



# Here's What's Happening...

## TEXAS PANHANDLE MHMR

901 WALLACE BLVD. AMARILLO, TEXAS  
www.tpmhmr.org

August 2010, Volume VII, Issue 8

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### Serving the citizens of:

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

## TPMHMR's 13th Annual Culinary Bash - Another Successful Event!

The 13th Annual Culinary Bash hosted by the Volunteer Services Council could not have been such a success without the support of all the generous volunteers, sponsors and in-kind donations.

### Cooking Teams:

**B&W Pantex Cooking Team**  
**Budweiser Cooking Team**  
**Coors Cowboy Cooking Team**  
**The Country Barn**  
**Joe Taco**  
**La Fiesta**  
**Macaroni Joes**  
**Tacos Garcia**  
**Texas Road House**

- Wine tasting was hosted by CRUSH Wine Bar and adult beverages were provided by Budweiser and Coors of Amarillo.
- The music was provided by Insufficient Funds Band.

Items donated for the live auction included:

- Autographed Football
- James Avery Necklace and earrings valued at \$380.
- Painting donated by Bob Mills Furniture valued at \$650.
- 2 round trip tickets anywhere within the Southwest Airlines

System valued at \$800.

- McFarlin's Jewelry donated a stunning diamond necklace and matching earrings valued at \$1,000.

Many thanks to the following contributors/sponsors:

Insufficient Funds - C&B Printing - Engler Foundation - Excel Energy - FirstBank Southwest - Happy State Bank - B&W Pantex - Addiction Specialty Group - Just Teasn - IMS -Amarillo National Bank - Chicken Express - Art & Lea Ann Crosser - Garry Snider - Sue Erwin - Amy Garcia -Sharon Braddock - BritKare Home Medical - Martin Tipton Pharmacy - Centergas Fuels, Inc. - Eddie & Linda Gray - Wallace/Gardner - Lasher Homes - Northwest Texas HCS - Texas Tech - Harrington Regional -Emily Ellis - Castle Rock Builder -Street Toyota

And all the numerous individuals that assisted in making the 13th Annual Culinary Bash such an enjoyable and successful event.

# Culinary Bash 2010





# *Culinary Bash 2010 continued...*





## Wellness Coordinator

Welcome Veronica Melesio-Serrao, (Intake, Screening & Crisis Department) as TPMHMR's new wellness coordinator.

Veronica will serve as the Chair of the Wellness Committee replacing Connie Longan.



## *Congratulations!*

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:

Rhonda Osmus, Specialized Services  
Dana McClure, Adkinson Group Home  
Jennifer Valingo, IDD Service Coordination

## **This Month's Winner Is...**

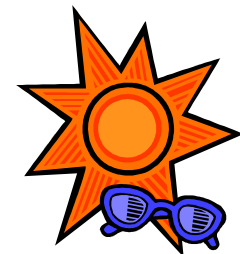
**June Goding, While-A-Way Group Home, was chosen by random drawing for the month of August.**

**June 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!**





## PROTECT. CONNECT. RENEW

Texas Panhandle MHMR, along with Central Plains MHMR, has after much research and deliberation, decided to partner together and contract with Grace After Fire for the purpose of providing community based services not currently available in our respective Local Service Areas.

The local program of Grace After Fire has hit the ground running after hiring an outreach coordinator, Tousha Barnes. Tousha, a veteran herself, is familiar with the local resources.

***As a local service provider, Grace After Fire will provide the following:***

- Project coordination, project reporting and planning
- Community education and awareness
- A local Veteran Provider Network and Advisory Group
- Local volunteer staff
- Resource database
- Support of a call center
- Community veteran peer support groups to include:
  - ◊ Training and consultation services
  - ◊ Online peer support for veterans, their friends and their family members
  - ◊ Toll free call center services staffed by veterans to take calls from veterans, their friends, and their family members
- Share data tracking information derived from the call center, such as resource referrals and connections made with

### TPMHMR

- Locate veterans and their family members to inform and educate all on veteran issues
- Assist in identifying gaps in services

***Grace After Fire*** was created by women veterans for all women and their families who have ever been a service member. Some have returned from service with silent wounds—hurting from the effects of post traumatic stress (PTS), military sexual trauma (MST), addiction, depression, thoughts of suicide, and traumatic brain injury.

[www.GraceAfterFire.org](http://www.GraceAfterFire.org)  
800.362.6477

***Anytime—Anywhere***

For more information, please contact:

**Tousha Barnes, Outreach Coordinator**  
806.673.9790

[tausha@GraceAfterFire.org](mailto:tausha@GraceAfterFire.org)

# Welcome these New Employees...

Jessica Chasteen	Respite Pool (rehire)
Kristina Christian	ECI (rehire)
Theresa Marez	Canode Group Home
Grace Weber	Atkinsen
Lillian Wheeler	Adult Med Clinic
Amanda Whiteside	ECI



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## Department of State Health Services Audits

*Congratulations to all the staff involved in the recent audits.*

*The Quality Assurance Audit  
The Texas Home Living Authority Review  
Home and Community-based Service Authority*



*We did well in all three!! Thank you to all of you that worked so hard to make these so successful.*

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## White Hat Award

The IDD Service Coordination Department would like to give the White Hat Award to the **IDD Nursing Department**. They are always available to assist us any way they can. There have been times when there are injuries or emergencies that arise and they drop what they're doing to provide care. They are pleasant to work with and provide valuable assistance in working and dealing with consumers health.



The IDD Nursing Department includes: **Diana Johnson, Catherine Jones, Joyce Shull, Sheri Perdue, Cinde Robison, Susan McQuaig.**

Sharon Guinn for IDD Service Coordination

**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@tpmhm.org](mailto:joyce.lopez@tpmhm.org)**

# Human Resource Development

## Defensive Driving - National Traffic Driving Institute

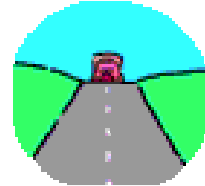
Friday, September 17, 2010 ■ 9am—4pm

Large Training Room ■ 1500 S. Taylor

Contact Jackie Briggs, HRD at: 351.3282 to register

Seating is Limited

Fee: \$25.00 for outside participants or ticket dismissal



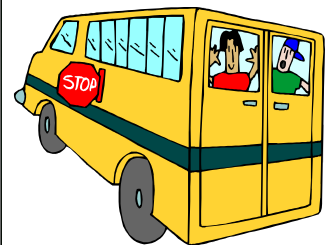
*Mark Your Calendars...*

### The Hugh Pennal Lectureship

This years event will be held Tuesday, October 12th at 5:30pm at the Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza.

The speaker will be Edythe Pennal Harvey (Dr. Pennal's daughter) and will be titled "The Dynamics of Power: Victimizer and Victim."

School is back in session.  
Please slow down  
in school zones.





# COMMUNITY CORNER

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFT CREATES ANOTHER...

## STORY OF SUCCESS



UNITED WAY OF AMARILLO & CANYON

August 2010

### Company Coordinator Training

Make sure your Company Coordinator knows to attend one of these sessions!

**Wednesday, Aug. 18**  
11:30 - 1:30

**Friday, Aug. 27**  
11:30 - 1:30

**Tuesday, Aug. 31**  
11:30 - 1:30

Learn from 2010 Company Coordinator co-chairs Debra Halliday and Terry Price about how to conduct the best campaign for your company.

Lunch will be provided and each attendee will receive a **Free LIVE UNITED shirt!**

RSVP your selected date by Aug. 11 to Alex Kitchens at [alex@unitedwayama.org](mailto:alex@unitedwayama.org) or 376-6359 x34.

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
**LIVE UNITED™**

### They Learn What They See

In his brief three years, Billy had seen some horrifying violence, right in his very own home. His father, Jim, was both physically and verbally abusive to his mother. And even though it frightened Billy, he began imitating dad, and that scared Pam.



It was first in day care where Billy began acting out by hitting, kicking and yelling at the other kids, so much so that Pam was called to come pick him up, almost on a daily basis. With the stress from all those phone calls and job interruptions, coupled with the anguish of what was happening to her child, Pam's employment was hanging by a thread. No one there knew her dark secrets.

She had tried to leave her marriage many times, but Jim always managed to bring her back. Promises made, but never kept. With the abuse only getting worse, she finally broke down and told a friend what had been going on for years. That dear friend asked her to just pick up the phone and dial 2-1-1. It was not a crisis hotline, but someone she could call at any hour to find out where to find a shelter or how to get some help for her son. Because of United Way, she didn't have to worry that there was no money to pay for those services.

Pam began taking Billy to play therapy sessions, as well counseling for herself. Slowly, the effects of abuse began to melt away. Billy's acting out became less and less, and Pam was able to leave her abusive marriage and focus on healing and providing for her son.

*Thanks to your donations to United Way, children and families can get the help they need in a crisis.*

If you know of a United Way Story of Success, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Leslie Richardson at: [leslie@unitedwayama.org](mailto:leslie@unitedwayama.org)