



Here's What's Happening...

TEXAS PANHANDLE CENTERS

901 WALLACE BLVD. AMARILLO, TEXAS

www.texaspanhandlecenters.org

April 2011, Volume VIII, Issue 4

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April is Autism Awareness Month

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A PROCLAMATION:

With autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) affecting nearly one percent of children in the United States, autism is an urgent public health issue with a profound impact on millions of Americans.

World Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of individuals with ASDs and rededicate ourselves to the cause of understanding and responding to autism.

Men and women on the autism spectrum have thrived and excelled in communities across America and around the world. Yet, despite great progress in understanding ASDs, challenges remain for these individuals and their loved ones. For too long, the needs of people living with autism and their families have gone without adequate support and understanding. While we continue to encourage the development of resources for children on the autism spectrum and provide necessary resources for their families, we must also remember that young people with ASDs become adults with ASDs who

deserve our support, our respect, and the opportunity to realize their highest aspirations. As our understanding of the autism spectrum grows, my Administration remains dedicated to supporting children and adults impacted by autism. Led by the Department of Health and Human Services, we have expanded investments in autism research, public health tracking, early detection, and services -- from early intervention for children to improved long-term services and support programs for adults. My Administration maintains a firm commitment to advance autism research and treatment, as well as promote education, employment, and equality for all individuals with autism, from early childhood through employment and community life. We will continue to work with the Congress, experts, and families to improve Federal and State programs that assist individuals with ASDs and their families and to bolster the impact and reach of community support and services. I encourage all Americans to visit www.HHS.gov/autism for more information and resources on ASDs.

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With each breakthrough in research and each innovative treatment, we open endless possibilities for the many American families who have been touched by autism. As we mark World Autism Awareness Day, let us recommit to improving the lives of individuals and families impacted by ASDs and creating a world free from discrimination where all can achieve their fullest potential.

Every April we recognize National Autism

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2 of each year as World Autism Awareness Day. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about autism and what they can do to support individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

Awareness Month and the special challenges faced by those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). CDC estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the U.S. have an ASD. At the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we continue to strive to meet the complex needs of all people with ASD and their families.

ASD symptoms range from mild to severe and the condition may pose significant communication and behavioral challenges. There is no

cure, but we know that early intervention can greatly improve a child's development. The first three years are particularly critical. That's why we are educating more health professionals to recognize the signs and symptoms early, so children can get treatment when it is most likely to be effective.

Last year, we established a new national resource and information center to provide information on community-based services and interventions for people with ASD and their families. Last month, we announced a new website that provides job skills training for high school graduates who have ASD or other disabilities. New research funds are being used to deepen our understanding of ASD, test innovative treatments, study genes associated with ASD, and explore the needs of the growing number of adults with ASD.

The Affordable Care Act, the health care law signed a year ago by President Obama, will help ease the financial burden that often comes with treating and caring for people with ASD. The law requires new plans to cover autism screening and developmental assessments for children at no cost to parents, and allows parents to keep their children on their family health insurance until they turn 26. Insurers will also no longer be allowed to deny children coverage for a pre-existing condition such as ASD or to set arbitrary lifetime or annual limits on benefits.

This April, and all year, let us reflect on this urgent public health challenge and rededicate ourselves to addressing the needs of people and families with ASD.

For more information on the Department's efforts regarding ASD, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/autism/> or <http://www.healthcare.gov/foryou/family/soon/>

S.T.A.R. (Services to At-Risk Youth & Their Families)
Brings you...



“Back in Control”

Parenting Workshop

Saturday, April 16, 2011
Be there: 8:45am - 4:00pm

**Texas Panhandle Centers
Children’s Services Building
1500 S. Taylor Street
Amarillo, Texas 79101**



Must pre-register! Call: 806.359.2005

Instructor: Janice James, MA, QMHP

CEU’s available for LPC’s & MSW’s; General CEU’s available
Must attend full class for certificate

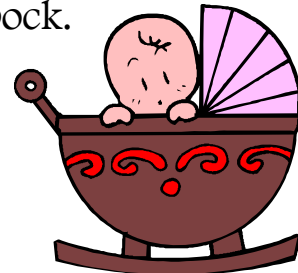
Seating is limited. **NO CHARGE** *No childcare provided.*

STAR is a TDFPS funded program of TPC



Congratulations to Lupe Moreno, Perryton Behavioral Health,
on the birth of a new granddaughter. McKinley Grace Clay-
brook was born Friday, March 18, 2011 in Lubbock.

She weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 19.5 inches
long. Mommy and Daddy are reportedly doing
great.



Save The Date

2nd Annual Children's Carnival

Celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Friday, April 29th, 2011

4pm-6pm

◆ Door Prizes



◆ Games



◆ Refreshments

Celebrating the Children and Families We Serve



Children are not to be left unattended.
Parent/guardian is requested to stay with child at all times.

☼ For TPC, STAR and All SD Safe Schools/Healthy Students participants only.

♥ Sponsored by:



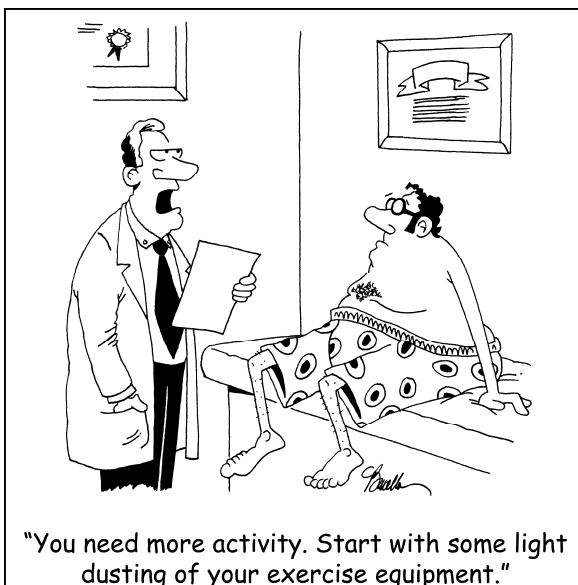
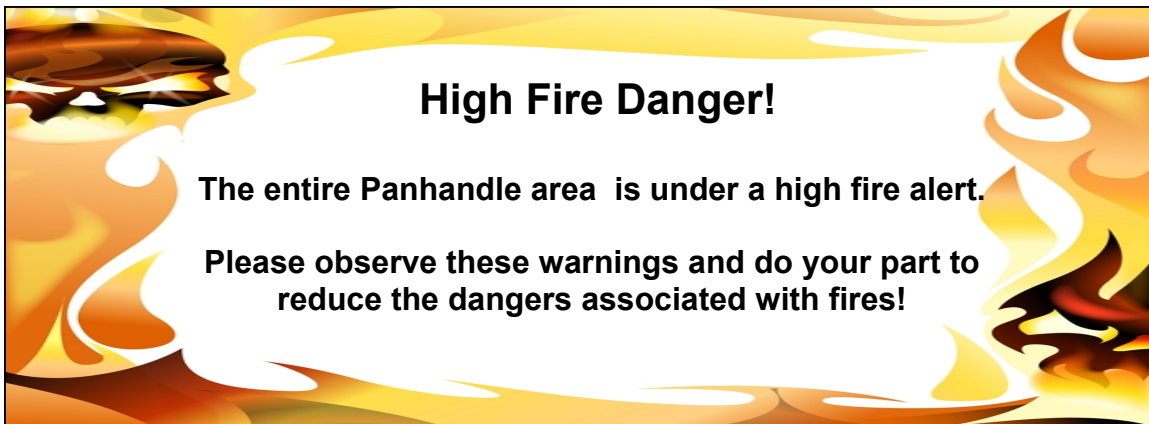


Mothers Day - May 8th



Mother's Day is just one occasion that gives you the opportunity to do something special for your mother. And if you start wondering about the reasons you need to treat your mother, you would end up with nothing less than a zillion reasons. Let's just remember the most important reasons for which we need to be grateful to our mom and that would be enough to arrange a lavish treat for her on the special occasion of Mother's Day.

Happy Mothers Day Mom!





Wellness Coordinator

Veronica Melesio-Serrao



Creamy Lemon Pie

6 whole reduced-fat cinnamon graham crackers
2 Tbsp butter
11 oz fat-free sweetened condensed milk

2 large eggs
½ cup fresh lemon juice
1 Tbsp lemon zest



Preheat oven to 350. Grind graham crackers in a food processor until fine crumbs form. Or place crackers in a re-sealable plastic bag and crush with a rolling pin. Place crumbs in a small bowl.

Melt butter and pour over graham cracker crumbs, mixing with a fork until completely moistened. Press crumbs evenly onto bottom of 9-inch pie pan; place crust in refrigerator while preparing lemon filling.

In a medium bowl, combine condensed milk and eggs; mix until smooth. Add lemon juice and zest; stir until incorporated and pour into prepared crust.

Bake pie for 15 minutes. Cool completely and for best flavor, served chilled. Makes 10 servings. This pie can be baked and frozen for up to 2 weeks. Defrost and serve chilled.

This Month's Winner Is...

**Amber White, Early Childhood Intervention Program,
was chosen by random drawing for the month of April.
Amber will receive a \$25 gift card from Amarillo
National Bank.**



**To claim your gift certificate, please contact
Joyce Lopez at 806.351.3308.**

**Each month a random drawing will be held. All full and part-time
employees (except executive management) are eligible to win.
Winners are published each month in *Here's What's Happening*.**

Watch for future drawings...you could be next!

Welcome these New Employees...

Sheryle Barron
Adrian Deutsh
Doris Ford
Jamie Stricklin
Jessica Weatherholt

Camp Lane Group Home
Canode Group Home
Respite Pool
Fir Group Home - Pampa
Respite Pool



White Hat Awards



The IDD Service Coordination Department would like to present this months White Hat Award to all of the **After School/Summer Program employees**. These individuals have given our clients so much love, affection, attention and care. We want to acknowledge how much you have contributed to their lives and to ours as well. It is always heart-warming to walk into your programs and see the clients thriving, smiling and having fun. Each of you has made a significant positive impact on the lives of our consumers. We thank you and wish all of you well in your future endeavors.

Sharon Guinn for IDD Service Coordination

The Adult Behavioral Health Service Coordination Department at Homeless Services would like to recognize **Loren Hipskind, Service Coordinator**. Loren is a real trooper. She does amazing work in difficult situations. She is a joy to work with due to her cheerful and friendly disposition. Loren is always willing to step in and help when needed. We would like Loren to know what a privilege it is to have her here.

Homeless Staff,

*Cindy Rue
Shannon Jones
Christine Hayes
Erika Roberts*

Articles, or suggestions for this publication may be submitted by the 1st of each month to:

Joyce Lopez • 901 Wallace Blvd., • Amarillo, Texas 79106
Phone: (806) 351-3308 Fax: (806) 351-3345 Email: joyce.lopez@txpan.org

Employee Recognition

Judge Willis Smith, Board Chair, recognized two employees at the March 31, Board of Trustees meeting for their many years of service to Texas Panhandle Centers.

Elvire Sanders-Blakemore, IDD Service Coordination, was recognized for 25 years of service.

Phyllis Clark, Alternate Living, Developmental Health, was recognized for 30 years of service.

Both were awarded a plaque, gift card and a day off.

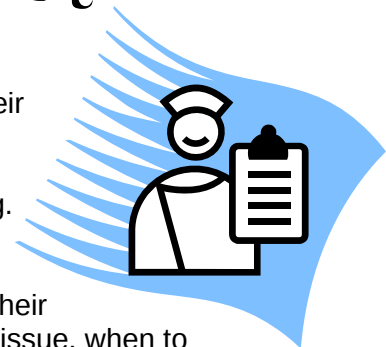
Congratulations for 25 & 30 years of *Making Lives Better!*



National Nurses Day - May 6th

We are pleased to recognize this day and honor nurses for their outstanding efforts to strengthen the health of the nation.

Nurses save lives, prevent complications and alleviate suffering. When nurses form a relationship with patients and their families they help with social isolation, uncertainty, or the stigma of illness and they are helping loved ones to learn and cope with their family member's illness. Knowing when to talk about a difficult issue, when to provide sensitive information and when to hold a hand or move away, these are among the complex decisions nurses make every day.



On May 6th let us recognize our nurses and thank them for their skills and knowledge.