

**CARING ATTORNEYS REDUCE FEES TO EMPOWER**

**TRLA**

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

The need for civil legal services at the Bexar County Family Justice Center far exceeds available resources. In 2010, Bexar County Family Justice Center partner Texas RioGrande Legal Aid’s family law team received over 10,000 requests for assistance with family law matters.

This month, an elite group of family law attorneys in San Antonio got together to launch Project CARE (Caring Attorneys Reduce Fees to Empower). A training program for legal professionals sponsored by TRLA and the BCFJC that provided lunch, three hours of free CLE credits, and the critical training needed to successfully serve victims of domestic violence who are in desperate need of civil legal services. An impressive faculty of judges, attorneys, and counselors in the field of domestic violence addressed the legal pitfalls that plague victims struggling with power and control issues and provided tips to meet clients' needs. Special thanks to Project CARE participating attorneys who will donate time either through reduced fees or pro bono services to serve indigent clients at the Family Justice Center.

**Project CARE participants, including presenters:**

- Judge Arteaga
- Judge Negron
- Judge Noll
- Maria Falcon
- Peggy Butler
- Maricarmen Garza
- Carlos Salinas
- Laura Martinez
- Meera Ballal
- Kevin Dietz
- David A. Ayon
- Edith Y. Brown
- Richard P. Corrigan
- Patricia DeVeau
- Dorothy Diaz
- Chance Heinsohn
- Michael W. Jackson
- Denise Martinez
- James E. Monnig
- Arthur J. Rossi, Jr.
- Natasha Sherrod
- Barbara C. Slavin
- Jessica Sprague
- Sharyll Teneyuca
- Marcy Teveni
- Robert F. White



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

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**ALLSTATE CALL CENTER PEPARES TO VOLUNTEER AT FJC**



*Meera Ballal speaks with Allstate Employees about Project DOVE*

The newly opened Allstate Call Center hosted two fairs this month for Allstate employees to recruit financial literacy coaches for Project DOVE (Dream Of Violence Free Empowerment). With great enthusiasm, over 50 employees signed up to participate! The Allstate Foundation funds Project DOVE at the FJC, along with Capital One Bank, and brings the relationships, reputation and resources of Allstate to support innovative and lasting solutions that enhance people’s well-being and prosperity. With a focus on building financial independence for domestic violence survivors, The Allstate Foundation promotes safe and vital communities, tolerance, inclusion, diversity, and economic empowerment.

**ENGLISH LITERACY CIVICS CLASSES COMING TO THE FJC**



For the first time, undocumented victims of domestic violence and human trafficking seeking a U-VISA, T-VISA or VAWA VISA can enroll in an EL Civics (English Literacy Civics) course at the Family Justice Center! Preparing candidates for citizenship, EL Civics, will teach FJC clients about U.S. culture, history, government and the naturalization process. Clients will also learn about completing resumes, job applications, financial literacy and health and wellness education. Clients will visit the Texas State Capitol and San Antonio’s City Council to see government in action, and take a field trip to their local library. **The FJC will offer this free course beginning Thursday, July 14th!** Please contact Elizabeth at (210) 208-6876 to enroll.

## HERRERA AND WILLIAMS WIN FACT AWARDS!



**Inez Williams and Virginia Herrera,**  
*SAPD FACT Volunteers*

Assisting officers and FJC partners in providing services to victims of domestic violence and their families, Family Assistant Crisis Teams (F.A.C.T.) are trained volunteers who serve critical roles at police substations and the FJC. Their work hours keep the wheels turning and expedite services to victims of domestic violence in San Antonio. This year, the San Antonio Police Department selected Inez Williams and Virginia Herrera as 2011 F.A.C.T. Volunteers of the Year.

Ms. Williams, working with F.A.C.T. for over five years, has spent time at both the substations and the FJC. Now exclusively working at the FJC, Ms. Williams meets with victims and their families at the Center and escorts them to service providers throughout UHS-D, insuring they are never alone once entering the Center. A reliable, comforting, helping hand at all times, Ms. Williams has never turned down a task at the FJC. She is the first called to fill an empty shift, flexible and available. With a smile that warms every heart it touches, Ms. Williams is loved and appreciated by staff, partners and clients.

Equally appreciated, Ms. Herrera has worked with F.A.C.T. since 2009. She staffs substations, rides with officers, and conducts individual financial empowerment sessions with survivors at the FJC. Fluent in Spanish, Ms. Herrera is often called to interpret for clients. As a result, undocumented women subjected to human trafficking and other abuse have had the opportunity to tell their stories, be heard, and understood. Dedicating much of her free time to serving victims of domestic violence in various capacities, Ms. Herrera has helped victims of crime find their voice and rebuild their lives.

Much thanks to Ms. Williams and Herrera and all volunteers who give their time, energy and heart to keeping victims safe from further abuse!

## FJC JULY TRAINING

**The Bexar County  
Family Justice Center  
presents  
Legislative Changes to  
Protective Orders**

**JULY 2011  
DATE AND TIME TBA  
CHECK [WWW.BCFJC.ORG](http://WWW.BCFJC.ORG)  
FOR UPDATES**

### Presenters:

**Carlos Salinas**, Director of Sexual Assault Legal Assistance Network, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid and **Erin Martinson**, Travis County Protective Order Division

**This training is for all staff and partners of the FJC.**

**UHC-DOWNTOWN  
FJC BOARD ROOM  
527 N. LEONA  
2ND FLOOR, BLDG. C**

**PLEASE CALL DEBORAH PARROTT  
AT (210) 208-6800 FOR QUESTIONS**

## COMPUTER CLASSES PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY



In an effort to promote sustainability for clients, Michael Maul, the FJC's Systems Program Manager, is teaching computer literacy classes. These classes focus on basic computer and internet skills, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office. This program supports clients participating in the job readiness program 'Going Places Network' facilitated by Dress For Success San Antonio at the FJC. Clients are using the skills they obtain in this class to prepare for job readiness and everyday life. One client said, "I've taken many computer training classes that have taught me many things, but this one has been very helpful in showing my how to make practical application of what I learn."

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