



Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

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Serving Our Youth Since 1980

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Global Youth Service Day is a world-wide campaign. It celebrates the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through community service. In Texas, it is celebrated the entire month of April. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) is the state's lead agency.

Over several weekends in April, our youth took part in a Beautification and Handicap Accessibility Project at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. To facilitate accessibility by wheelchair bound visitors to the church's community garden, three high raised table top garden beds were built. Additionally, a hardscape was added using recycled bricks.

CSR Lead Specialist, Joe Medellin, assisted by CSR Specialist Joe Villescaz, helped realize this project. Karen Sinclair, Chapel Hill Volunteer, served as project site coordinator.

Youth and staff from TJJD's Parole Services and Ayers House also joined in on the fun. And we were very pleased to have Judge Daphne Previti Austin (289th District Court) come by the project site on April 22nd to thank the youth for their community service contribution.

This project was made possible through a \$350 grant awarded by the Texas Community Service Association. ■



Judge Previti Austin
and Karen Sinclair (L to R)



Joe Medellin and Joe Villescaz (L to R)

MORE PICS ON PAGE 5

BBQ Fundraiser

Our 8th annual BBQ plate fundraiser took place on March 23rd. Chicken, sausage, rice, and beans were on the menu.

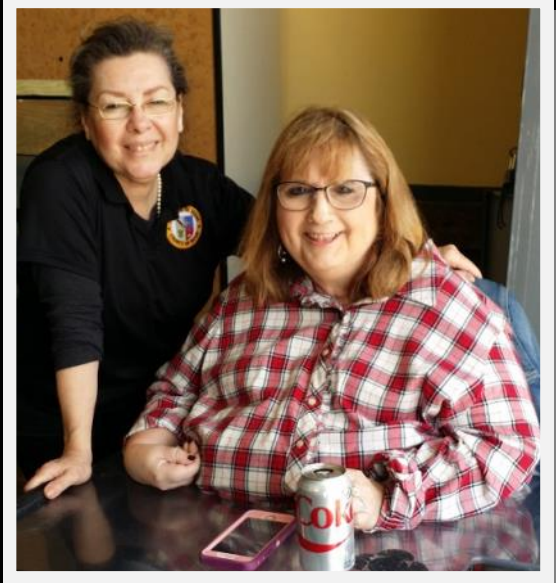
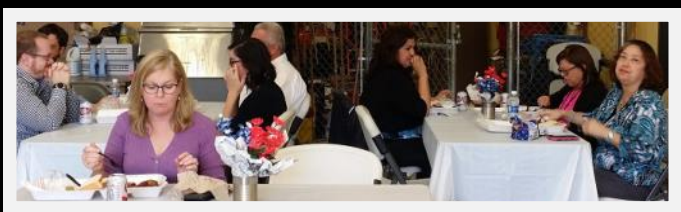
This was a scaled-down version of past BBQ fundraisers

as we only prepared 200 plates. Thankfully, we were able to generate a profit of \$879.

Much gratitude goes to department staff who supported the event. In particular, we extend our thanks to the following folks who helped to sell tickets, serve plates, and more: Maricela Morales, Steven Lerma, Mary Helen Silva, Rosalie Vogt, Norma Martinez, Rachele Guerrero, Peggy Cano, and Sandy Yamauchi. Hopefully, we have not overlooked anyone's contribution.

Of course, the fundraiser took a lot of hard work on the part of all CSR staff. But it would be remiss not to give special recognition to our cooks, Joe Medellin and Joe Villescaz. Their culinary skills were in full display and many a compliment was received on the food. CSR staff cannot take credit for the rice, however. That delicious concoction was cooked by Joe Medellin's wife, Laura, and his sister-in-law, Corrine Mata.

Here's looking forward to next year's fundraiser, and once again thank you everyone for supporting our department's youth and program. ■



For the past eight years, Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPS) has sponsored a city-wide event, Can't Beat Love — San Antonio Youth Film Contest. FVPS sponsors the event in partnership with the National Council for Jewish Women.

Through this project, area high school students create videos on high interest topics in order to enlighten others on the issues and challenges facing today's teens. This year the topic was "Cyberbullying." Once again, our community service youth were invited to serve as peer judges. Nine of our youth judged films on Saturday, February 11th, at the Andy Mireles Juvenile Probation Building. They were led in this process by Linda Canizales, Director of External Affairs and Volunteer Relations for FVPS (*pictured above*).



For inviting our youth to take part in this meaningful event, we extend our thanks to FVPS.

To get more information on Family Violence Prevention Services, please call 210.821.3800 or go to www.fvps.org/. To get more information on this contest, please contact Linda Canizales at the same number or go to <http://www.cantbeatlovesa.org/> ■

Ramp Project

With support from our state partner, Texas Ramp Project, our youth continue to build wheelchair ramps in the local community

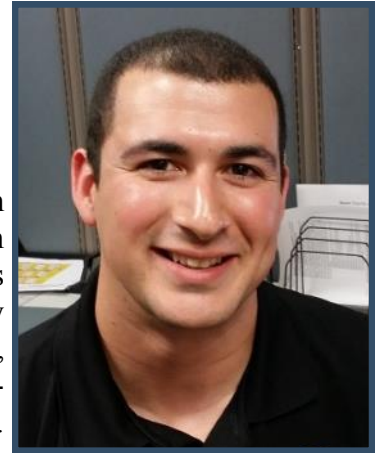


<http://www.texasramps.org/>



Bienvenido

We are pleased to welcome **Joe Villescaz** to the CSR Unit. Joe joined CSR on February 1st. He earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University at San Antonio. Additionally, he has work experience in the construction field. His handy skill set lends itself well to our special programming and service delivery needs. He has already contributed mightily to our carpentry-related projects, most notably the Ramp Build Project. His can-do approach is also very refreshing. In short, Joe possesses a strong work ethic with a unique set of job skills. We are very pleased to have Joe on our team. ■



The San Antonio Edgewood Lions Club is a non-profit benevolent organization. Its members generously provide vision screenings, eyeglasses, drug awareness, youth activities and much more to needy residents. To help support its many worthwhile causes, the Club raises funds, in large part, by selling tickets to the Battle of Flowers and Fiesta Flambeau Parades.



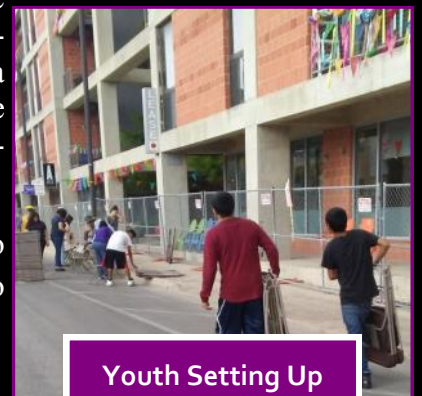
Lion Abel Martinez
and Arturo Gutierrez (L to R)

In four of the past five years, our youth have helped the Lions by setting up chairs at the Battle of Flowers Parade. This year was no different. On April 28th, CSR Specialists Arturo Gutierrez and Pablo Villanueva supervised a group of youth during this activity. Once again, Lion Michael Rourke, retired educator, served as our point of contact. He related the following: "Please accept my thanks and that of all the Edgewood Lions. Through your efforts, we ... conducted our project a lot easier. It is wonderful to have such supportive partners in our community"

To learn more about the San Antonio Edgewood Lions Club, please go to https://www.facebook.com/saedgewoodlionsclub/?ref=page_internal ■



Pablo Villanueva and
Lion Pete Mireles (L to R)



Youth Setting Up
Chairs

More Pics - GYSD

