



Community Service Restitution Unit

Triannual e-Newsletter

September - December 2017

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

Lillian Byas
Melanie Castro
Arturo Gutierrez
Fred Guzman
Judy Larkin
Pablo Villanueva
Joe Villescaz

APPRECIATION DINNER

On Thursday, September 21st, we were delighted to host an Appreciation Dinner for our community service partners. These partners help our youth in many ways. They welcome youth to perform community service at their sites, encourage them through presentations, and much more. Deputy Chief Karl Johnson expressed words of appreciation for the invaluable service that our partners provide.

As customary, we announced the Top CSR Work Site for 2017. This year's recipient was Art Kids & Youth, Inc. The latter is a non-profit agency that engages Kirby-area youth in various recreational, leisure and community oriented activities.

We also provided special tokens of appreciation to our longtime partners. This included the following entities that have been by our side for at least 5-years:

Art Kids & Youth ... Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans ... City of Somerset ... Edgewood Lions Club ... Gardendale Area Community Development Association ... Justice of the Peace Court, Pct. 4., Pl. 1 ... Madonna Neighborhood Center ... Martinez Street Womens Center ... Morningstar Ranch Ministries ... San Antonio Food Bank



Deputy Chief Karl Johnson Welcomes Dinner Guests

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The following were recognized for 10-years of partnership:

Avenida Guadalupe Association ... Chapel Hill United Methodist Church ... Family Violence and Prevention Services, Inc. ... Goodwill Industries ... Greater Randolph Areas Services Program ... Pan y Palabra Church ... Rise Recovery ... Roy Maas Youth Alternatives ... San Antonio Fighting Back ... San Antonio Parks & Recreation

Gratitude is extended to all CSR staff who helped make this event possible. Special thanks to Rosalie Vogt, Probation Officer, who volunteered to help at this event. Additionally, many thanks to the following for their food and door prize in-kind donations:

Regal Entertainment Group (Movie tickets)

Kathy Marbach (Desserts)

Lawrence Mata (Wood crafts)

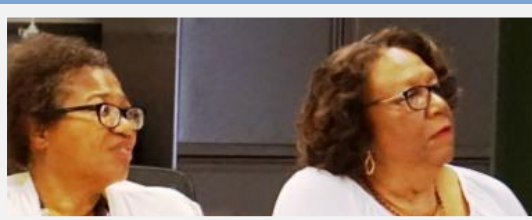
Finally, we are pleased that Judge Rogelio Lopez, Justice of the Peace Court, Pct. 4, Pl. 1, shared a few words with attendees.

Till next year. ■



THANK YOU PARTNERS

See More Pics on Next Page



Appreciation Dinner Pics

CONGRATULATIONS

Fred Guzman was promoted to full-time CSR Specialist effective October 7th. Fred holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He also serves as a VIP having performed close to 500 volunteer hours in service to our youth.



Prior to his promotion, he worked part-time in our unit primarily helping staff our Saturday and Sunday work crews. As such, he performed very competently, and in particular, he was exceedingly dependable—a key work trait especially on weekends. Fred is very familiar with unit operations and expectations; therefore, he is a welcomed addition to our full-time staffing complement.

Congrats Fred!!! ■

TCSA CONFERENCE

The Texas Community Service Association (TCSA) held its 22nd annual conference in New Braunfels from October 15th to the 18th. 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.

Attending this year's conference were Specialists Lillian Byas, Melanie Castro, and Joe Villescaz, as well as, Supervisor Pete Gonzales. The best part about these conferences is seeing what other jurisdictions are doing, and then assessing if those projects or practices have applicability to our local programming needs.

TCSA's membership voted to hold the 2018 Conference in San Antonio with Pete serving as conference chair (*see SAVE the DATE, page 6*). Plus, Lillian was elected to serve on the Advisory Council. ■



TCSA Conference Attendees
Standing (Lillian & Joe)
Sitting (Pete & Melanie)



A favorite CSR activity is the annual Pumpkin Patch held at the Good News Lutheran Church in southeast San Antonio. This year our youth helped unload pumpkins on September 30th and October 14th.

SERVICE LEARNING

This report period we conducted two service learning projects: Economic Empowerment and ArtMaking for the Holidays.

Economic Empowerment was led by Specialist Lillian Byas. She was assisted by Specialist Pablo Villanueva. This project introduced participants to money and the economy, including how to manage, invest, and save money and how to educate others. On October 30th, Garrett K. Hohman-Morales, Branch Retail Executive at BBVA Compass, spoke to the youth on the differences between checking and savings accounts, interest rates, and facilitated a personal budget making activity. We were very fortunate and thankful for Mr. Hohman-Morales' expert help.



Garrett K. Hohman-Morales,
BBVA Compass



Youth and CSR Staff Arrive at
Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing Home

The project finale included a Reading Circle Presentation and Gifting where our youth visited elementary grade level children at the San Juan Community Center. Project youth read their money management books to the kids. Then presented them with handmade activity books and coloring supplies as gifts.

ArtMaking for the Holidays was led by Specialist Joe Villescáz who was assisted by Office Assistant, Sylvia Scott. This longstanding project provided youth with an enjoyable and enriching arts and crafts experience. It, too, exposed youth to the concept of civic responsibility. In specific, project youth conducted a bingo at Windsor Mission Oaks Nursing Home on December 19th where they gave away their art creations as prizes for elderly residents.

Service learning projects are a valuable addition to our menu of community service offerings. As a staff, we are grateful for the opportunity to implement these projects. ■

Graffiti Abatement



BEFORE

In July, we started dedicating two work crews per month to the task of removing graffiti from public locations. Our biggest partner in this endeavor has been the City of San Antonio's Graffiti Abatement (GAP) Program. GAP provides us with locations, paint, and supplies. To date, we have invested 780 community service hours in graffiti abatement. ■



AFTER

SAVE THE DATE

Come join us in San Antonio for the 23rd Annual **T**exas **C**ommunity **S**ervice **A**ssociation Conference on October 28 - 31, 2018. Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Antonio Brooks Hotel & Spa located only 7-miles from downtown. Training is tailored for employees of CSCDs, juvenile probation departments, and parole services, especially those interested or involved in community service programs. Training is also relevant for educators, law enforcement, as well as those working in the non-profit arena. Conference Registration is \$125.



www.texascommunityservice.com

For more information please contact Brenda Garcia, TCSA President, at (361) 575-0399 bgarcia@vctx.org
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