

BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CELEBRATES 3RD ANNIVERSARY

A letter from the Executive Director . . .

This month the BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER celebrates three years of service to victims of domestic violence and their families in the San Antonio community. When the Center opened in August, 2005, over six thousand visits by victims were recorded. Today, that number has grown to well over 20,000. Our mission — *Assisting victims of domestic violence in their journey from survivor to thrive* - keeps us busy as we constantly attempt, with the help of our many community partners, to increase, strengthen and deepen the many services we provide.

Over the years, the Center has been thankful for the strong support of the community. This year, we welcomed grants from Lo Bello de San Antonio, the Spurs Foundation, the San Antonio Area Foundation, the Orsinger Foundation, and the National Institute of Health Polaris Grant, as well as many corporate sponsors and individual donors. Additionally, our Foundation Board of Directors has grown from three to thirteen members, and is packed with individuals in this community who understand our needs and support our vision.

Three years has also brought much positive change to the Center with the addition of two new service components. The Child Therapy Center, established for our youngest clients, specifically serves the many child witnesses of domestic violence that suffer from anxiety, depression and post traumatic stress disorder, as well as a myriad of other problems. The Center has also expanded and developed a Resource Center, also know as our Dream Center, that is staffed by partners and community volunteers in an attempt to connect clients with the resources they need to not only stand independently and violence free, but also to begin the process of dreaming and planning for their futures.

In 2008, the Center added three on-site partners and, of course, depends on our forty on and off site partners and volunteers to provide the front line services needed for victims. As a result of the hard work done by our partners and this community for victims of domestic violence, the Center has just been notified, and is excited to announce, that San Antonio will be the site for the 2010 International Family Justice Center Conference. As a result, our Center will be showcased and organizations from around the country and the world that serve victims will visit our Center to observe and learn.

Happy Third Anniversary Bexar County Family Justice Center! I look with great anticipation at what else the future will bring, as we strive to better serve victims of domestic violence and their families.



Meera Ballal, Executive Director

BEXAR COUNTY



FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

AUGUST 2008

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NATIONAL FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER ALLIANCE VISITS SAN ANTONIO



Jim Barker and Jennifer Bodine
NATIONAL FAMILY JUSTICE
CENTER ALLIANCE

SAN ANTONIO AND THE BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER NAMED AS SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CONFERENCE APRIL, 2010

VIA PROVIDES THE RIDE



(l to r) Dalia Alvarez, Meera Ballal, Tony Luna and Mindy Silver-Weiss

A big heart-felt "Thank You" goes out from the BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER to VIA. Transportation is a major issue for victims of domestic violence, and VIA stepped to the plate and provided the ride. Mr. Tony Luna, Community Relations Director for VIA, presented four monthly passes (two for August, two for September) to the BCFJC. These passes will enable four clients to travel to/from the BCFJC without any cost to them.

Thank You, VIA!

**JUST A
REMINDER!
YOU CAN NOW
DESIGNATE YOUR
UNITED WAY FUNDS TO
THE BCFJC AND HELP
US HELP VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE!**

BCFJC SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



ADRIAN SEGURA
SCHOOL SUPPLY
DRIVE COORDINATOR

The BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER sponsored a School Supply Drive which ended in a mass distribution on Saturday, August 9. Over 75 children, from Pre-K to college-bound, received their assorted school supplies. Members of the BCFJC staff and on-site partners teamed with a child, staying with them as each made their selection of pencils, crayons, folders and paper. Once choices were made, the supplies were put into tote bags donated by HEB. We are grateful to everyone—individually and corporately—who contributed to this community effort.

TRLA CONDUCTS TRAINING AT BCFJC BY RICHARD LOZA



TEXAS RIO GRANDE LEGAL AID, INC. (TRLA), conducted a training session on July 25 at the BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER. TRLA provides civil legal services to low-income individuals who visit the Family Justice Center. The largest legal aid provider in Texas (and third largest in the country), TRLA services 68 Texas counties. Our current staff includes two attorneys, one paralegal, two volunteer attorneys, and one volunteer law clerk.

TRLA handles civil legal cases involving domestic violence, including but not limited to: protective orders, divorces with protective orders, divorces with domestic violence, child custody cases with domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse of children, name changes, modifications, terminations and child support cases. Our cases are prioritized to be able to competently represent the survivor of domestic violence with the resources available. As always, my door is open to you if you have any questions. It has been a pleasure working with all of you these past three years and we continue to look forward to many more years at the FJC.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

Reverend Julia Clark
CROWN CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES
Richard Loza
TEXAS RIO GRANDE LEGAL AID
Bea Palacios
TEXAS RIO GRANDE LEGAL AID
BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Suzanne Wade, President
SA Food/Drug Retail—H-E-B
UHS Pharmacy Staff
Suzan Lambillotte
FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
ROY'S JEWELRY
UHS EMPLOYEES
Family Justice Center Staff and Partners

Upcoming Trainings

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
9:30—11:30

UHS SECURITY IN-SERVICE
UHS Foundation Room
Third Floor, Building B

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
8:00-5:00

**THE TASK FORCE FOR ELDERLY DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE PRESENTS**

FORENSICS OF ELDER VIOLENCE
St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church
108 Lorenzo



BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY
JUSTICE CENTER
527 North Leona, Second Floor
San Antonio, Texas
210-208-6800

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Executive Director