



Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

September - December 2015

Serving Our Youth Since 1980



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Amanda Torres
Vanessa Vasquez
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4th Annual Appreciation Lunch

On Friday, November 20th, our work unit held an appreciation lunch for our community service partners. This lunch is one way we thank them for allowing our youth to perform community service at their sites.

These partners accept our youth either as a group (work crew or service learning project) or on an individual basis. A juvenile who takes part in work crews or service learning projects is supervised by our staff. When placed individually in a community-based site, a juvenile is supervised by personnel from that site.

It is, however, a challenge to place our youth in community-based sites. Regrettably too many of them shy away



CSR Specialist Steven Lerma (Standing) meets with Brendalyn Morris & Andre Schofield (Boys & Girls Club)



Tanya Jopling, BCJPD Substance Abuse Coordinator, & Joshua Casso (Palmer Drug Abuse Program)

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from probation youth. Choosing instead to work with non-judicial youth. When we are fortunate to find a receptive site, our youth are typically able to perform community service close to where they live. This facilitates completion of their hours in part by lessening the transportation burden on families.

Gratitude is extended to all CSR staff and friends who helped to make possible this appreciation lunch. This includes, but it is not limited to, CSR Lead Specialist, Joe Medellin, for serving as Head Cook. Andrew Ramos, Program Assistant with the SAFE Unit, who volunteered his time and culinary skills. JPD retiree, Dr. Alma Ortiz, for coming by to help with brownies in-hand. And especially to CSR Specialist, Vanessa Vasquez, and her grandparents, Antonio and Yolanda Vasquez. They cooked AWESOME beans and rice.

Here's hoping our partners enjoyed the eats and refreshments. Quite simply, we cannot thank them enough for generously opening their doors to our youth. ■



CSR Specialist Arturo Gutierrez greets
Sandra Davila and Diana Sandoval
(Windsor Mission Oaks)

Why Partners Help Our Youth

"We want to impact their lives with positive experiences." *Claude Black Youth Leadership*

"(They) learn the importance of ... giving back to the community." *Goodwill Industries*

"Youth ... learn about everyday challenges residents face; have fun as they interact with senior residents." *Windsor Mission Oaks*

"Kids benefit from learning ... better decision-making." *Extraordinary Counseling*

"Acts of kindness ... encourage youth." *Chapel Hill United Methodist Church*

"Kids learn how to keep pets and kids safe." *Converse Animal Shelter, Inc.*

"We only keep what we have by giving it away." *Palmer Drug Abuse Program*

"Allowing them fits with our mission." *Madonna Center*

"Youth learn how sports ... can relate to life." *Brooks Inner-City Sports*



MORE PICS ON PAGE 5

TCSA CONFERENCE

The Texas Community Service Association (TCSA) held its 20th conference in Fredericksburg from November 8th to the 11th. TCSA is a recognized 501 (c) (6) non-profit organization in the State of Texas.

It supports professionals and other individuals involved 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 and Juvenile Probation Departments.



Pictured left to right: CSR Specialists Vanessa Vasquez and Amanda Torres

At this year's conference, our department was well-represented. Dr. Jeannie Von Stultz, Director of Mental Health Services, presented on "Mental Health Issues: How It Can Impact Community Service." Terrance Stanton, Trainer, presented on "Verbal De-Escalation for CSR Professionals." And Pete Gonzales, CSR Unit Supervisor, presented on "Service Learning."

Congrats to Vanessa Vasquez, CSR Specialist, who was elected to the TCSA Board of Directors. ■



Pictured left to right: Brenda Garcia, TCSA President, and Dr. Jeannie Von Stultz



Terrance Stanton in a rare serious-looking moment

For questions, comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact:

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BINGO

One of our staple service learning projects is Artmaking for the Holidays. It was first held in 2011. As with any service learning endeavor, every effort is taken to link classroom learning with community service. In this instance, youth are encouraged to create artworks given holiday themes, convey ideas and feelings through artwork, and demonstrate a basic appreciation of helping others. The project is headed by Arturo Gutierrez, CSR Specialist, and assisted by Sylvia Scott, Office Assistant.



The community service component entails youth taking part in bingos for the benefit of special needs populations. In doing so, a sense of giving is promoted as youth take artworks they have created and give them away in the form of bingo prizes. One such bingo was held on December 15th at Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing Home, 3030 Roosevelt Avenue.

At Windsor Mission Oaks, bingos are always a big hit with the elderly. Plus, our youth come away feeling a sense of compassion for some of our community's more vulnerable citizens.

COMPARISON BETWEEN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SERVICE LEARNING

	Community Service	Service Learning
Primary	Community	Community and Participants
Primary	Provide meaningful service	Provide meaningful service and enhance learning
Curriculum	None	Structured learning components with specified goals, objectives, and learning outcomes
Reflective Component	Generally not ongoing	Ongoing

MORE PICS



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPGRADE

Community service youth spend many hours on our Community Garden, which is located at the corner of Mission Road and Mitchell Street. We finished this year by bringing much needed top soil and mulch to fill-in the recently constructed raised beds.

A total of 19-yards was used, all courtesy of Bexar County Public Works. Many thanks to Aaron Martinez, Public Works Superintendent, for facilitating the donation and delivery of materials. Incidentally, Public Works recycled all materials from their various projects.



Come spring time, we plan to add more plants to the garden. We will also provide trash can holders, sand and stain existing picnic tables and benches, and install a corrugated steel cover on the pergola. Minor, but necessary, upgrades to improve the functionality and appearance of our grounds. Not to mention, our youth will learn a thing or two about horticulture and carpentry. ■



In our department, graffiti abatement has been a longstanding activity. On October 8th, one of our many graffiti abatement projects took place. In the above photo, community service youth are painting over graffiti on an approximate 300' fence line in northeast Bexar County.

DID YOU NOW....

In the United States, the first court-ordered community service program was initiated in 1966 by the courts in Alameda County, California. The courts instituted a formal program to assist low-income female traffic offenders. Rather than cite them with fines that disproportionately affected them compared to wealthier offenders, they were offered the opportunity to do community service instead.