

*The Bexar County Family Justice Center Foundation
presents...*

An Evening at the Theater

Please join the Bexar County Family Justice Center Foundation on January 27, 2010 for their fourth annual fundraiser, An Evening at the Theater. This year, Vivienne Elborne will direct the comedy *Dearly Departed* by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones. Ms. Elborne has directed and acted in theatre in the United States, United Kingdom, Mexico, Ontario, Russia, and the Ukraine, and has also been inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and received the JC Penney Spirit of the American Woman Award. Her talents will be revealed through a cast of ten, including Bexar County's finest legal minds - Catherine Babbitt and Catherine Hayes.

Dearly Departed premiered at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut in 1991. That same year it received great critical acclaim in its Off-Broadway opening at the Second Stage Theatre in New York. The New York Daily News said that "Dearly Departed is drop dead funny...but don't take our word, see it yourself." *Dearly Departed* was then produced in Los Angeles where it received six Drama Logue Awards including "Best Production" and "Best Playwriting." It was subsequently published and has been produced in hundreds of regional theaters in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia.

The play is about a family that proves that living and dying in the South are seldom tidy and always hilarious. Despite their earnest efforts to pull themselves together for their father's funeral, the Turpin's other problems keep overshadowing the solemn occasion: Firstborn Ray-Bud drinks himself silly as the funeral bills mount; Junior, the younger son, is juggling financial ruin, a pack of no-neck monster kids, and a wife who suspects him of infidelity in the family car; their spinster sister, Delightful, copes with death as she does life, by devouring junk food; and all the neighbors add more than two cents. As the situation becomes fraught with mishap, Ray-Bud says to his long-suffering wife, "When I die, don't tell nobody. Just bury me in the backyard and tell everybody I left you." Amidst the chaos, the Turpins turn for comfort to their friends and neighbors, an eccentric community of misfits who just manage to pull together and help each other through their hours of need, and finally, the funeral.



Pictured: Vivienne Elborne,
Director of Dearly Departed

The evening begins at the Charline McCombs Empire Theater at 5:30 with live music, a cocktail reception and a silent auction, followed by an exquisite dinner and play. Tables for eight or four guests are available for purchase. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$25.00 each in the Mezzanine. For more Ticket or Table information, please contact Nancy at 208-6867. All proceeds from the event go to support the Bexar County Family Justice Center.



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In This Issue...

Tree of Angels

SAHLA Thank You

New Faces at the BCFJC

Upcoming Training... January 29, 2010 FJC Board Room

Bexar County Assistant District Attorney Katrina Daniels will present the newly adopted criminal laws pertaining to domestic violence that became effective September 1, 2009. The 81st legislature enacted the new laws to address strangulation offenses, enhancement of family violence assaults, mandatory fees, court compliance, safety planning, right to vacate lease, sexual assault examinations, law enforcement proficiency certificates and confidentiality in domestic violence fatality review teams. Please join us in the FJC Boardroom for this very informative session.

Convocation of Partners Meeting

January 5, 2010

Location: UHC-Downtown-
Foundation Room
527 N. Leona, 3rd Floor, Bldg C

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Planning on attending? Please prepare a 3 minute statement of what your agency is providing at the FJC. Agency handouts summarizing programming are welcome.

New FACES at the Family Justice Center

The Bexar County Family Justice Center welcomes three **NEW FACES** to the Center.

Michael Maul is our new Information Technology Manager. He is a graduate of DeVry University with a BS in Technical Management and a Minor in Business Information Systems. He has an extensive management background, with experience in desktop trouble-shooting, network administration, database management, and systems conversions, all with a strong focus on customer service. Over the last two years, he has been heavily involved in converting locally hosted database interface systems to Web based systems. Michael will launch and implement our new client/partner database called Efforts to Outcomes in conjunction with the Family Justice Center Alliance in January 2010.

Back again is.....**Maria Falcon!** Through a Recovery Act Grant with Bexar County, Family Service Association has placed Maria at the FJC to design, launch and manage the Victims' Empowerment Counseling Program. Maria has a Masters in Counseling from State University in Puerto Rico and is a LPC and Board approved Supervisor. She has been working in the field of domestic violence for twenty years and helped to develop the first and only Spanish speaking video resource for victims called, Un Nuevo Amenezar (A New Dawn). She also aided in developing the state guidelines for the violence intervention program for perpetrators. In the next week, several Family Service Association counseling interns will join Maria, and beginning January 1st, she starts two innovative and unique therapy groups that will meet in the afternoon or evenings and incorporate dance therapy, art therapy, health, nutrition and even computer training – all activities that will lead to empowerment and combat the desire to return to the familiar power and control relationship.

Also, please welcome a new partner and new child therapist, **Richard Amiss**, from **Saint PJ's Children's Home**. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor, National Certified Counselor and Clinically Certified Domestic Violence Counselor. He has much experience with adults, children and perpetrators of domestic violence. His focus includes healthy relationships/unhealthy relationships and personality disorders. Richard enjoys group work and is currently co-facilitating an adolescent girls group on self-image and an adolescent boys group on communication, respect and self acceptance at Saint PJ's where he has worked for eight years. Richard has been in the field of domestic violence for almost eleven years; interned at Family Violence Prevention Services; and has worked with CPS clients for nine years. He will be at the Family Justice Center every Monday. He will take walk in clients as well as scheduled appointments. Please welcome these accomplished and impressive new team members! We are so glad that they are here.



Pictured from left to right: Richard Amiss, Michael Maul, and Maria Falcon.



Since 2003, the Victims Advocacy Council of San Antonio sponsors a **TREE OF ANGELS**. When working with victims of domestic violence and their families, advocates recognize that the holiday season is an especially difficult time of year. This year, over one hundred survivors and their families gathered to hang an angel on the tree in memory of a loved one or to mark their survival as a victim. The tree will be on display in the Bexar County Courthouse through January.

The FJC sends a special thanks to the San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association

The San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association-Angel Program raises funds to support local charities and their efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. The Family Justice Center was selected as a 2009 "Angel" and received a donation of \$8,230.00. Thank You for helping us make a difference in our community.

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