

**25 YEARS OF REBUILDING LIVES:  
CELEBRATING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT**  
APRIL 26, 2009 - MAY 2, 2009

This week marks National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the Bexar County NCVRW Coalition has been working hard to plan a full week of events to remember victims and survivors of crime. For a detailed schedule of events, please see our website at <http://bcfjc.org/events.html>



On Wednesday April 29th, the FJC will be participating in the **Christus Santa Rosa Sexual Assault Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention Health Fair**. This 7th Annual health fair will be held in the cafeteria hallway from 11:00am until 2:00pm to educate the community, prevent child abuse and promote sexual assault awareness.

On Thursday April 30th the FJC is hosting a volunteer appreciation reception for the **SAPD FACT Volunteers**. Fact Volunteers, after receiving comprehensive domestic violence training, travel with victims throughout the Center—connecting them to the on-site partners needed to make them safe and well. FACT volunteers are vital to the success of the FJC.

Also, don't forget the **Children's Picnic** on Friday, May 1st from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm. We are back in Milam Park this year - so please come on over. We invite everyone and their children to attend. There will be lots of great food, fun and prizes. Spurs Coyote and McGruff the Crime Dog will be there to shake hands and to greet families.

**MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER**  
**JENNIFER BROOKLYN**



Jennifer Brooklyn is an account executive with The RK Group, San Antonio's largest full-service catering and comprehensive event logistics firm. She has held this position since 2008.

Prior to this, from 2005 to 2008, she was the "Scene + Heard" columnist for *Scene In SA Monthly Magazine*.

Jennifer's diverse professional background began with the pursuit of an acting career. At a young age, she performed in Community Theater productions at the Josephine Theater in San Antonio. At the age of 17, she moved to Los Angeles where she was featured in national commercials for Dr. Pepper, M&M's Mini and Pizza Hut. After a few years of knocking on doors, networking and many auditions, she landed a co-starring role on the television show "The Opposite Sex," which aired on the WB Network in the summer of 2001. Although the show was ultimately cancelled, it ended up being a huge success in Germany! She remained in Los Angeles for several more years working in various entertainment industry jobs before deciding to return home to San Antonio to continue her education.

In late 2004, Jennifer began her involvement in civic affairs by pursuing a position in the mayoral campaign of former Chief Justice Phil Hardberger. Her work on the campaign included supporting the candidate during campaign appearances and serving as administrative aide to the campaign's chief of staff. Since this successful effort, Jennifer continues to remain active in public service by serving on various boards and supporting causes and political candidates who share her community goals.

On June 24, 2008, Mayor Phil Hardberger officiated at her wedding to Ricardo Carrillo. The couple resides in northwest San Antonio. The Family Justice Center Foundation is pleased to have Jennifer join our Board of Directors.



**WWW.BCFJC.ORG**

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**GIFT FROM THE ROSE SHOP  
HONORS VICTIMS OF CRIME**



Special thanks to The Rose Shop for the beautiful wreath donated to the Family Justice Center.

The wreath will be used at the Wreath Laying and Candle Lighting Ceremony to be held Thursday, April 30th at the SAPD Training Academy located at 12200 SE Loop 410.

The Victims Tribute will begin at 10:00am and is open to the San Antonio community.



FJC Staff and Partners at the 9th Annual International FJC Conference in Anaheim, CA. (Pictured L to R - Meera Ballal, Jennifer Palomo, Ben Esquivel, Jane Shafer, Rebecca Perez, Irene Longoria, not pictured Pat Castillo)

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO

FJC Staff members participated in an Expo at The University of Texas at San Antonio to share the many opportunities available to students interested in domestic violence.

The FJC was able to get students to volunteer for upcoming events, as well as interns for long-term volunteer positions in the Dream Center. Other agencies at the Expo included the Office of the Attorney General, Any Baby Can and the Benitia Family Center.

Staff members Armando Trevino and Melody Vallejo were able to inform many student leaders about how the FJC assists victims of domestic violence and how the collaboration of agencies is the foundation to the FJC's success.



## SAPD EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - MS. ALICIA VELA -



*Ms. Alicia Vela, SAPD Child Therapist at the Family Justice Center, was most deservedly named Employee of the Month by SAPD in March. Ms. Vela was first hired as a case worker through the Victims Advocacy Unit in February 1998, and in 2002, was selected to serve as the only Child & Family Therapist in the Unit.*

Ms. Vela is known for her eclectic, versatile approach to therapy, centering the mode of treatment on each individual child and their needs. She often uses behavioral and cognitive therapy to conduct sessions as well as sand therapy. Often the children in her sessions find their voices through the use of puppets, dolls and games. Ms. Vela also uses drawing as a way to express emotions through the use of crayons, paints, colored pencils and chalk. Her office with the basket of stuffed animals, three story doll house, mountain of art supplies and comfy chairs is a haven for many families.

In 2008, Ms. Vela tirelessly conducted over **one thousand** therapy sessions. She handles the most difficult cases dealing with child witnesses of domestic violence and shows great compassion for the children and families she serves. As a result, families return to the Family Justice Center again and again to seek her services. While treating child witnesses of domestic violence, Ms. Vela simultaneously teaches the parent or caregiver how their violent relationship can impact their children's future. Ms. Vela's work breaks the cycle of violence over and over again, one family at a time.

## THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The San Antonio Police Department continues to view domestic violence as a big problem in our community.

Chief William P. McManus, of the San Antonio Police Department reports that arrest rates for all "On-site" Family Violence related offenses has increased by 24% from 2005-2008. Department wide, the arrest rate for family violence accounted for 29% of all "On-site" arrests in 2005 and 32% in 2008. In addition, the reported number of cases involving Violations of Protective Orders has declined 30% from 2005 to 2008, and the Family Violence homicide rate has declined 9% from 2006 to 2008.

Warrants for all Family Violence cases increased from 18 warrants in 2005 to 479 warrants obtained in 2008. SAPD attribute this to the increased awareness of the problem of Family Violence in our community and the changes made in their Family Violence policy in 2007.



**BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY  
JUSTICE CENTER**  
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