

“AN EVENING AT THE THEATER”

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

The Bexar County Family Justice Center Foundation, with the support of the community, raised \$104,000 at their annual fundraiser, *An Evening at the Theater*. A sold out crowd rocked to the music of the Bob Bass Band; dined on a delicious four course meal prepared by RK Group Catering; and rolled with laughter at the hysterical comedy, *Sylvia*, by A.R. Gurney.

Thanks to the many supporters listed below, the Family Justice Center will again be able to serve over 4,000 families in our community this year who struggle with issues of domestic violence. At the Family Justice Center, through our collaboration with over forty community partners, victims and their children receive the wrap around services they need - in one location - to not only escape abuse and find safety, but also to break the cycle of violence and rebuild their lives.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS

- Designer Necklace by **Julian Gold**
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- One Night Stay at the **Sheraton Gunter Hotel**
- Custom Wreath by **Kim Shepperd**
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- Luxe Cosmetic Basket by **Neiman Marcus**
- Two American Air Tickets Anywhere in the United States by **Corporate Travel Planners**

DIRECTOR - VIVIANNE ELBORNE



The Bexar County Family Justice Center Foundation was fortunate and honored to have Ms. Vivienne Elborne direct *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney.

Vivienne Elborne arrived in the United States 24 years ago from London, England, where she enjoyed a successful performing career as a member of British Actors Equity, appearing at the Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall and Westminster Abbey as well as many other venues throughout the UK.

Ms. Elborne continued her theatrical and musical *career* in the United States, playing the title roles in *Peter Pan*, *Cinderella* and *Lettice and Loveage*, narrating *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, and *Alexander Evergreen* with the San Antonio Symphony, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Memphis Symphony. She became Artistic Director of the San Pedro Playhouse, a position she held for 12 years, as well as resident stage director for the San Antonio Symphony's staged concert musicals and Christmas shows.

Mrs. Elborne's huge number of directing credits include the musicals *Titanic*, *Evita*, *Phantom*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Forever Plaid*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Chorus Line*, *Ragtime*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Secret Garden*, *Kismet*, *brood*, *The Mikado*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, *Nunsense*, *South Pacific* and *The King and I*. Play credits include *The Odd Couple*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The School for Scandal*. Future projects include *Christmas Pops* in Windsor, Ontario, *The Producers* for the Heartland Festival and a return visit to the Toronto Symphony.

Ms. Elborne was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and is a winner of the JC Penney *Spirit of the American Woman Award*.



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CAST MEMBERS

- Director: Vivienne Elborne
- Asst Director: Amy LaPresto
- Actor: Catherine Babbitt
- Actor: Catherine Hayes
- Actor: Greg Hinojosa
- Actor: Philip Kazen

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GALA VOLUNTEERS



The Honorable Susan D. Reed with V.O.I.C.E.S Volunteers

The organization V.O.I.C.E.S, a UTSA based organization made up of students whose mission is to give their time by providing community and volunteer services, volunteered their time at *An Evening at the Theater*.

The Family Justice Center extends a special thanks to *Kayla Boyett, Rebekah Lloyd, San Juana Rodriguez, and Nancy Juro (pictured)* who welcomed arriving guests and ushered them to their seats.

Thank you to V.O.I.C.E.S and *Jennifer Lilly*, the Student Advisor who provided the FJC with great volunteers.

SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS JOURNAL NAMES "40 UNDER 40"

The San Antonio Business Journal named *Meera Ballal*, Executive Director of the Bexar County Family Justice Center, as one of forty individuals in the San Antonio community under the age of 40 who is positively affecting the way our society lives, does business and values its people. Winners for the 14th annual "40 Under 40" were chosen from 274 nominations and selected by an editorial team headed by publisher *Kent Krauss*, then honored at a luncheon at the Oak Hills Country Club. To read about *Ms. Ballal* and the other recipients please go to <http://sanantonio.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/>



ADDRESSING ISSUES OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

The Family Justice Center supported Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week by participating in the S.A.F.F.E Training held at NEISD Community Learning Center. Counselors from elementary, middle, and high schools gathered to collect information from organizations who address families and children in crisis including, the Family Justice Center, Child Protective Services, the Rape Crisis Center, San Antonio Police Department, and many more community partners.

Teen Dating Violence is an issue not ignored in public schools. Mandated by House Bill 121, each school district in Texas must adopt and implement a dating violence policy. In order to fully understand why teen dating violence occurs, one must comprehend that teenage perpetrators/victims are often targets or bystanders to domestic violence in their homes. As a result, many teens believe violence is acceptable in intimate relationships. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 62% of teens know friends who have been verbally abused by their boyfriends. By the age of fourteen, 69% of teens polled said they have experienced one or more types of abuse in a relationship. The Family Justice Center is working hard with our schools and community partners to eradicate teen violence – *beginning with early education*.

FEBRUARY TRAINING

PRESENTATION TOPIC: CRIMINAL LAW, MISDEMEANORS

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Christina "Tina" Hartmann, a misdemeanor prosecutor in County Court 7, Family Violence Court, spoke to FJC partners and staff about the misdemeanor charge process, court settings, trial settings, pleas & motions to revoke.

All present became more familiar with the legal process and in turn will better be able to serve victims at the Center.



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