support staff; Ann Milligan, outstanding medical staff; and Floyd Hall, outstanding administration staff.

Superintendent Chester Clay, Jr. also made special staff recognitions.

Council member Dawn Coley chaired the recognition banquet. ☼



THE TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION'S top volunteers were announced during the 1995 TYC volunteer conference in McAllen April 2. Winners of the annual competition are shown above, left to right, Sylvia Bonin, director of the Navarro Council of The Arts, Corsicana, Outstanding Volunteer Group; Dianne Graham, Crockett, Outstanding Employee Volunteer; Tina Owens, Statewide Reception Center, Brownwood, Outstanding Individual Religious Volunteer; Tom Goodnight, standing, and Sue Stroud, (seated center) Giddings State School, Outstanding Chaplaincy Volunteers; Kathy and Lou Hollis, Governor's Volunteer Award recipients; Mark Anthony Flores, Crockett, Outstanding Student Volunteer; Dorothy Davidson (seated left) of El Paso, Outstanding Individual Volunteer; and Pam Neely (seated right) representing Word of Faith Church, Harlingen, Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group.

Outstanding volunteers receive awards

NAVARRO COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, CORSICANA Outstanding Volunteer Group

For the second time in the past eleven years, the Navarro Council of the Arts, Corsicana, was selected to receive the award for the Outstanding Volunteer Group.

"Although the judges were aware that the Arts Council had won before, they felt that the contributions they make to the youth at Corsicana State Home were so significant that they should, once again, receive the award," said TYC Board Member John Odam, who made the presentation at the TYC volunteer conference April 2 in McAllen.

"The Navarro Council of the Arts has forged a unique relationship between a community organization and a correctional institution — unlike any other in the nation," said Odam. The Council has brought numerous artists and programs to the campus, and during the past two years, they have contributed more than \$7,000 and 20 artists for workshops for students."

Sylvia Bonin, the director of the Arts Council, is also a member of the Corsicana State Home Community Advisory Council and has been instrumental in 'persuading' artists to donate classes and programs for the TYC students. She received the award for the Council.

"Much of the experience in the arts is foreign to TYC students at Corsicana — many of whom are emotionally disturbed delinquents," said Odam. "But many have been encouraged to reach a higher learning plateau through the artistic experiences they engage in with these artists."

Among the artistic experiences provided were a soprano storyteller, the Harlem Boys Choir of New York, The Vienna Boys Choir, the Nutcracker ballet troupe, a deaf percussionist, poets, musicians and dramatists.

Also nominated for this award were: *Teen Challenge, West Texas; EN*Core, San Antonio; SMU Community Partners, Dallas; Proline Corporation, Dallas; Sierra Club's Inner City Outings, El Paso; Soroptomist Club, Gainesville; VFW Post 8787, Turman House; Giddings Pizza Hut, Giddings; and the Houston Community Volunteer Youth Council.*

DIANNE GRAHAM, CROCKETT Outstanding Employee Volunteer

In addition to volunteering with TYC kids at Crockett State School, Dianne Graham, YAS III, has had 35 foster children, five of whom she adopted and are living with her — a set of twins, a seven-year-old, and an 18-year old.

"So you might say she believes the TYC slogan, 'Invest In A Kid,'" said TYC Board Member John Odam of Houston, who presented the award during this year's volunteer conference in McAllen.

"Despite Dianne's predictably busy schedule, she still finds time to volunteer. She seldom leaves work without taking a pile of students' clothing to mend," Odam said. "She frequently takes students to her country home, takes them shopping, and prepares special meals with homebaked goodies."

Graham also develops incentive programs to encourage students to improve themselves; she decorates the dorms for special events; she donates items for fundraisers.

"Before she was even hired at the school, she had been volunteering for 18 months," Odam said. "Recently she organized the B.E.S.T. Committee, a group of employees and students who volunteer to sponsor arts and crafts classes, educational programs and car washes to raise funds for victims' services."

"Although SHE would prefer to remain anonymous, we are proud to have the opportunity give her a bit of glory today," Odam said when he presented her the award.

Others nominated for the Employee Volunteer Award were: Bill Lidell, Gainesville, Susan Calvert, McFadden Ranch; Leslie Sherfy, Giddings; Jerry Tefertiller, West Texas; Yvonne Trevino, Evins; Richard Kelley, Corsicana; and Lisa Miller, San Antonio.

DOROTHY DAVIDSON, EL PASO **Outstanding Individual Volunteer**

Dorothy Davidson of El Paso was named TYC's Outstanding Individual Volunteer during the TYC Volunteer Conference in McAllen.

Davidson has played a vital role in the lives of youth at Schaeffer House in El Paso for the past five years. She has also been an active volunteer council member, serving as chairman last year.

She encourages local council volunteers to maintain a one-on-one contact with TYC youth. Davidson makes time in her busy schedule to spend time interacting with the youth on a regular basis — not just for special occasions and holidays. She has developed special relationships with some youth who are otherwise hostile with staff members.

One of her special skills is cutting kids' hair — and she uses these sessions as a chance to counsel with them to "turn your life around."

"Ms. Dot," as she is called by the boys, is always willing to 'go the second mile.' She holds down a full time job at night, and goes to school full time. She is working on a degree in social work, and plans to take TYC's 80-hour new staff training program this summer so she can better learn to work with TYC kids.

"There are so many things I could tell you about Dot's volunteer work for our youth in El Paso," said TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson, who announced the award. "She shops for Christmas gifts, helps wrap them, assists with the May picnic, the Juneteenth barbecue, Thanksgiving dinner at Furr's Cafeteria, and mans the TYC booth to recruit more vol-

unteers, and serves as staff in the West Regional Office while paid staff members attend the annual agency workshop."

Eighteen other TYC volunteers were nominated for this year's Outstanding Individual Volunteer award. They were Nora Falcon, Evins; Rozann Rob, Dallas; Patrick Collier, Dallas House; Tracy Cunningham, Corsicana; Debbie Allred, Gainesville; Lou Hollis, Crockett; Vicki Smith, Brownwood; Allen Golden, Austin; Barbara Wilcox, Victoria; Jose Amando Chapa Jr., Ayres House; Michele Wheeler, San Antonio; Betty Kellar, Giddings; Mary Saldiver, Valley House; Kimberly Lair, Willoughby House; Bob and Cheryl Schindler, Houston; Harvey Acker, West Texas; Juan Medrano, Beto House; and Michael Carraway, Houston.

SUE STROUD and TOM GOODNIGHT, GIDDINGS **Outstanding Chaplaincy Volunteers**

Tom Goodnight and Sue Stroud, both of whom live near Caldwell, are chaplaincy volunteers who have been active as a team in the religious program at Giddings State School for nine years.

"These two have traveled the 30 miles from their homes to the Giddings State School every Sunday afternoon, with few exceptions, for many years... to co-sponsor Bible study for the youths," said Edna Tamayo, TYC Board Member who announced the award during the recent volunteer conference in McAllen.

Sue suffered a stroke three years ago and was unable to take part in the program for over a year, but she has since bounced back and taken up her Bible study. "Her courage and trust in God are an inspiration to everyone," Mrs. Tamayo said.

"A capable preacher, Tom has filled the pulpit in the absence of chaplain Jerry Reeves many times during the past years," she added. "He is also supportive in enhancing the music and sound areas of the Sunday morning worship experience in the Giddings chapel. He also is an active member of the volunteer council."

Tom and Sue together "carried the ball" when Giddings State School was without a Protestant chaplain in 1990.

"They have earned the respect of both staff and students for their professional manner. Both have attended numerous TYC volunteer conferences, and we are so happy to honor them today for providing an important part of the religious program for TYC youth at Giddings," Mrs. Tamayo concluded.

WORD OF GOD CHURCH HARLINGEN **Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group**

Winner of the TYC 1995 Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group award was the Word of God Church of Harlingen, which has been active with Valley House youth for the past ten years — baking cakes for residents' birthdays, providing speakers, counseling, prayer and many hours of volunteer work.

Announcement of the winner was made by Cherie Townsend, TYC Director of Community Services, at the recent volunteer conference in McAllen.

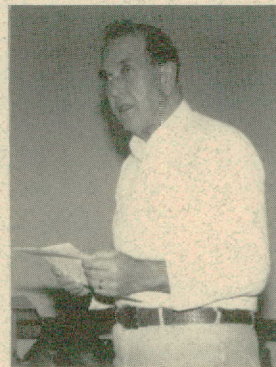
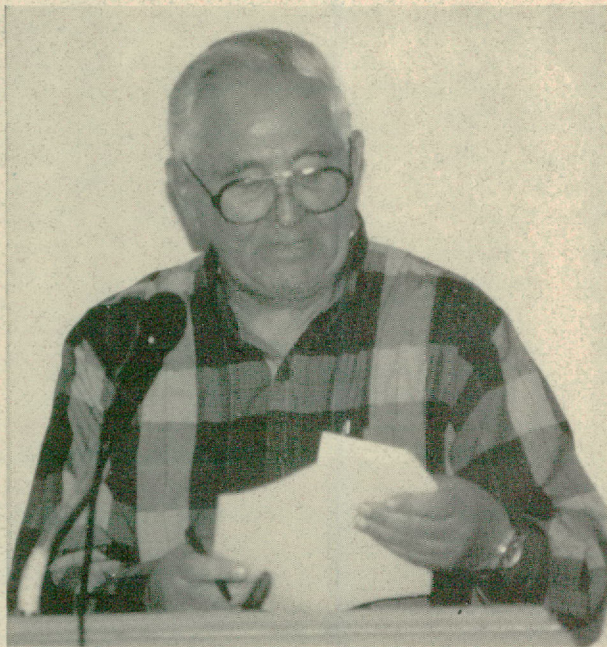
The church has provided its services under current pastor Chester Gross and former pastor Pat Veach.

(Continued on page 21.)



1995 Volunteer Conference

McAllen, Texas



(Continued from page 19.)

"Members go out of their way to make sure every Valley House student receives nice Christmas gifts," said Townsend. "Even though they are not wealthy, they have stretched their personal budgets at Christmas"

Church members also recently presented each boy a special youth study Bible especially written for teenagers. Several boys are picked up every Sunday to be driven across town for the Sunday services at the church. They are matched with families after they arrive.

"Many times the families take the youth home to Sunday dinner before returning them to Valley House," she concluded.

The plaque was presented to Pam Neely, an active member of the church's volunteer program, and also a nominee for the individual volunteer award.

Other nominees in this category included United Campus Ministries "Praxis" Program, El Paso; Jose Mares/Joe Bosquez Jr., Reception Center; New Generations, Dallas House; Westhill Church of Christ, Corsicana; Fellowship Freedom Riders, West Texas; Memorial Assembly of God, Senior Bible Class, Dallas; and Word of Faith Christian Center, Brownwood.

TINA OWENS, BROWNWOOD

Outstanding Individual Religious Volunteer

Tina Owens, a student at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, was selected as the agency's Outstanding Individual Religious Volunteer for 1995 — and she was nominated by a volunteer chaplain, Mickey Harr, Statewide Reception Center.

"Tina began participating in the Sunday morning worship services at the Reception Center as a freshman in 1991," said Edna Tamayo, TYC Board Member who presented the award during the 1995 volunteer conference in McAllen. "Because of this she made a personal profession of faith a year later, which proved to be a turning point in her concern for TYC youth."

"Tina has been effective with our youth because she was reared in an economically disadvantaged section of Fort Worth, and many of her own life experiences are similar to those encountered by the youth she works with," Mrs. Tamayo said.

"Also because of her age she has been able to effectively communicate with them... her outgoing personality puts kids at ease, and her energetic activity is an inspiration to everyone," she explained.

Tina addresses issues relevant to TYC youth through "raping." She has written her personal testimony to "rap" Christian music. She is also active in recruiting other Howard Payne students to volunteer.

Also nominated for the award were Pam Neely, Valley House; Lynn Berry, Corsicana; Dr. Pervaiz Rahman, Gainesville; Sue Stroud/Thomas Goodnight, Giddings; Fr. Tej Lal, Crockett; Larry Contreras, Evins; Alfredo Franco, West Texas; and Tom Elliott, Brownwood.

MARK ANTHONY FLORES, CROCKETT

Outstanding Student Volunteer

Mark Anthony Flores, formerly a student at Crockett State School and now in aftercare in Houston, was named TYC's Outstanding Student Volunteer during the awards presentations at the annual TYC Volunteer Conference April 2 in McAllen.

"Two individual students and three student groups were nominated in the this category," said Cherie Townsend, Director of Community Services. "All of them are to be commended for their outstanding volunteer work, and all three of the groups have received this award in past years."

Most TYC programs, particularly the halfway houses, require TYC youth to give back to the community with volunteer activities.

"This year's winner has gone above and beyond that of most of his peers," said Townsend. He was active in the Crockett State School choir -- a group of youth who visit the elderly in the local nursing homes. He was a presenter at last year's Governor's Volunteer Conference in Houston, speaking on "Bridging the Gap Between Generations."

Mark has been actively involved with the Victim Empathy Program at Crockett, serving as a positive peer leader preparing other students for the presentation by victims.

"He has come to understand the consequences of his behavior, and now challenges other students to think twice and make good decisions," said Townsend.

Besides donating many hours of service work, Mark attends both the Catholic and Protestant services at the campus chapel. Every Monday and Friday he assisted in the Crockett canteen, and when volunteer Lou Hollis was hospitalized for many weeks last summer Mark assumed the full responsibility for operating the canteen. He helped train other adults and student volunteers.

"The staff at Crockett believe Mark has tried to make a difference and change his life," she added, "and we are pleased to recognize his efforts with this award."

Also nominated were Allen Scott, Turman House/Austin Parole; Crockett State School choir; Boy Scout Troop 201, Corsicana State Home; and the Giddings State School Student Council.

1995 VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE, March 31-April 2, in McAllen, featured (Left Top) Katie Price receiving recognition for 22 years as Gainesville Volunteer Coordinator from Executive Director Steve Robinson; Outgoing State Council Chairman Lou Hollis at left; (Left Center) Richard Robinson, State Volunteer Resource Council treasurer; (Left Bottom) Outstanding Student Mark Anthony Flores, TYC Director of Community Services Cherie Townsend, and Keynote Speaker Edna Tamayo; (Right Top) Luncheon Speaker John Odam, TYC Board Member from Houston; (Center Right) Bob Stewart, Austin Council member; Earlean Murphy, McFadden Council member; and (Right Bottom) Keynote Speaker Edna Tamayo, TYC Board Member from Harlingen, and South Region Director Alan Steen.

HUMAN RESOURCES

New administrators appointed

● **Doris Davila**, formerly facility administrator of the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg, has been named South Region Superintendent. She replaces Alan Steen, who was recently named superintendent of the new Statewide Reception Center program to be located in Marlin.

Davila completed the TYC management development program in Central Office and was a program specialist for Community Placement prior to going to Evins two years ago. She formerly served as a case manager supervisor at the Austin State School and team leader at the San Marcos Treatment Center. She holds a Bachelor's degree in social work and a Master of Education from Southwest Texas State University.

● **John (Butch) Held**, former superintendent at Valley House, has been appointed facility administrator for the Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg, replacing Davila. Held, who holds a bachelor's degree in physical education, psychology and sociology from Southeastern Oklahoma State and has been with the Youth Commission 19 years, began as a caseworker at Crockett Wilderness Program in 1976. He has served as assistant camp director of the Fairfield Camp and as superintendent of El Paso House and Beto House. He also was employed at West Texas Children's Home. Prior to TYC service, Held served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia, South America.

● Selected as assistant superintendent at Crockett State School is **Bob Woods**, Director of the Smith County Juvenile Services department since 1982, where he was responsible for the administration of the probation services and residential program and a Day Boot Camp. Woods previously worked for TYC as an intern at the Crockett State School Wilderness camp in 1976 and as a contract TYC parole officer in Jefferson County. He has also served as a felony court officer in Smith County and as a visiting juvenile law instructor at the East Texas Police Academy. He holds BS and MA degrees in criminology and corrections from Sam Houston State University.

● **Dora Ramirez-Itz** has been selected Central Region parole supervisor, replacing Roy Washington. Ramirez-Itz, who has been with TYC 15 years, began her career as a parole officer in Corpus Christi in 1979. She has also served as Nueces House Superintendent, South Region parole supervisor, and most recently case service manager for the Central Region. She is based in San Antonio.

● **Rick Cragg**, formerly Nueces House (Corpus Christi) Superintendent, has been appointed superintendent of Turman House, Austin. Cragg began his tenure with TYC in 1987 and worked as a parole officer, case manager, and case analyst in the North Region.

● **J. Ed Edmister** has been selected Field Service Supervisor for the West Region, replacing Les Brown. Edmister began his career with TYC as a parole officer in Corpus Christi in 1989, and moved to the West Region as a caseworker/parole officer in 1991. Prior to that he was an institutional parole officer with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles in Angleton. Edmister, who holds a BA in sociology from Corpus Christi State University, will have responsibility for monitoring, planning, organizing and coordinating services to youth in the West Region.

● **Elizabeth Lee**, Chief of Casework in Central Office, has been appointed to oversee the Victim Information Clearinghouse.

● **Shirley Cochran**, executive secretary to deputy director Jay Lindgren, serves as Victim Information Coordinator and will enter data, send out acknowledgments and process field correspondence. ☺

"Just 4 U" weekend

Seventy volunteers from throughout the United States converged on the Gainesville State School campus, at their own expense, to spend three days in "Just 4 U" ministry and worship with youth.

The event was sponsored by the Bunny Martin Evangelistic Association (BMEA). Services were held in the gym and included magicians, athletes and ex-offenders who related their spiritual experiences as related to their rehabilitation.

Music and worship were provided by Dave Davlin, Bob Cole and Harold Thompson. Volunteer counselors visited with the youth individually.

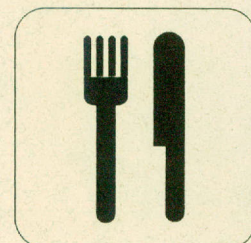
BMEA director Bunny Martin has made a life-long career of visiting correctional centers throughout the world. He previously served as regional director of the Bill Glass Ministries in the North Texas area and has been visiting Gainesville State School for the past four years. ☺

"La Cafe on De Roof" provides perspective

200 N. Marsalis is about to come into its own as one of Dallas' finest French Cafes.

The second annual "La Cafe on De Roof" is a budding tradition of the Southwest Key Dallas day treatment program. The idea originated in a cultural attempt to expose clients and families to a different perspective of this non-profit agency.

The made-to-order brunch has provided an avenue for increased family involvement and the opportunity for the students to observe the staff in a supportive, consumer-oriented fashion. ☺



Job fair held for new institution

As TYC entered the final stages of construction on the Jefferson County State School, the TYC Central Office Human Resources Department began the process of recruiting staff for that facility. Recruiting for approximately 130 positions was accomplished through a Job Fair April 7-8 in the Port Arthur/Beaumont/Orange area.

The Job Fair was held at the Montagne Center, Lamar University's basketball arena and complex, in Beaumont.

The Human Resources team, under direction of Department Manager Karen Collins, included staff from Giddings, Crockett, Corsicana, the Port Arthur/Beaumont/Orange Chambers of Commerce, the Texas Employment Commission, and over 175 local area volunteers, representing numerous organizations.

Marie Murdoch, Superintendent of the Jefferson County State School, reported what appeared to be "an endless line of job seekers" attended the Job Fair. Some even camped out at the doors of the Montagne Center overnight, in hopes of being one of the first to enter the two-day Job Fair.

Staff and volunteers received applications, screened, and interviewed the applicants. The huge turnout resulted in the fact that it was close to midnight before



THOUSANDS OF JOB PROSPECTS lined up for TYC's two-day job fair April 7 and 8 in Beaumont to apply for 130 positions with the Jefferson County State School.

some Job Fair staff could finally leave the facility.

Steve Robinson, Executive Director; Billy Jacobs, legislative analyst; Ed White, associate director for management and support; Dwight Harris, director of institutions; Eric Young, director of human resources, and others fielded questions from applicants and spoke with the news media and

commissioners.

"Clearly it was the combined efforts of area volunteers, TYC staff, TEC, and the local Chambers of Commerce, working together as a team, that made this Job Fair a huge success," said Collins.

The new institution is slated to begin receiving committed youth August 15. ☼

Briefly noted ...

■ Two El Paso TYC volunteers were honored by the El Paso Center for Volunteerism and Non-profit Management April 27 at the annual awards banquet: **Chezelle Martinez**, a youth advocate who volunteered with the parole office; and **Richard Rheder**, a Schaeffer House volunteer who worked with the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program.

■ **Vicki Benson-Walker** is the new benefits coordinator in the Human Resources Department at Central Office.

■ **Adrianna Cuellar**, formerly with TEC, is a new program specialist in the Research and Planning Department...

TYC receives TIPC awards

At their annual Conference in February, Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission (TIPC) granted TYC and its employees three awards.

John Franks, Associate Director for Finance and Construction, won the Leadership Award for his efforts in coordinating the Productivity Bonus Program.

The Menu Planning team from Evins Regional Juvenile Center won an award for their productivity bonus plan that created culturally sensitive menus that saved the agency \$3,700 in FY 1994.

The team projects that they will save the agency \$7,000 in FY 95. Yvone Trevino, Sheridan Wingrove, Eudelia Guerrero, David Dias, Ramiro Molina, Laticia Morales, Nora Lacout are the members of the team.

The agency also won the prestigious award for publicity and promotion of both the State Employee Incentive Program and the Productivity Bonus Program. TYC competed with several other state agencies for this highly-regarded award, said Laura Pickell, Training Specialist. ☼

Placement, transportation

(Continued from page 7.)

ROUTES 5 and 6 will be based at Brownwood and will connect with other routes to serve the sanction program, Brownwood, Giddings, Marlin, San Saba and the Central and West Regions.

The South Texas Transportation Unit was created in 1990 to serve the South Region and reduce the need for overnight trips. This unit serves a 19-county area and coordinates trips with the main unit at the reception center for youth coming into and leaving the region. This unit will continue to operate in the South Region.

Rex Hudspeth will continue to serve as transportation coordinator, and will be located in Brownwood, along with the lead transporter and three additional transporters. The two transporters at Crockett will continue to be based at Crockett State School.

Transporters, who will support the institution where they are based on non-scheduled trip days, will be transporting

paroled youth from institutions to parole offices. Institutions will be supplying relief staff to serve during annual leave and sick time of regular transporters, and van maintenance.

TYC's Centralized Placement Unit under Morelock's leadership was created in 1987 to manage and oversee the initial placement of all newly committed youth -- as well as the subsequent movement of all TYC youth.

"The process was intended to provide the most consistent, fair and efficient method of treatment program assignment possible, without respect to whether or not the youth was a new commitment or already in the system," said Morelock.

The Placement Unit focus changed in 1992 from merely making referrals and placements to evaluating resources and services available and how best to meet youths' needs.

Tammy Yanez will serve as the Placement Coordinator and will be located in Brownwood, overseeing operations in both

Brownwood and Marlin. Continuing in the Placement Unit will be Larry Isbell, Placement Specialist; Karen Gibson, Assistant Placement Specialist; and La Nita Keas, Secretary for the expanded unit. Staff will be expanded to include a placement specialist and clerical support at Marlin.

The objective of the new plan for placement is to keep the assessment of youth as pure and unencumbered as possible, Morelock said. The unit will be making all placements and assignments for the agency.

"It separates the function of assessment from the placement process, making it possible for assessment to retain the integrity of the process to identify risk and need appropriately without being influenced by institutional quotas, budget constraints and availability of bedspace in programs," she explained.

"Thus the separation of the two functions," she concluded. ♻️



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