



Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department

Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

September - December 2014

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Steven Lerma
Andrew Ramos
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Greetings,

In an effort to keep our stakeholders and friends up-to-date on community service developments, the CSR Unit is providing you with this newsletter. It is to be circulated every four months. In it, we will highlight project activities, upcoming events, policy and procedure issues, and other information that we think you might find of interest.

Please share any comments, suggestions or thoughts you may have that will help us provide you with relevant information. We will make every effort to accommodate your request.



CSR Unit located at 235 E. Mitchell, San Antonio, Texas
(Frank Tejeda Juvenile Justice Center)

Best Regards,

Pete Gonzales
CSR Unit Supervisor

*Texas Family Code, Section 54.044, Community Service,
(a) states that "if the court places a child on probation ... ,
the court shall require as a condition of probation that the
child work a specified number of hours at a community
service project approved by the court and designated by the
juvenile probation department"*

Appreciation Lunch

On Friday, November 7th, CSR staff provided an appreciation fajita lunch for our community service partners. Forty partners came by between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. This was our 3rd Annual Appreciation Lunch.



(Pictured left to right) Crystal Guerra, CSR Specialist; Waymond Watkins, YWCA Volunteer Coordinator at Las Palmas Branch; Arturo Gutierrez, CSR Specialist; Pete Castoreno, YWCA Volunteer; and, Alesha Girdy, CSR Specialist.



(Pictured left to right) Dr. Alma Ortiz, BCJPD Volunteer; Alesha Girdy, CSR Specialist; and, Sylvia Scott, CSR Office Assistant.

This lunch is another way in which we thank our partners for accepting our youth at their sites. While at these sites, youth are able to perform their community service restitution hours under the direct supervision of employees and volunteers from these sites.

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Without community-based partners that serve as individual work sites, our department's ability to help probation youth fulfill their CSR obligations would be severely hampered. For this reason, we owe them tremendous gratitude.

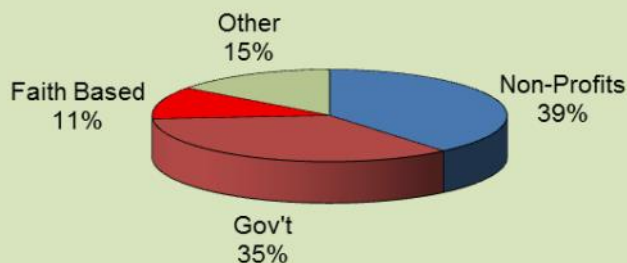
In calendar year 2013, 53% of all community service hours were performed at individual work sites. Goodwill Industries alone had 4,600 community service hours done by our youth. Remaining hours were performed under the direct supervision of CSR staff via work crews and service learning projects.

Special thanks go out to all our partners. ■



(Pictured left to right) Steven Lerma, CSR Specialist; Flor Rodriguez, Goodwill Industries Customer Care; and, Andrew Ramos, CSR Specialist.

CSR Hours Completed by Type of Site
January to October 2014



BCJPD youth perform community service hours at community-based work sites that are comprised of non-profit, government, faith based, or other benevolent groups. The accompanying chart shows the percentage of CSR hours completed at these different sites.

ArtMaking for the Holidays

A service learning project of ours entitled “ArtMaking for the Holidays” provides youth with an enjoyable and enriching arts and crafts experience. This project also introduces youth to the concept of civic responsibility.

It is taught through hands-on activities in which students generate creative ideas by brainstorming, gathering information and engaging in discussions. After which, they create artworks that express their knowledge, ideas and feelings. They then operate a loteria (Mexican bingo) for special populations, such as the elderly, and use their art creations as bingo prizes.

On Tuesday, October 28th, eleven of our youth were transported by CSR staff Arturo Gutierrez and Sylvia Scott to the Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing Home, located on the southside of San Antonio, where staff and youth held a loteria for elderly residents.

Reflection is a crucial part of any service learning project, as it helps to promote a youth’s understanding of the meaning, importance, and impact of his/her efforts. To this end, youth who took part in this project were also encouraged to reflect on the benefits of “giving back”. On page 5, see a typical Reflection Letter written by one of the youth. ■

“I wish that everyone in a nursing home had someone to love them and show care towards them.”

- Youth EC



Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing Home (formerly Mission Oaks Manor) .

10-29-14

Essay - Community service

The experience at the nursing home was very unique and nice. Had so much fun with the elderly man and woman I was helping with bingo. And the 94 year old man that clapped for a long time he was so nice and cute. This experience was very eye opening because us helping them made me realize that they appreciate everything. So I want to say that the experience was great and I would definitely do it again and help out with others. Just to see how the elderly light up in the face when we said Bingo Time they all wanted to play so that made me feel so good and made want to help out more and more and keep on helping with them. And soon I would like to come back and help out I may just want to work there later in life. At the same time just be there for the elderly and help out a lot.

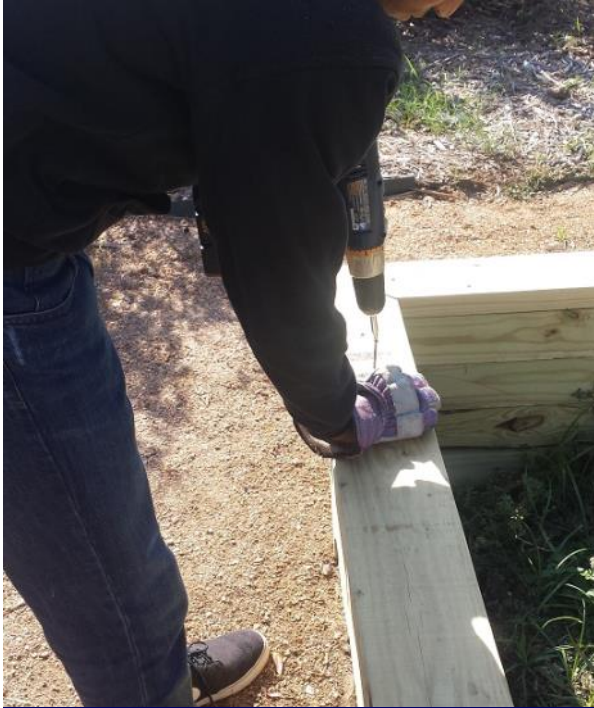
- Youth IH

Recommended CSR Hours

The following table is included in the *Bexar County Juvenile Probation Practices Manual*, sec. 2.23, Community Service Restitution (CSR) Program, letter (J). It serves as a “guide” for probation officers who are considering CSR hours in a juvenile’s case.

RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY SERVICE RESTITUTION (CSR) HOURS: Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department		
Offense Level of Most Serious Current Charge	1 st Referral for CSR (Minimum Hours Recommended)	2 nd or Subsequent Referral for CSR (Minimum Hours Recom- mended)
Class B Misdemeanor (excludes Graffiti less than \$500)	12 hours	18 hours
Class B Misdemeanor (limited to Graffiti less than \$500)	15 hours	18 hours
Class A Misdemeanor (excludes Graffiti \$500 or more)	24 hours	30 hours
Class A Misdemeanor (limited to Graffiti \$500 or more)	30 hours	30 hours
3 rd Degree Felony	36 hours	42 hours
Greater than 3 rd Degree Felony	42 hours	48 hours
<p style="text-align: center;">Additional Considerations</p> <p>1) When combining financial restitution and community service restitution in one disposition, it is recommended that the 2 for 1 Work Credit Program be considered.</p> <p>2) For youth who are taken to court on a <u>technical</u> Violation of Probation, additional community service hours are recommended based on the next Offense Level.</p> <p>3) For youth who are taken to court on a Violation of Probation for a <u>new offense</u>, additional community service hours are recommended based on the next Offense Level or Offense Level of the new offense, whichever is greater.</p>		

Community Garden



Youth Helps Assemble Raised Bed

On September 20th, an upgrade of the community garden was started. The process entailed reconstructing eight raised beds, new plantings, and infill of decomposed granite. This work crew project was completed on December 6th. It was led by CSR Specialists Andrew Ramos and Joe Medellin. The new raised beds look great. ■



Refurbished Raised Beds

Chapel Hill UMC



Betty Bundy, Chapel Hill UMC Volunteer, and Jesse Vielma, CSR Specialist.

Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, which is located on the city's southwest side, has been an active community service partner since October 17, 2008. In 2011, the church started the Green Brigade Community Garden. This garden's harvest is donated to the San Antonio Food Bank and to the church's own food pantry.

The garden was the idea of one of the church's volunteers, Betty Bundy. This 93 year old has been the driving force behind the garden.

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Partners

We are very thankful for the support of the following that serve as community service work sites for our youth:

Abounding Life, Inc.
 Animal Defense League
 Antioch Sports Complex
 Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans
 Believers In Christ Ministries
 Bexar County Juvenile Justice Academy
 Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department
 Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio [Crestholme Branch]
 Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio [Eastside Branch]
 Brooks Inner-City Sports
 Camelot Volunteer Fire & Rescue
 Carver Community Cultural Center
 Centro Cultural Aztlan
 Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
 Christian Hope Resource Center
 Church Triumphant
 City of San Antonio Dev. Services Dept.
 Claude & Zernona Black Developmental Leadership Foundation
 Community Alliance for Traffic Safety
 Converse Animal Shelter
 Daily Bread Ministries [Food Bank]

Dedicated Baptist Church
 Disciplinary Alternative Education Program [EISD]
 El Shaddai/New Hope Church
 Family Community Center SA
 Family Violence and Prev. Services, Inc.
 Freedom Baptist Church
 Ft. Sam Houston Youth Services
 Gardendale Area Community Development Association
 Good News Lutheran Church
 Goodwill Industries of San Antonio
 Gozo Y Paz Ministries
 Grace Point Church
 Greater Randolph Area Services Program
 Healy-Murphy Center
 Helotes Humane Society
 Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries (Boerne)
 Iglesia Dios Es Amor
 Iglesia El Jordan
 Kirby Animal Care Services
 Madonna Neighborhood Center
 Martinez Street Women's Center
 MorningStar Ranch Ministries
 Network for Young Artists
 New Wine ... A Gathering of Believers
 Nimitz Middle School [NEISD]
 Northeast Baptist Church
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church [Helotes]

Palmer Drug Abuse Program

Pan-y-Palabra Church

Parent/Child Inc.

Por Vida Academy

Reagan High School (NEISD)

Restoration Centre [The]

Resurrection of the Lord Catholic Church

Roy Maas' Youth Alternative, Inc.

SAISD - A & C Education Program

San Anto Cultural Arts

San Antonio Fighting Back

San Antonio Food Bank

San Antonio Parks and Recreation

San Antonio State Hospital

San Antonio Youth for Christ

Scratch Amateur Boxing Club

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
at Sacred Heart of Jesus

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
at St. Matthews Catholic Church

Southeast PONY League

Southwest ISD Bootcamp

Southwest Preparatory School
[Northwest Campus]

St. Luke's Catholic Church

Texas Transportation Museum

Texas Wolverine Allstars

The Advocates Social Services

The Campus of the San Antonio
Jewish Community

Triple H Equitherapy Center
[Pipe Creek]

Urban Connection

Victory Worship Center

Whole Life Christian Church

YWCA [Las Palmas Branch]

(Continued from page 7)

Chapel Hill UMC

Since the garden's inception, probation youth have performed a total of 5,136 hours of community service at Chapel Hill. This includes helping build the garden's greenhouse.

Many thanks to Betty and Chapel Hill for their partnership. ■

