



# Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

September - December 2016

Serving Our Youth Since 1980



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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

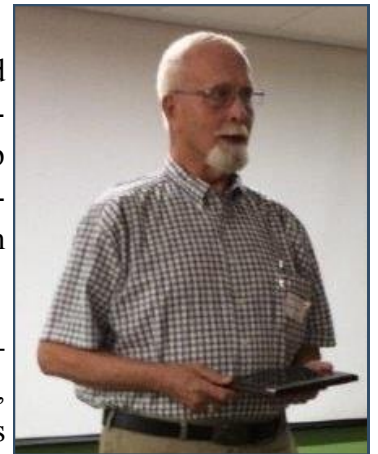
### SPECIALISTS

Arturo Gutierrez  
Fred Guzman  
Judy Larkin  
Jesse Vielma  
Pablo Villanueva

# APPRECIATION DINNER

On Thursday, November 3rd, we were delighted to host an Appreciation Dinner for our community service partners. These partners help our youth in so many ways. They welcome youth to perform community service at their sites, encourage them through presentations, and much more.

At this function, our partners were presented with well-deserved certificates of appreciation. And, as customary, we announced the Top CSR Work Site for 2016. This year's winner is Texas Ramp, Inc. The latter is a statewide non-profit that provides wheelchair ramps for the elderly and physically disabled. Over the past few



Larry Milton Accepts Award for Texas Ramp, Inc.



## THANK YOU PARTNERS

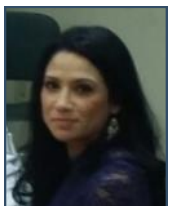
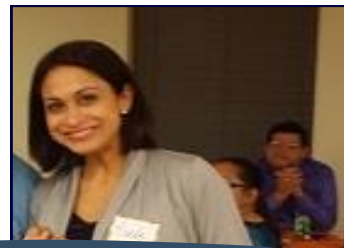
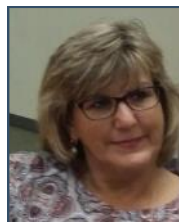
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months, we've assisted Texas Ramps, Inc., with the construction of six ramps in Bexar County. Larry Milton, Bexar County Coordinator for Texas Ramps, was presented with the award.

Gratitude is extended to all CSR staff who helped make possible this appreciation dinner, as well as to other county staff and volunteers: Bertha Castaneda, VIP Office Assistant; Elvia Gonzales, 386th Juvenile Court Clerk; and, Gabby Gonzales, VIP. Additionally, it was great for our community partners to hear from this department's leadership. Both Chief Lynne Wilkerson and Deputy Chief Karl Johnson joined us and shared words of appreciation.

Here's hoping everyone enjoyed the eats and refreshments. Simply put, we cannot thank our community partners enough. ■



# Appreciation Dinner Pics



## CHAMP In The House

Javier “Pitbull” Rodriguez came by the CSR Warehouse on September 10th. He won the World Boxing Association (WBA) Fedelatin featherweight title on August 12th in El Salvador.

Javier shared with our youth his upbringing, growing up in the westside of San Antonio—a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School. He reminded our youth that everyone faces challenges and loses battles in



life. He mentioned that he lost two fights before winning the title. But, he added, you cannot let losing become a habit, a way of life. When knocked down, you have to get back up and push forward. It does not matter if money is tight, you live in a tough neighborhood, or no one believes in you, with the right attitude, desire, and commitment you can succeed.

Equally important, Javier spoke to the importance of setting long-term goals in life. For him, this includes life after boxing. He stated that he is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and plans to be a boxing promoter. THANK YOU JAVIER. ■



## BINGO



On December 13th, our youth participated in the Annual Christmas Bingo held for elderly residents at the Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing Home. CSR Specialist Arturo Gutierrez (*pictured on the far left*) led the activity. Once again, he was assisted by Office Assistant Sylvia Scott.

# WELCOME



We are pleased to welcome Pablo Villanueva to the unit. Pablo joined CSR on October 8th as a part-time CSR Specialist. Pablo joins Fred Guzman as the two part-time specialists who are assigned to weekend work crews. Pablo has extensive experience and an impressive set of skills in terms of working with young people and addressing their challenges.

At present, Pablo works full-time as a Prevention Specialist at the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SACADA). Prior to SACADA, he was a Youth Care Counselor for ten years at the Methodist Children's Home where he regularly supervised residents in the performance of community service. Additionally, Pablo is a graduate of Tarleton State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

We are indeed very fortunate to have Pablo on our team. ■

## TCSA CONFERENCE

*From the Desk of Deputy Chief Karl Johnson*



At the 2016 Texas Community Service Association's Annual Conference held in Ft. Worth, CSR Supervisor, Pete Gonzales, was presented with the Association's Service Award. *Pictured left to right: Brenda Garcia, TCSA Board President; Pete Gonzales; and Clint Emerson, TCSA Board Member.*



# FAREWELL



On October 19th, longtime CSR Specialist, Steven Lerma, was selected for the Program Assistant position with School Liaison Services - congratulations. Steven had been with the CSR Unit since October of 2007. In that time, he established himself as a key member of the unit - dependable, steady, and multi-skilled.

In recent years, he played a vital role in innovative service learning projects including Small Engine Repairs and Personal Energy Transportation. In these projects, his mechanically inclined skill-set proved invaluable. Over the past few months, he had also become a vital player in our unit's construction of wheelchair ramps for elderly and disabled citizens. Above all, Steven proved to be a good-natured and hardworking employee whose outstanding work product spoke for itself.



Amanda Torres, CSR Specialist, joined the CSR Office on March 25, 2015. Sadly we said goodbye on December 2, 2016. Amanda moved out-of-state.

During her brief stint with CSR, Amanda, quickly proved herself a quick-learner. The quality of her case management was superb. She was continuously up-to-date on case reviews; received outstanding case audit ratings; and, her successful caseload closure rate was above the unit's average. She also readily contributed ideas that helped to improve unit operations. In short, she was one of this unit's strongest performers.

Best of luck to Steven and Amanda on their new journeys.....■

