



# Sentenced to Serve

TCSA's Quarterly e-Newsletter

October - December 2014

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### President

Brenda Garcia  
Victoria County  
Juvenile Probation

### Vice-President

Cruz J. Vances  
Harrison County CSCD

### Treasurer

Edward Delgado  
Caldwell County CSCD

### Secretary

Deanna Madrrid  
Tarrant County  
Juvenile Probation

### Historian

Karen Saunders  
Galveston County CSCD

### Technology Officer

Lonnie Rogers  
33<sup>rd</sup> & 424<sup>th</sup> Judicial  
District CSCD

### Members

Israel Tena  
El Paso County  
Juvenile Probation

Lisa Whittington  
Liberty-Chambers  
Counties CSCD

Matthew Haynie  
Bandera County  
Juvenile Probation

Pete Gonzales  
Bexar County  
Juvenile Probation

Ricky Carpenter  
Cherokee County CSCD

## Newsletter Editor

Pete Gonzales

Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department

Greetings,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Texas Community Service Association for allowing me to serve as president for the past three years. I am especially grateful to my employer, Bexar County Juvenile Probation, for supporting my involvement with TCSA. Their support has been and remains incredible.

While I have decided to step down as president, I will continue to serve on the board doing what I can to insure TCSA's continued success. I am pleased to say that due to the hard work of many, TCSA is presently on solid financial footing, compliant with federal and state reporting requirements, and a relevant contributor to the community service field.

As I leave the office, I do so knowing full well that our association remains in good hands under the leadership of our new board president, Brenda Garcia, Victoria County JPD. Brenda is perfectly suited to take TCSA to the next level. Her energy, persona, and hard-working nature are great assets in furthering TCSA's mission. The board and I are committed to helping her in this journey.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not make reference to the 2014 Annual Conference that was held on October 26-29, at the Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel in El Paso. TCSA board member, Israel Tena, did a stellar job at chairing this conference. And El Paso JPD and West Texas CSCD were very gracious hosts. Staying true to our conference tradition, canned goods and a cash donation were awarded to a local food pantry. In this case, the Valley Community Food Pantry was the local recipient of canned goods and a \$1,000 cash donation.

Our 2015 Conference will be held in the Texas Hill Country, specifically Fredericksburg. I look forward to seeing you at our 20th conference. More conference details will follow in our next issue or website [www.texascommunityservice.com](http://www.texascommunityservice.com).

Happy Holidays,

Pete Gonzales

## Profit/Loss

The following table shows how we've done financially in conferences held from 2010 to 2013. We are still finalizing 2014 conference figures. Generally speaking, putting on conferences in large cities is more costly. For example, their hotels have more expensive food and beverage costs which are typically our biggest expenses. Of course, increasing attendance at these conferences is always the surest bet to generate a profit or break-even. For our next conference in Fredericksburg, we will also be making a concerted effort to get corporate sponsorships. This will help our bottom line. While on the subject of bottom lines, our bank balance as of November is \$19,238.94. ■

<i>Year</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Profit/Loss</i>	<i>Location</i>
2013	\$ 6,875.00	\$ 9,339.22	\$ (2,464.22)	Ft. Worth
2012	\$ 12,800.00	\$ 9,444.08	\$ 3,355.92	San Antonio
2011	\$ 9,495.98	\$ 9,101.00	\$ 394.98	Ft. Worth
2010	\$ 5,443.00	\$ 5,178.90	\$ 264.10	Fredericksburg

## Incoming Board Members

**A**t the TCSA Board Meeting held this past October, the association re-elected Cruz Vances (Harrison County CSCD) and elected Ricky Carpenter (Cherokee County JPD), Karen Saunders (Galveston County CSCD), and Deanna Madrid (Tarrant County JPD) to the board of directors. Congratulations to these board members. ■



L to R: Cruz Vances, Ricky Carpenter, Karen Saunders, and Deanna Madrid.

## Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center

The Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center- Post-Adjudication Program in Victoria, Texas show their true holiday spirit! The youth who are currently in the Post-Adjudication Program have made some choices in the past which resulted in them being here. The past few years youth in the program have learned to give back to the community. The program currently has 24- youth in both male and female units. Regina Perez, Compliance Officer and PREA Coordinator indicated that these youth actively were involved and each had written a Christmas card for the Recovering Soldiers at *Audie Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, Texas*. The Christmas Cards are being mailed out to our soldiers to show how much we appreciate their service! ■



*Pictured L to R (2014 Board): Cruz Vances, Ricky Carpenter, Deana Madrid, Edward Delgado, Brenda Garcia, Pete Gonzales, Karen Saunders, Israel Tena. Not Pictured: Lonnie Rogers and Matthew Haynie.*

## Blue Santa

The Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department and 10-juveniles partnered up with the Victoria Police Department (VPD) by participating in the Blue Santa Project “Stuff the Truck” event. At this event, which was held on December 6th and hosted by a local H-E-B and sponsored by VTG (KAVU) & KIXS 108, the community was able to drop off new or unwrapped toys.



The Blue Santa Project is made up of volunteers from the VPD, the Victoria Police Officers Association, Victoria Civilian Police Academy and members of the community. The project goal is to provide gifts and clothing to underprivileged children in our community at Christmas time.

The Blue Santa philosophy is that all children deserve to smile on Christmas day. Christmas is one time during the year where the focus is on giving, with emphasis on the excitement in the child's eye as he or she unwraps a present that is just for them.

Why Blue Santa? It has been said, "No one calls 911 to tell police that all is well with their lives." In the course of police officers' routine work, they often encounter children in circumstances and environments that are heartbreaking. Many of the children that police interact with only know Christmas as nothing more than a school holiday. Many families must choose between gifts and basic utility needs, leaving little resources for presents at Christmas time. Regardless of the whys, all children deserve presents at Christmas. ■



*The Texas Community Service Association (TCSA) is a recognized 501 (c) (6) non-profit organization in the State of Texas. It exists to enhance the business conditions of 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.*



## Featured Work Site

**T**he Valley Community Food Pantry is administered by the Valley Community Foundation (VCF) located in El Paso, Texas. Groceries are provided to people who are referred by over 100 agencies for emergency need.

The pantry has been in the Lower Valley for the last 14 years serving the community. In that period of time, the food pantry has served over 7,750 families and 10,000 persons. It has done this in partnership with the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank to help with people's food insecurity.

VCF is a grant funded non-profit organization. Currently, three projects are ongoing by the Valley Community Food Pantry:

- the pantry itself;
- a program called Valley Community Food Pantry On The Go, where instead of people coming to the pantry to pick up a bag of groceries, bags are delivered to the people (elderly, low income families, mentally challenged, disabled, veterans, migrant farm workers) in different outlying areas of the city; and,
- the Fresh Start Closet that helps people in need of proper clothes to go and interview for jobs.

Additionally, the pantry offers opportunities to those groups that are interested in doing community service (Juvenile Probation Department, High School organizations, Service Sororities, Adult Probation Department). The Valley Community Food Pantry future is to become self-sufficient and to help those in need achieve sustainability for their families.

The grant awarded by The Texas Community Service Association to The Valley Community Food Pantry will help the pantry develop and implement sustainability programs for its families. ■



*Pictured left to right: Joel Olivas and Chris Redfearn. Community Improvement Program Technicians with El Paso JPD.*

## Tidbits

Congrats to El Paso JPD . Their Challenge Academy entered an award winning float in the 78th Annual Sun Bowl Parade on November 27, 2014.



*2014 Governor's Award  
"Angry Birds"*

*Sponsored and built by Challenge Academy*

**Join the Texas  
Community Service  
Association**

**Annual Fee is \$25**

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