

THE FOUNDATION WELCOMES SARAH BUEL TO THE BOARD



The Bexar County Family Justice Center Foundation Board of Directors is proud to announce Sarah Buel has joined their Advisory Board. Ms. Buel, a Clinical Professor at the University of Texas School of Law and an adjunct professor at Harvard Medical School, has spent the past 32 years working with battered women, abused children and juveniles within the legal system. In 1990, Ms. Buel graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School where, as a student, she founded the Harvard Battered Women's Advocacy Project, the Harvard Women in Prison Project, and the Harvard Children and Family Rights Project. She has founded many similar programs and clinics at the University of Texas School of Law. Additionally, she has written extensively on family violence issues, having published more than 30 articles and many more training manuals and diverse publications. Ms. Buel narrated the 1992 Academy Award winning documentary "Defending Our Lives" and in 1996 was profiled by NBC as one of the five most inspiring women in America. She has received many distinctions throughout her career, some to include, the American Bar Association's Top Twenty Young Lawyer's Award, the American Bar Association's Fellows Award, the Texas Young Lawyers Award for Service to the Public, the Henry B. Gonzales Civil Rights Award and the ABA Rule of Law Award. Ms. Buel understands the value a Family Justice Center brings to a community and has continuously advocated for the establishment of such Centers throughout the country. The Foundation is thrilled to have Sarah join the Board.

EARN 6 HOURS OF FREE CLE CREDIT

The Family Justice Center will provide six hours of FREE CLE at the Center on September 22, 2009 in the Foundation Room. Gael B. Strack, CEO of the National Family Justice Center Alliance, will present courses in (1) The Prosecution of Domestic Violence Cases Post Crawford and (2) The Study, Medical Perspective, Investigation and Prosecution of Strangulation Cases. Prior to working for the Alliance, Gael was a domestic violence prosecutor for 17 years at the San Diego City Attorney's Office where she served as the Head Deputy City Attorney responsible for the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit. She also worked as a deputy public defender and a deputy county counsel for the San Diego County Counsel's Office handling juvenile dependency matters. She was the first Executive Director of the first Family Justice Center, which opened in San Diego and was recognized by President George W. Bush as a model program that in turn became the inspiration for the President's Family Justice Center Initiative Grant which launched our Center in San Antonio.

This CLE is of vital importance given the passage of HB 2066 that goes into affect September 1, 2009. HB 2066 creates two new enhancements for family violence assaults involving suffocation (breathing) or strangulation (blood circulation). Under new subsection (b)(2)(B), the punishment for a family violence assault is increased from a Class A misdemeanor to a third-degree felony if the offense is committed by "intentionally, knowingly or recklessly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood by applying pressure to the person's throat or neck. It also increases the punishment from a third to second degree felony if a repeat family violence offender strangles a victim in a subsequent family violence assault. How best to allege the new strangulation language? What offenses do you allege in the charging instrument? At trial, what lesser-included offense should be submitted to a jury? You will find answers to these questions and much more by joining us on September 22nd. Schedule for the sessions and registration information will be available on our website September 1.



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SPECIAL THANKS ...

To the Samanvaya Arts Academy for their generous \$6,000 contribution to the Family Justice Center.

Their event, "Dakshina", brought over 150 people to the Carver Community Center to celebrate Asian culture through Indian classical dance while simultaneously directing awareness to domestic violence in our community.



Proceeds to benefit the Bexar County Family Justice Center

October 30, 2009
La Cantera Palmer Golf Course

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS

Every year thousands of child witnesses to domestic violence come through the Family Justice Center with their families in the midst of crisis. These families, often in "flight status", struggle to find the funds for supplies to start the new school year. With the help of donations from all over the San Antonio community, the **3rd Annual School Supply Drive** provided 110 students with a backpack that they filled with pencils, crayons, markers, folders, notebooks, glue, school boxes and much more! One nine-year-old student said, "This is the best backpack I've ever had! It's Awesome!" Smiling kids left with heavy backpacks, and parents left happy and relieved. The Family Justice Center coordinates this Drive every year to serve a minimum of fifty families as part of our mission of helping families transition from survivor to thriver.

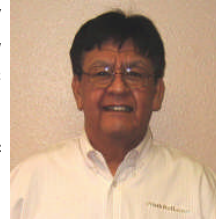
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Daniel H. Lopez, Vice President of Corporate Development for Inksell.com, generously donated \$2,000 in printer, toner and ink supplies to the Family Justice Center when he heard the Center was running low in these very expensive supplies. Inksell.com currently works with Pocket Communications, Clear Channel Advertising, UT Health Science Center of San Antonio, the Tim Duncan Foundation, the Bexar County Sheriff's Department, Lackland Combat Air Force Base, St. Mary's Law School and Sonic Restaurants, to name a few. With the foresight of contributors like Daniel and Inksell.com, it makes it easier for partners and staff at the Family Justice Center to do their jobs for victims of domestic violence in our community.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Impact of Aging on Domestic Violence: Prevention and Intervention Training
September 18, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
at St. Anthony De Padua Catholic Church

This one day conference will focus on the aging process, signs of domestic abuse, the ethics of working with the elderly who are being abused, effective interventions, and available resources.

Economic Summit
Train the Trainer Program
October 9, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at UHS Foundation Room

Capital One will host a seminar for advocates to teach victims how to improve, protect and maintain a positive financial status.

SPECIAL TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



Jim Barker, Training Director for the National Family Justice Center Alliance, will be at the Family Justice Center on September 22nd to speak to local law enforcement on the following topics: Domestic Violence Investigations, Officer Involved Domestic Violence, Hostage Negotiations and Security at a Family Justice Center. Prior to his position at the Alliance, Jim served as a Lieutenant of the San Diego Police Department for 33 years. He was the Unit Commander of a nationally recognized Domestic Violence Unit and the Commander of

the Department's Hostage Negotiations Team. Jim has taught law enforcement related courses for over 25 years, including Ethics, Management, Supervision and Domestic Violence. This free training is open to all community partners and staff. Registration materials and the schedule for the training will be available on the website September 1st. Please join us!

BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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