



Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

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Serving Our Youth Since 1980



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Melanie Caswell
Fred Guzman
Judy Larkin
Stacey Slauzis
Pablo Villanueva
Joe Villescaz

Food Handlers Class

From time to time, our juvenile courts order youth on probation with financial needs to receive one hour of community service credit for every two hours on the job. For many youth, however, finding a job can be very difficult.

One way to help them is to facilitate their procurement of work-related certificates. For example, a typical employer for youth is the food industry. In Texas, though, individuals who prepare, store, or serve food must have a food handlers permit. So on June 18th, we once again teamed up with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to help our youth acquire this permit.

Angie Gutierrez, Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent, accompanied by Frances Moreno-Elizondo, Office Assistant, taught a Food Handlers Permit Class which entailed a basic overview of food safety practices. This included good personal hygiene, cross contamination, and time and temperature abuse. Youth were also provided with a goodie bag.

In total, thirteen youth completed the class making them eligible for the Food Handlers Permit.. Our department paid the \$20 fee per youth.

At the conclusion of the food handlers class, youth were subsequently introduced to the importance of employment soft skills, such as professionalism and attitude. Many thanks to our Employment & Education folks, Marisol Quinones, Coordinator, and Dale Walker, Program Assistant, who delivered this portion of the training session. ■



Pictured L to R: Frances and Angie
(Texas A&M AgriLife County Ext. Services)



Pictured L to R: Marisol and Dale
(BCJPD Employment & Educations Svcs.)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR

On Saturday, August 3rd, CSR youth and staff took part in the 1st Annual *Bexar County Juvenile Justice Services Back-To-School Fair*. This wonderful fun-filled event provided over 300 bags of school supplies to department youth and their siblings.

Numerous individual and business sponsors deserve thanks for making this event possible. Too many to list here. But they, along with more pics and other information can be found at www.partnersforyouthsa.org.

We are especially thankful to JPD staff who helped plan and/or volunteer at the fair: *Alberta Ortiz, Amber Fuller, Chavez Shields, Chris Carrasco, Dana Wilson, Francisco Gonzalez, Garrett Caswell, Gerardo Muniz, Jonathan Nanes, Irene Nanes, Jennifer Kremm, Juan Sanchez, Krizia Franklin, Lisa Lozano, Terrance Stanton, Mary Stanton, Melissa Ramirez-Reyes, Monica Lopez, Monique Hardy, Regina Gould, Olga Holguin, Racheal Dailey, Richard Ramon, Ruben Borrego, Tamara Wible, Joseph Medellin, Jose Villescraz, Lillian Byas, Fred Guzman, Amanda Guzman, Marjorie Altman, James Mireles, Jaime Campos, Albert Castanola, Jeannine Von Stultz, Maricela Morales, Karl Johnson, Pablo Villanueva, and Stacey Slauzis.* ■



Pictured (L to R): 386th District Court Associate Judge Pat Garza & 289th District Court Judge Carlos Quezada



Teresa Champion Dance Students



Lillian Byas & Fred Guzman



Recycling Wood Project



Under the watchful eye of Joe Villescaz, project youth hangs a birdhouse at The Promised Land Church

In our last issue, it was mentioned that this project's purpose is to educate youth on the importance of recycling and repurposing materials to benefit the community. Consistent with the project's stated purpose, youth constructed birdhouses that were then displayed at The Promised Land Church.

Project started on March 27th and ended on May 1st. It was under the direction of Joe Villescaz, CSR Specialist. He was primarily assisted by Joe Medellin, Lead CSR Specialist.

Community partners play a big part in the implementation of service learning projects. In particular, donations render projects feasible. Therefore, a well-deserved thank you goes out to Quality Fence & Welding for donating materials.

At the conclusion of the project, youth were encouraged to write reflection letters. The following excerpt is from one of these letters:

"What I learned in this class was how to use a drill and how to measure wood. What I liked about this class was we stayed as a team and worked as a team. When we went to the church we put up the birdhouses that we built and I'm sad that today was the last day." VC



Joe Medellin displaying some of the birdhouses

Never get tired of reading these letters, and very proud of staff for making this project both educational and fun. ■



Words for Success



On occasion, community volunteers are invited to speak to youth in the CSR program. Typically, we look for individuals who are willing to share an educational, motivational or inspirational message. This report period we were fortunate to have **MSgt (Ret.) Christopher G. Dion** come by on Saturday, June 15th. MSgt Dion entered the United States Army on September 1990. In that time, he built a distinguished military career including recipient of the Bronze Star. He recently retired and is now employed with the Transportation Security Administration as a computer analyst. He also serves as Texas State Chaplain for the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

He shared with our youth the importance of goal setting, and the avoidance of blaming others for our mistakes. Rather, to learn from our experiences especially by disassociating from negative influences. He added that the road he has traveled to this point has not been easy. He grew up with an abusive step-father. And prior to entering the military, he was homeless in New England, living out of his vehicle. He credits his success to the Lord. ■

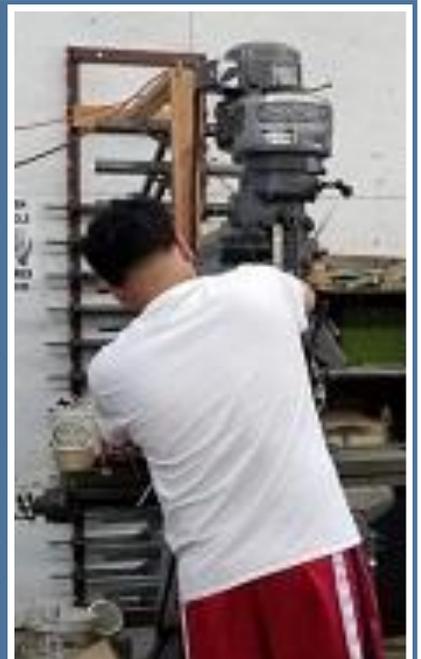
Mobility Project

In partnership with the Northside Lions Club and Mobility World-wide, our youth once again spent part of this summer assisting in the construction of hand-cranked mobile carts.

Finished carts are then shipped by the Lions Club to developing countries. These carts provide a means of transportation to non-ambulatory individuals living in those countries.

This service learning project introduced youth to basic carpentry, construction, painting, manufacturing, safety, and other workshop related activities. Youth taking part in the project were credited with twenty-four CSR hours. Project was held in the month of July at the Northside Lions Club PET manufacturing site located at 219 E. Nakoma. CSR Lead Specialist Joe Medellin led this project with assistance from Specialist Joe Villescaz.

To learn more about the PET® Mobility Project, please go to <http://petinternational.org/> ■



Youth fabricates cart bracket

WELCOME



We are pleased to welcome **Stacey Slauzis** to the CSR Unit. Stacey joined CSR on July 9th. She is a part-time CSR Specialist assigned to weekend work crews.

Stacey is not new to the department. In 2018, she worked full-time as a Detention Officer in our facility. In addition, she worked six years as a Senior Residential Supervisor and Counselor with Corrections Corporation of America where she worked with immigrant families in Dilley, Texas. She has over four years' experience as a Deputy Sheriff in California. And a six month stint with Yuba County Juvenile Hall as a Control Room Operator.

Very pleased to have Stacey join our team. ■



IT'S A BOY ■ ■ *For this new PO*

On July 2nd, CSR Specialist, Melanie Caswell, and her husband, Probation Officer, Garrett Caswell, were blessed with the arrival of Everett Allen Caswell. Baby Everett weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 22 inches long. Heartfelt congratulations to the Caswells.

CONGRATULATIONS are also in order as Melanie was recently promoted to Probation Officer. Effective August 24th, she was officially assigned to the Gang Unit . We miss Melanie, but congratulate her on earned a well-deserved promotion. ■

SAVE THE DATE

Appreciation Dinner .. Wednesday, November 6, 2019 .. 6 pm to 8 pm

Andy Mireles Juvenile Probation Center .. 301 E. Mitchell

INVITATION WITH RSVP WILL FOLLOW