



Here's What's Happening...

TEXAS PANHANDLE CENTERS

901 WALLACE BLVD. AMARILLO, TEXAS

www.texaspanhandlecenters.org

July 2011, Volume VIII, Issue 7

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Serving the citizens of:

Armstrong, Carson,
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Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray,
Hall, Hansford, Hartley,
Hemphill, Hutchinson,
Lipscomb, Moore,
Ochiltree, Oldham, Potter,
Randall, Roberts, Sherman,
and Wheeler counties

Fundraiser Garage Sale



benefiting the clients of Texas Panhandle Centers Autism Program

For \$30.00 you can reserve two (2) parking spaces to display and sell your treasures. All sales belong to the seller and you can donate your unsold items so you won't have to take them home.

Not having your own sale? We would love to have your donations. We will gladly pick them up!
Contact Ally Harmon for more information:

806.570.0404



Saturday, July 30th 8am - 6pm
Lewis Picture Frames parking lot
4021 S. Washington, Amarillo, TX



HUTCHINSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOCUS GRANT

Jim Womack, Director, Planning & Public Information

People diagnosed with serious mental illness have higher rates of disease and premature death than the general population. These people lose from 13 to over 20 years of life compared with persons who have not been diagnosed with major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, etc. One of the contributing factors to this epidemic is that compared with the average American, **people with serious mental illness are more likely to engage in unhealthy lifestyle practices, such as lack of regular physical activity, poor nutrition and overeating, smoking and other substance abuse, inadequate sleep, and failure to visit doctors regularly.**

These unhealthy behaviors and the added burden of medication side effects increase the risk for cardiac and metabolic diseases. However, resources do exist that provide the knowledge and tools to assist people with serious mental illness in making informed decisions about healthier lifestyle behaviors, including addressing tobacco use and excess weight. The challenge is how to integrate these practices effectively into routine behavioral health care, espe-

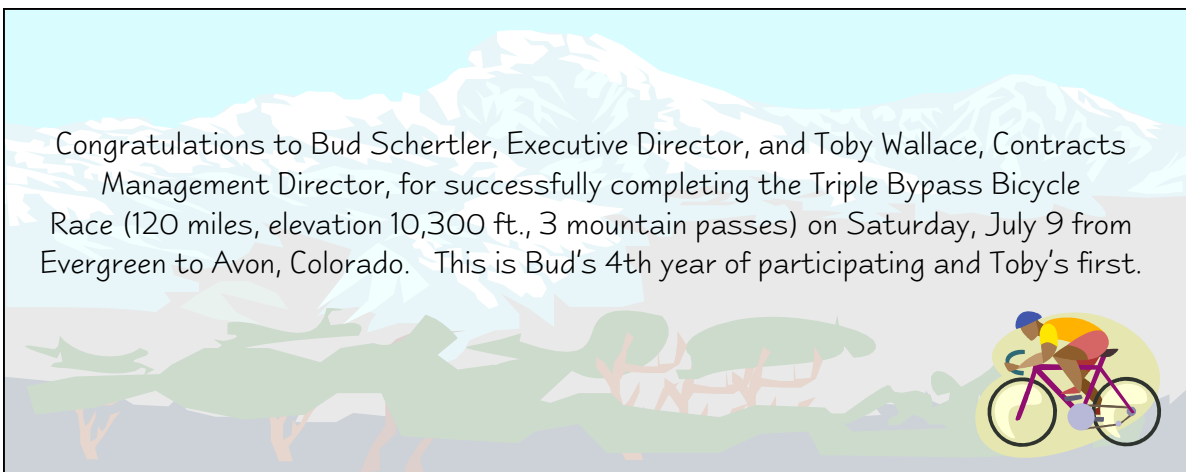
cially in rural areas where resources are scarce, and behavioral health workers are unable to address these issues due to maximizing their time addressing other issues.

In response to these issues, Texas Panhandle Centers has applied for and received a grant from Hutchinson County United Way to develop and implement an 8 week **Lifeskills Continuing Education Course** to address the issues outlined above, as well as issues such as home safety, tornado safety, fire safety, etc. Grant funding will be used to develop a class in coordination with Frank Phillips College, and screening and referrals for this program will be provided by TPC caseworkers.

On a wider scale, implementation of this project focuses on our Mission Statement: ***Making Lives Better.*** Hutchinson County residents who have been diagnosed with a mental illness will live longer, happier and healthier lives, which will in turn positively affect their families, friends, and Hutchinson County communities.



Congratulations to Bud Schertler, Executive Director, and Toby Wallace, Contracts Management Director, for successfully completing the Triple Bypass Bicycle Race (120 miles, elevation 10,300 ft., 3 mountain passes) on Saturday, July 9 from Evergreen to Avon, Colorado. This is Bud's 4th year of participating and Toby's first.



Sandy Skelton Named Chief Operating Officer

Bud Schertler, Executive Director, announced today that Sanford "Sandy" Skelton has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer. Sandy has over 38 years of experience in the behavioral health field with the majority being in various administrative and management positions. Sandy possess strong leadership skills with emphasis on participatory management, effective communication and responsible financial management. Mr. Schertler is pleased to welcome Sandy to this position.

Toby Wallace Named Human Resource Director

Bud Schertler, Executive Director, announced today that Toby Wallace has been promoted to Human Resource Director for Texas Panhandle Centers effective September 1, 2011. Toby has worked for TPC for the past several years and has varied experience with human resources, contract negotiations and credentialing. Mr. Schertler is excited to welcome Toby to this position.

His predecessor, Garry Snider, recently announced his retirement effective August 31st. A retirement reception is planned for late August. Further details will be forthcoming.

Employee Recognition

At the July 19th Board of Trustees meeting, Judge Willis Smith, recognized Milly Pearson, Data Management, for twenty (20) years of service with the agency.



He also recognized Helen Braxton, Respite/IDD Services, for fifteen (15) years of service.

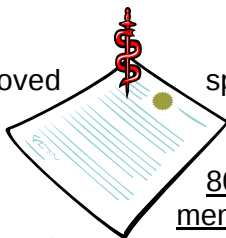
They were awarded a plaque, gift card and a day off.

Congratulations!



EMPLOYEE INSURANCE INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees approved changes to the employee health insurance at the July 19th meeting.



spending account for the next year.

Please call Deborah Brown at 806.358.1681 to schedule an appointment for the meetings.

Two options will be available for employees to select from effective September 1, 2011.

A Premium and a Basic Plan will be offered. The details of each plan will be presented during the **MANDATORY** health, dental and life benefits summer enrollment meetings held July 25 through August 19.

AFLAC meetings are not mandatory but should be attended to review coverage, make changes or to establish a flexible

These meetings are mandatory. Failure to complete the new health benefit enrollment documents will result in placement in the basic plan by default and could result in delayed claims processing.

For meeting times, please refer to the correspondence dated July 21, 2011 from the Human Resource Department.

Save the date!

The 14th Annual Culinary Bash will be held Saturday, September 17th on the Texas Panhandle Centers Grounds.

Additional information will be forthcoming.



FLOAT DAY...

Have you used your Float Day this fiscal year?

You must take it before August 31st to avoid losing it. Contact the Payroll Dept. to find out.

Community Corner

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFT CREATES ANOTHER...

STORY OF SUCCESS



UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO & CANYON

July 2011



United Way Night Sunday, July 31

For volunteers, donors & their families, first come first serve, a limited number of complimentary tickets are available only until **3pm, Friday, July 29.**

Tickets can be picked up at:
United Way Office - 2207 Line Ave.
Contact Melanie at 376-6359 x203

or
WTAMU, Old Main, Rm. 116
Contact Becky at 651-3150

ARE YOU AN EXPERT?

Through education or experience, do you possess valuable knowledge in areas of Preparing Children to Succeed, Building Financial Stability, Caring for People in Crisis, or Ensuring Basic Needs? If so, United Way invites you to join one of our

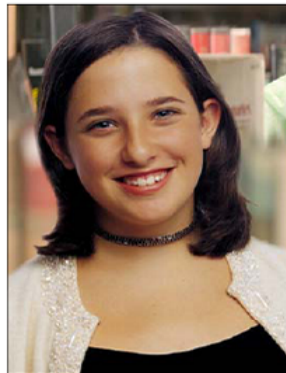
COMMUNITY IMPACT COUNCILS.

For more information, please contact Jan Plequette,
Community Impact Director
376-6359 x207

2011 DAY OF CARING PHOTOS Page 2

Company Coordinator Training
with Debra Halliday of B&W Pantex, and
Terry Price of Xcel Energy
August 11th, 18th, & 25th 10AM -1PM
RSVP to Rachel Swearingen
376-6359 x217

The Making of a Leader



*Your gifts to United Way
transform lives!*

*At one time, Janice was
very angry, antisocial, and
depressed . . .*

Her childhood scarred by years of family dysfunction, Janice was living with her mom in a van. They had managed to escape the turmoil of domestic abuse, but Janice could not seem to shake the pain and humiliation of her life. Her past was a disappointment, her future looked bleak, and a mountain of rage threatened to overwhelm her. Her schoolwork and relationships with teachers and classmates were suffering.

Things began to turn around though, when her mother found out about **United Way's 2-1-1**, a free and confidential service where trained information and referral specialists connect people with those who can help. With their referrals, Janice's mom was able to obtain a job, a place to live, and the counseling they both needed.

As Janice began to feel more hopeful, she decided to join a Youth Advisory Committee through a funded program of United Way. There she learned valuable communication, presentation and leadership skills and eventually took on the role of president of Youth and Government. These experiences changed the way Janice viewed herself. The tools she gained enabled her to be a leader of her ROTC group as well. Today **Janice is not the sullen, angry person she was.** She has become a **vibrant, articulate leader who does well in school, enjoys helping others, and feels confident** in tackling the challenges the future may present.

*Thanks to your United Way donations, teenagers
like Janice can have a brighter future. Thank you!*



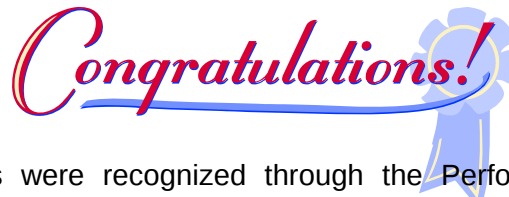
Wellness Coordinator

Veronica Melesio-Serrao



Walk Across Texas began July 11!

There are 8 teams participating! Please remember if you are signed up again this year with your previous team your team captain will need to change the start date to 7/11/11 on the WAT website.



The following employees were recognized through the Performance Enhancement Program for one or more of the following: Core Competencies, Safety, Critical Thinking, Communication, Client Rights, Continuous Quality Improvement, Professional Behavior, Customer Service:

**Shelia Rios, Alternate Living
Grace Weber, Atkinson Group Home**

This Month's Winner Is...

Virginia Chadick, MH Service Coordination, was chosen by random drawing for the month of July. Virginia 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...

Leanna Diaz
Shantell Fillmore
Delores "June" Hites
Sara Northrup
Nicki Richardson
Rick Smithson
Ronda Torres
Kathy Jensen
Kimberly Mack
Diana Van Scoy

Westcliff Group Home
Club Meadows Group Home
Lamount Group Home
Adult Probation & Parole
IDD Nursing
Child Probation
Canode Group Home
Med Clinic - Children's
Respite Pool
Adult Probation & Parole



Congratulations to Diane Donnell (Utilization Management) on a new granddaughter. Hailey Francis Henderson was born June 29th. She weighed 3lbs 13oz and was 17 inches long. She was due September 7th but could not wait any longer. Despite her early arrival, little Hailey is doing well.



White Hat Award

The IDD Service Coordination Department would like to present this month's White Hat Award to Crystal Farmer with Community Living. The staff in this department observes Crystal taking extra-good care of our clients. She comes by our offices to share information and is always willing to go the extra mile to provide quality services. Some of the clients and families have given her compliments because of all she does for them. She is fun to work with and is always smiling. Thank you for all you do.

Sharon Guinn for IDD Service Coordination



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

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Phone: (806) 351-3308 Fax: (806) 351-3345 Email: joyce.lopez@txpan.org