



Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

Serving Our Youth Since 1980

May - August 2018



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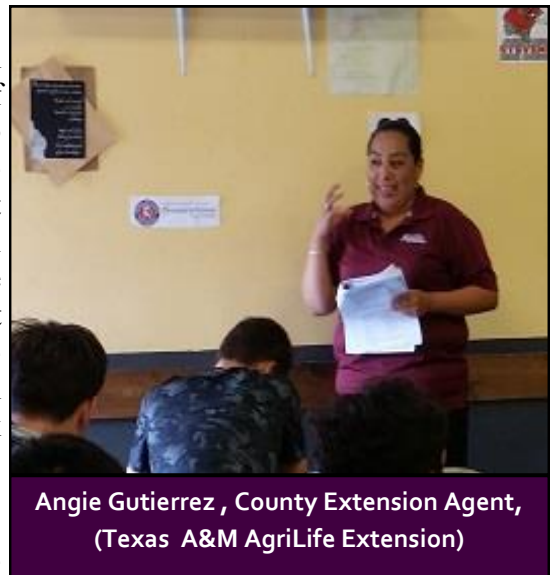
Joe Medellin
Lead Specialist

SPECIALISTS

Sonia Benavides
Lillian Byas
Melanie Caswell
Arturo Gutierrez
Fred Guzman
Judy Larkin
Pablo Villanueva
Joe Villescáz

2 for 1 Work Credit: A Practical Approach

Over the years, our juvenile courts have allowed certain youth on probation to receive one hour of community service credit for every two hours on the job. This is a practical approach to community service given that many youth have pressing financial needs. But too often, youth come to the Community Services Restitution Unit with these orders, but they aren't employed. In these cases, we assign them community service, typically in our work crews, until they find a job. Regrettably, some struggle mightily to get a job.



Angie Gutierrez , County Extension Agent,
(Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)

In an effort to help youth fulfill their community service obligations by increasing their job procurement chances, we teamed up with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The latter holds accredited food handling classes. The accrediting entity is the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Why food handling classes? For youth, the fast food industry is a typical employer. In Texas, individuals who prepare, store, or serve food must have a food handlers certificate. Therefore, having a food handlers permit makes our youth more marketable to prospective employers. To this end, Angie Gutierrez, AgriLife County Extension Agent, accompanied by Frances Moreno-Elizondo, Office Assistant, came to the CSR warehouse on Saturday morning, May 19th, and 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 gift bag containing a flexible cutting mat, food thermometer, and other goodies.

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In total, twelve youth attended the 2 and 1/2 hour class. Our department paid the \$20 fee per youth. After completing the morning class, youth became eligible for the Food Handlers Permit—a bona fide work related credential.

In the afternoon, youth were subsequently introduced to the importance of employment soft skills, such as teamwork, professionalism, and attitude. Goodwill Industries delivered this portion of the training session. Many thanks go to Goodwill staff: Patricia Ramos, Unit Coordinator of Workforce Development, who served as liaison for this training initiative, and to Daniel Sanchez, Manager of Training and Development, who conducted the session. ■



Daniel Sanchez , Manager of Training & Development,
(Goodwill Industries)

SAVE THE DATE

Appreciation Dinner

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Andy Mireles Juvenile Probation Center

301 E. Mitchell

The Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department's Community Service Restitution (CSR) Program will be hosting an Appreciation Dinner. The event will recognize and celebrate the many community partners who help department youth with their community service obligations. Dinner will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

For more information please contact

Pete Gonzales, CSR Unit Supervisor @ (210) 335-1840 or pgonzales@bexar.org

INVITATION WITH RSVP WILL FOLLOW

Photography Project



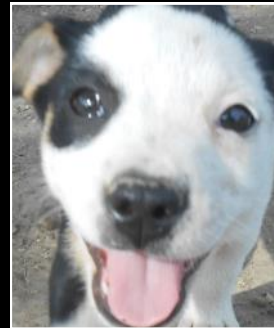
In our last edition, it was mentioned that we had once again added photography to our menu of service learning projects. This go around CSR Specialist, Melanie Caswell, an amateur photographer herself, served as project lead. She was assisted by part-time CSR Specialists, Pablo Villanueva and Sonia Benavides.

As always, community partners made this project possible. In particular, the following led sessions on different photography topics: Dr. Edmund Lo, Associate Professor at San Antonio College (SAC); Tricia Buchhorn, Senior Lab Technician at SAC; and Julysa Sosa, staff photographer at St. Philip's College.

On May 7th, our youth went on an instructional field trip to SAC. Photo editing was the lesson for the day. Youth got to use state of the art photography equipment and Adobe Photoshop software. They were generously provided with a college gift bag as well.



Given that children and animals are always a great mix, the project finale was held on May 29th at the Kirby Bexar Animal Shelter. There our youth took photos of abandoned dogs for the center's Adopt A Pet efforts. Special thanks go to Jacy Dingel, Shelter Manager, for meeting our youth after normal business hours and facilitating this picture-taking event.



The project's impact on participant youth is exemplified in a reflection letter written by one of the youth who stated: "My favorite part of the class was when I got to take pictures of the dogs. They were so playful and loving ... I saw the sparkle in their eyes ..." Yes indeed, staff got to see the sparkle in our kids' eyes, too. ■

Wedding Bells



Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Caswell. Very pleased to announce that on Sunday, July 22nd, a member of our work family, CSR Specialist Melanie Castro, married Garrett Caswell. Garrett also works for the department, specifically Detention Center. Here's wishing this couple a long life of happiness. *Congratulations....*



**KIDS
STILL
BUILDING
RAMPS
FOR THE
ELDERLY
&
DISABLED**



**23rd Annual Texas Community Service Association Conference
October 28 - 31, 2018**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton San Antonio Brooks Hotel
7610 S New Braunfels Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78235
Conference Registration is \$125.**

This training is specifically tailored for:

- CSCD Employees
- Juvenile Probation Departments
- Parole Services Employees
- Educators
- Law Enforcement
- Anyone working in the non-profit arena
- Anyone interested or involved in community service

**For more information or to register please contact:
Israel Tena, TCSA Vice-President @ (915) 305-2232 itena@epcounty.com
Pete Gonzales, Conference Co-Chair @ (210) 335-1840 pgonzales@bexar.org
Rita Flores-Garcia Conference Co-Chair @ (210)335-8260 rita.garcia@bexar.org**