



Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

September - December 2018

Serving Our Youth Since 1980



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Appreciation Dinner ...	1
TCSA Conference	3
Farewell.....	4
ArtMaking	5
Car Show	7

Chief Probation Officer
Lynne Wilkerson

Deputy CPO
Field & Court Services
Karl Johnson

CSR STAFF

Pete Gonzales
Supervisor

Sylvia Scott
Office Assistant

Joe Medellin
Lead Specialist

SPECIALISTS

Sonia Benavides
Lillian Byas
Melanie Caswell
Fred Guzman
Judy Larkin
Pablo Villanueva
Joe Villescaz

APPRECIATION DINNER



On Wednesday, September 12th, we were once again delighted to host the Annual Appreciation Dinner for our community service partners. These partners help our youth in a multitude of ways. They serve as work crew sites, community-based individual placement locations, provide expertise and resources to our service learning projects, partake in presentations, and much more. At this function, they were presented with well-deserved certificates of appreciation.

We also provided special tokens of appreciation to our longtime partners, including those that have been by our side for at least 10-years:

*Chapel Hill United Methodist Church ... Christian Hope Resource Center ...
Edgewood ISD DAEP ... Texas Transportation Museum*

For 5-years of partnership:

*Animal Defense League ... St. Luke's Catholic Church ...
Thompson Place Neighborhood Association*

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

As customary, we announced the Top CSR Work Site for 2018. This year's award recipient was the City of Somerset. The latter is a partner of ours from way back — nine years to be exact. To date, 738 community service hours have been performed at Somerset.

Of course, gratitude is extended to all CSR staff who helped make this dinner possible. With special recognition going to Joe Medellin and Joe Villescáz for cooking the fryers and sausages. They did a superb job — as always.

We are also fortunate to have had other department staff help with the serving line: Paula Martinez (Court Unit North) and Rosalie Vogt (Restore Hope Unit). Additionally, we are pleased that both Chief Lynne Wilkerson and Deputy Chief Karl Johnson joined us and expressed gratitude for our community partners' contributions.

We are especially appreciative to **Bill Miller Bar-B-Q**. This benevolent company graciously donated some very tasty pinto beans and potato salad.

Here's looking forward to next year's dinner. ■

MORE APPRECIATION DINNER PICS ON PAGE 6



TCSA CONFERENCE

The Texas Community Service Association (TCSA) held its 23rd annual conference in San Antonio from October 28th to the 31st. The conference was held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Antonio Brooks Hotel. Approximately 100 folks from throughout the state attended.

TCSA is a non-profit organization that provides support in the development and administration of community service restitution programs. Special emphasis is placed on those programs and individuals involved with Community Supervision & Corrections Departments (CSCDs) and Juvenile Probation Departments (JPDs).

The conference was co-hosted by both the Bexar County CSCD and Bexar County JPD. Conference co-chairs were Rita Garcia, Assistant Chief Probation Officer (CSCD), and Pete Gonzales, CSR Supervisor (JPD). Local planning team members representing the CSCD: Guadalupe Garza, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Manager, and Cecilia Macumba, ARC Support Manager. Representing JPD: Lillian Byas, CSR Specialist & TCSA Advisory Council Member; Amanda Guzman, Senior Probation Officer, Interagency Services Unit; and, Dana Wilson, Senior Probation Officer, Court Unit South.

Leo Gomez, President & CEO of the Brooks Development Authority; Jarvis Anderson, Chief Probation Officer, Bexar County CSCD; and Lynne Wilkerson, Chief Probation Officer, Bexar County JPD, welcomed TCSA to San Antonio.

With twenty-six speakers presenting on twenty different topics, it is difficult to mention all of them in this allotted space — as much as we would like. However, we would be remiss if we did not point out that Brett Merfish and Mary Mergler of Texas Appleseed got the conference off to a great start by delivering an insightful keynote address on the challenges facing Texas' Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems.



Standing (L to R) Joe & Melanie
Seating (L to R) Pete & Lillian



Chief Lynn Wilkerson
Welcomes TCSA

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Additionally, we are very thankful to our very own JPD staff for presenting and/or facilitating sessions at the conference: Erin Barry, Staff Attorney; Lillian Byas, CSR Specialist; Albert Castanola, Assistant Supervisor, Gang Unit; Gilbert Hernandez, Counselor, and Tanya Jopling, Coordinator, Substance Abuse Services & Program Development. Of course, we are also immensely thankful to the numerous financial and in-kind sponsors. Without their support, this conference would not have been realized. ■



Gilbert



Tanya



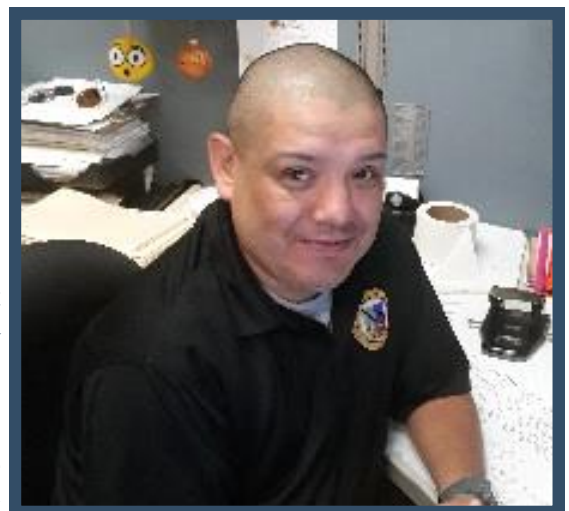
Albert



Erin

FAREWELL

A few months back, longtime employee of the department, Arturo Gutierrez, resigned his position with the CSR Unit. Arturo was employed by JPD for approximately seventeen years. He spent twelve of those years as a CSR Specialist. Arturo was a key member of the CSR Unit. He was always eager to help, and he never hesitated to take on new challenges. For instance, he was the first specialist to buy-in and support the service learning concept by implementing an ArtMaking for the Holidays project back in 2011. Equally important, he had an abundance of good humor and wit that brought a lot of laughter to the unit. Plus, the man can flat out cook. This zany, wonderful man is sorely missed by all of us. We wish our friend the best of luck in his new endeavors. ■



ArtMaking for the Holidays is a service learning project that provides youth with an enjoyable and enriching arts and crafts experience. This hands-on project encourages youth to create artworks given holiday themes; convey ideas and feelings through artwork; and demonstrate a basic appreciation of helping others.

This time around, classes were held from November 13th to December 18th. At the end of the classroom portion of the project, youth held a bingo for elderly residents at the Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. As expected, youth used their artworks as bingo prizes. By the way, all residents, not just the winners, received prizes.

Our youth typically take away positive feelings from this activity. This time was no different. As one youth reflected:

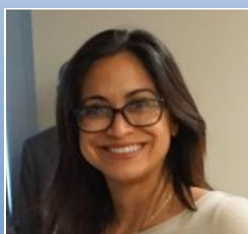
"I learned different types of Art and how you can make different forms of it. I liked helping the people and watching them communicate and laugh with each other. I also enjoyed that time I had and experienced with them."

Very thankful to CSR Specialist Joe Villescraz for serving as project lead, and to Sylvia Scott, Office Assistant, and Pablo Villanueva, CSR Specialist, for their assistance ■



artmaking

**Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Appreciation Dinner Pics

Free Admission & Free Parking to Fiesta Grounds Food ... Rides ... Music ... Dancing ... & much more

SAVE THE DATE OPEN CAR SHOW

@ Port San Antonio's

Fiesta de los Niños

A Family Friendly Alcohol-Free Event

Saturday, April 20, 2019

Fiesta to be held @ 200 Goodrich Drive, San Antonio TX 10 am to 6 pm

Car Show is from 10 am to 3 pm

Car Show Participants will check-in from 8:30 am to 9:30 am @
229 Billy Mitchell Blvd. (Parking Lot), then caravan 1-mile to the Fiesta Grounds @ 9:30 am ...

For safety concerns, NO In or Out between 10 am & 3 pm

Car Show Registration \$20 or (\$10 if Pre-Register)

First 30-registrations get free Goody Bag

Car Show Proceeds to Benefit

"Bexar County Partners for Youth"

*— a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit of
Bexar County Juvenile Probation*

*For more information, please contact Pete Gonzales @ (210) 396-8205 or (210) 335-1840 or
pgonzales@bexar.org*

Can also Pre-Register & Pay On-Line @ www.partnersforyouthsa.org

**TROPHIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED, TO:
BEST IN SHOW .. KIDS' CHOICE .. PEOPLE'S CHOICE .. PEER CHOICE (10) .. LARGEST CLUB PARTICIPATION**