

**LAST CALL FOR 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, Ms. Vivienne Elborne will direct the play *Dearly Departed*. Her talents will be revealed through a cast of ten, including two of Bexar County's finest legal minds – Catherine Babbitt and Catherine Hayes. Also included is Greg Hinojosa,

Gypsy Pantoja, Angela Hoeffler, Teresa Bishop, Amy LaPresto, Brad Adams, Kevin Murray, and Victor Trevino.

Individual tickets for cocktail reception, dinner and show are available for \$250. Mezzanine tickets to the show are available for \$25. Purchase your ticket today by contacting Rebecca Perez at (210) 208-6882.



**JANUARY IS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH**



The month of January is National Stalking Awareness Month. In the United States, 3.4 million people are stalked each year. **What is stalking?** Stalking is a series of actions that make you feel afraid or in danger. Stalking is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time. The person stalking you can be someone you know or do not know. Most stalkers have dated or have been involved in some way with the individual they are stalking. Stalkers can be men or women. In some cases, men stalk women, men stalk men, women stalk women or women stalk men. Statistics show that women are three times more likely to be stalked than men.

Some important things to know about what stalkers do: 1) They call continuously, including hang-ups 2) Follow you and show up wherever you are 3) Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or e-mails 4) Damage your home, car, or other property 5) Monitor your phone calls or computer use 6) Use technology, like hidden cameras or global positioning systems (GPS), to track where you go 7) Drive by or hang out at your home, school, or work 8) Threaten to hurt you, your family, friends, or pets 9) Find out about you by using public records or on-line search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers and 10) Any other action that controls, tracks, or frightens you.

If you or someone you know is being stalked, know that it is not a joke, it is not romantic and it is not OK. It needs to stop! Some things you can do to keep yourself or someone you know safe are as follows: 1) call 911 if you feel you are in immediate danger 2) trust your instincts 3) take all threats seriously 4) develop a safety plan 5) DO NOT communicate with the stalker 6) keep evidence of the stalking 7) consider getting a court order 8) be sure to tell someone about the stalking and 9) contact the Bexar County Family Justice Center. We can help.



[WWW.BCFJC.ORG](http://WWW.BCFJC.ORG)

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**January 29, 2010**

**Katrina Daniels, Assistant District Attorney**

**FJC Board Room**

**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Domestic Violence Law has changed and there is now more protection for victims. Please come to this informative session and see how you can use the new laws to make victims safer.

**Convocation of Partners Meeting**

**February 2, 2010**

**UHC-Downtown-Foundation Room**

**527 N. Leona, 3rd Floor, Bldg C**

**9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**



Teen dating violence is a serious problem in the United States. Many teens do not report it because they are afraid. It is very common for teens to keep it hidden. This often occurs because teens are: inexperienced with dating, experiencing peer pressure to act violently, want independence from their parents, and have "romantic" views of love.

Dating violence is a type of intimate partner violence. It occurs between two people in a close relationship. The nature of dating violence can be physical, emotional, and/or sexual. Dating violence often starts with teasing and name calling. These behaviors are often thought to be a "normal" part of a relationship, but these behaviors can lead to more serious violence like physical assault and rape.

Statistics show that 1 in 3 high school students have been or will be involved in an abusive relationship. Similar to domestic violence with adults, teens experience dating violence with one partner using Power and Control over the other. For teens this cycle includes: harassment, intimidation, violating privacy, threats, using male privilege, limiting independence, humiliation and isolation.

To increase awareness about teen dating violence, in February the FJC will present to approximately 900 teens in the Southwest Independent School District. If you would like a representative to visit your school and present to students, counselors and/or parents on the signs of teen dating violence and where you can get help, please contact us at (210) 208-6800.

**FREE FAMILY LAW HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE  
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER!**



The updated Family Law Handbook provides easy to understand legal information relevant to family law cases in Texas. It incorporates relevant changes to Texas law, including a section on the Bexar County Children's Courts. In addition to hard copies, a digital version of the Handbook will be available on the Family Justice Center website. While this handbook is not a replacement for retaining an attorney or seeking legal advice and not intended to act as a guide to pro se representation, the Handbook is an educational tool intended to educate and inform the public with a basic primer on family law and what could be expected in a family law case. The Handbooks are free at the Family Justice Center and are an effort by Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, the Community Justice Program and the San Antonio Bar Association to provide greater access to pro bono legal services to the low-income residents in our community. Free books are available in English and Spanish at the FJC while they last.

**HOW ADVOCATES CAN FINANCIALLY EMPOWER VICTIMS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...**

The Bexar County Family Justice Center welcomes Richard Keith, Special Projects Manager for the Office of Financial Empowerment-City of San Antonio Department of Community Initiatives. On **February 19, 2010**, Mr. Keith will provide an informative training session to help community advocates become educated on the programs available through the Office of Financial Empowerment that can help to financially empower victims of domestic violence. **Please join us at 11:30 a.m. in the FJC Board Room.**

The Office of Financial Empowerment is the home for several asset building and asset protection programs, including the VITA Free Tax Preparation Program, the Fair Housing and Foreclosure Prevention Program, and the City's IDA Matched Savings programs. The VITA program provides free and reliable tax preparation for San Antonio area residents earning less than \$55,000 combined household income. The Fair Housing and Foreclosure Prevention Program provides assistance regarding landlord/tenant disputes and discrimination claims, and provides HUD certified housing counseling to assist homeowners to protect their home against home default and foreclosure. The IDA Matched Savings Program allows area residents to save money toward homeownership, college tuition or small business creation--for every \$1 that a resident earns, the Office of Financial Empowerment will match with an additional \$4. For every \$1 that a resident saves toward the purchase of a vehicle, the Office of Financial Empowerment will match with \$2 in our Ford Vehicle IDA program.



**BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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