



*Making Lives Better*

# Here's What's Happening...

## TEXAS PANHANDLE MHMR

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

November 2010, Volume VII, Issue 10

### Board of Trustees

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The Honorable Willis Smith  
Lipscomb, Texas

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### Serving the citizens of:

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



## Happy Thanksgiving



Let us be thankful for the many blessings in our lives.  
May the joys of gathering with friends and family be  
yours on Thanksgiving Day.

Have a safe and joyous holiday!

## Christmas Activities Underway

### Sock It Jean Week

The week of November 22nd will be "sock it" jean week. Wear jeans all week long for the price of a package of NEW socks to benefit the clients of TPMHMR.



You pick the size and color and send them to Bonnie Lasher in Bldg. 501.

### The Shining Star Christmas Project is underway.

Once again area banks are opening their doors and assisting Texas Panhandle MHMR and The Volunteer Services Council in meeting the needs of clients this

holiday season. The annual Shining Star Christmas Tree Project will begin on November 29th when paper ornaments listing the needs of clients will be placed at each bank location.

The needs listed on each ornament will be purchased, wrapped and returned to area banks to be picked up by the Volunteer Services "elves".



An ornament tree will also be located in the lobby of TPMHMR's Administration Building - 901 Wallace Blvd., Bldg. 501.



# Health Fair & Costume Contest Continued



# Happy Holiday's!



The Board of Trustees and Executive Management Team of TPMHMR are pleased to present employees with a holiday gift. Semi-boneless, spiral sliced hams will be delivered to the following locations on the following dates:

Polk/Taylor:	12/6/2010	3:30pm - 4:15pm
Wallace Blvd:	12/6/2010	4:00pm - 4:30pm
ASCI Amarillo:	12/7/2010	3:45pm - 4:00pm
PHP:	12/7/2010	During regular mail delivery
Tyler Street:	12/7/2010	During regular mail delivery
ECl:	12/8/2010	11:45am - 12:00 noon

All Regional Sites: Schedule through your respective supervisor  
Group Home Staff: May pick up hams during the day at any of the above designated times or from the Purchasing Department starting on December 7th.

Please note: Each employee will be issued a card which is to be signed and presented at the time the ham is delivered or picked up.

## This Month's Winner Is...

Jordan Eaker, IDD Service Coordination, was chosen by random drawing for the month of November. Jordan 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!



## New addition to the Executive Management Team

The Executive Management Team is pleased to welcome Michael Smith to TPMHMR. Michael was hired in October to serve as Chief Operating Officer.

Michael was born in Houston, Texas and raised in Corsicana. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Southern Methodist University's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Networking Technologies Program, and Our Lady of the Lake University. Michael holds degrees in Economics with minor work in Finance, Networking Technologies, and an MBA in Healthcare Finance and Management. He has also obtained the certification of Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE).

Michael began his career in the Texas MHMR Center system while a junior at the University of Texas at Austin. His first position was that of a direct care staff in an ICFMR group home. From there he moved

to a supervisory role and upon graduation was the Administrator of 15 ICFMR group homes as well as Budget Manager.

Michael has worked in the Texas MHMR Center system since 1997 and played a key role in the financial and Information Technology transition during the formation of Hill Country MHMR in 1996-1997. Michael has served in the roles of Budget Analyst, Reimbursement Manager, Information Technology Director, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Operating Officer. Michael has 18+ years industry experience.

Michael is married to Lynn, his spouse of 18 years and a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) and together they have one child, Aidan, who is 10 years old and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Together they enjoy cycling, fishing, and hunting.

Please welcome Michael to TPMHMR.

# *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:

**Trisha Wilson, HCS ■ Gracie Chavez,  
MH Service Coordination ■  
Karrie McNabb, Screening & Crisis Intake  
■ Catherin Jones, IDD Nursing ■  
Sherri Perdue, IDD Nursing ■ Cindy  
Lazcano, ECI ■ Grace Weber, Atkinsen  
Group Home ■ Diana Johnson,  
GR Nursing**



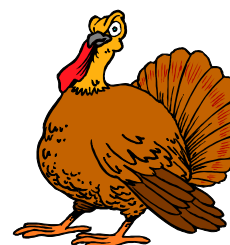
# Welcome these New Employees...

Michael Smith  
Cacy Becker  
Zachary Lynn  
Coretta Claudrick  
Sheila Jenkins  
Jeremy Lavake (p/t)  
Claressa Stamps  
Terri Valdez  
Gay Welch  
Melissa Henderson  
Nicole Roach

Financial Services  
Camp Lane Group Home  
Carlton Group Home  
Canode Group Home  
ASCI Amarillo  
After School Amarillo  
Devon Group Home  
Wayne Group Home  
Westcliff Group Home  
IDD Service Coordination  
IDD Nursing



In honor of Thanksgiving, TPMHMR  
offices will be closed, Thursday, November 24th  
and Friday, November 25th.



## White Hat Award



The IDD Service Coordination Department would like to give the White Hat Award to **Mikel Vargas from Data Management**. Mikel is such a pleasant person and when speaking with him, not only is he helpful, he's funny, kind and patient. Recently, the Service Coordinators sent their laptops in for maintenance and when the task was completed, Mikel brought the laptops back and set them up for us. We as a department wanted to recognize him for going the extra mile and being only a phone call away to help. We appreciate you Mikel.

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)



## Wellness Coordinator

Veronica Melesio-Serrao

### 15 Minute Vegetarian Chili



- 1 tsp canola oil
- 1 medium garlic clove, minced
- 14 ½ oz stewed tomatoes
- 15 oz canned kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 15 ¼ oz canned yellow corn, drained
- 15 oz canned tomato sauce
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- ½ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- ¼ cup dehydrated onion flakes
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 4 Tbsp low-fat shredded cheddar cheese

Heat oil in large, nonstick, heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Add garlic, cook, stirring frequently until aromatic, about 2 minutes. Add tomatoes, beans, corn, tomato sauce, chili powder, oregano, red pepper flakes, onion and pepper. Stir well.

Increase heat to high and bring chili to a boil; cook, stirring frequently until chili is thick and flavors are concentrated, about 5 minutes. Spoon into bowls and sprinkle with cheese. Makes 4 servings.

### Warm Spiced Baked Apples



- 4 baking apples, halved through the stem end and cored
- 2 Tbsp packed brown sugar
- 1tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 3 Tbsp water
- ¼ cup chopped walnuts or pecans, toasted if desired

Preheat oven to 400. Place the apples, cut side up, in a 13x19 inch baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with the brown sugar and pumpkin pie spice. Sprinkle the water in the bottom of the baking dish. Cover with foil. Bake the apples until tender when pierced with the tip of a knife, about 25 minutes. Sprinkle apples evenly with the walnuts/pecans. 2 apple halves is a serving.

***Thanks to everyone who helped and who visited the Health Fair this year!  
It was a great turn out. Start getting your teams of 8 ready for the Walk  
Across Texas that begins in January 2011.***



# Employee Recognition

At the October 28th Board of Trustees meeting, Judge Willis Smith, Chair, recognized the following employees for their service with the Center:

Pearl Gibson, Perryton MH - 25 years  
Lea Ann Crosser, HRD - 20 years  
Mellisa Talley, Data Mgmt. - 20 years  
Bud Schertler, Executive Director - 20 years

They were presented with a plaque, gift card and a day off.



Pearl Gibson - 25 years

## Trustee Recognized

Bud Schertler, Executive Director, recognized Dr. Sam Reeves, Vice Chair, for ten years of dedicated service as a Trustee of Texas Panhandle MHMR. Thank you Dr. Reeves for 10 years of service!



Bud Schertler - 20 years



Lea Ann Crosser - 20 years



Dr. Reeves - 10 years



Mellisa Talley - 20 years

## November Employee Recognition

At the November 18th Board meeting, Judge Smith, recognized Diane Donnell, Utilization Management Director, for fifteen years, and Libby Moore, Mental Health Director, for twenty years of service. They were awarded a plaque, gift card and day off. Congratulations!



Diane Donnell - 15 years



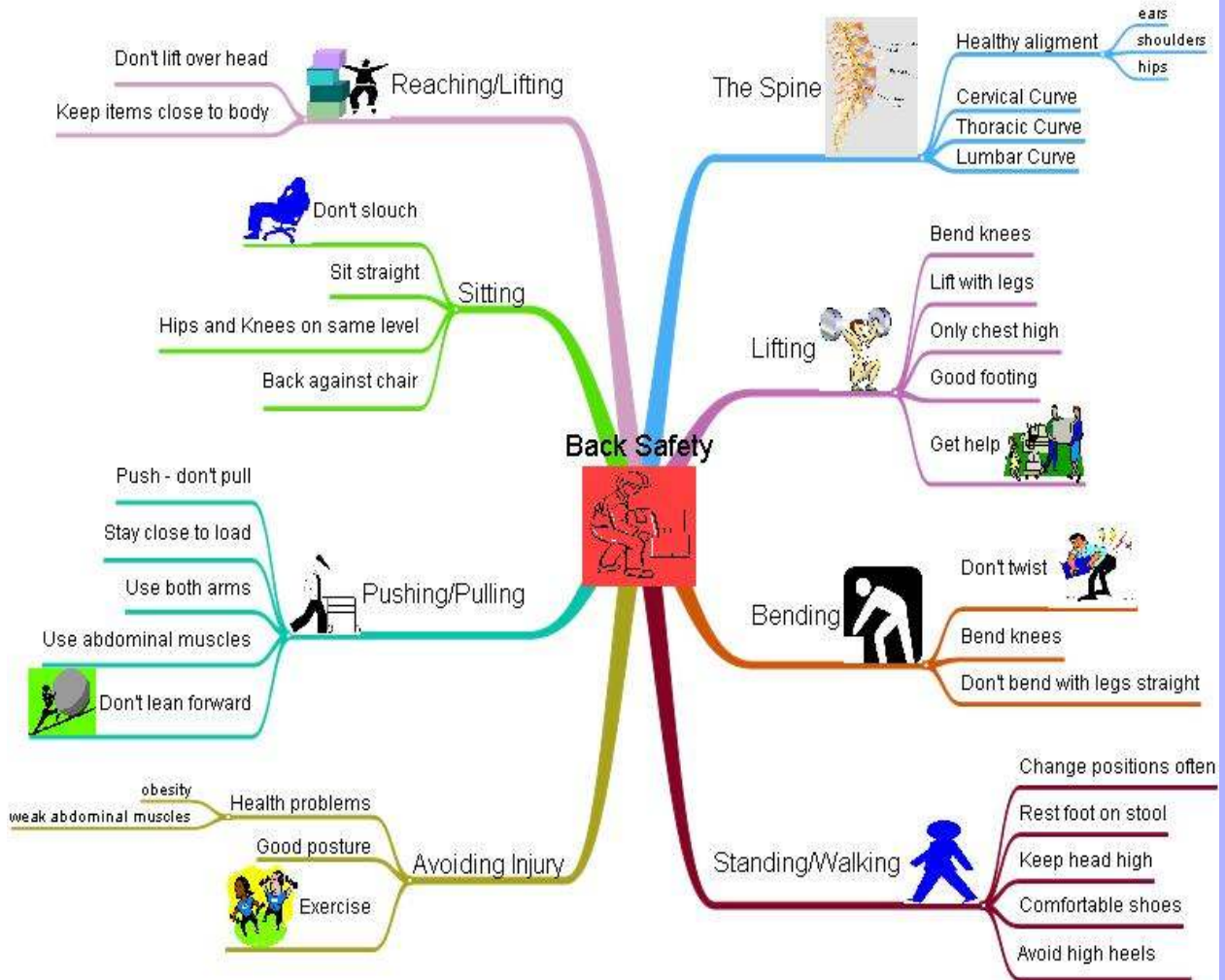
Libby Moore - 20 years



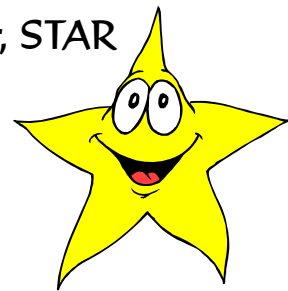
# Risk Management/Safety Committee:

Submitted By: Lea Ann Crosser, Safety Committee

## Back Safety Basics



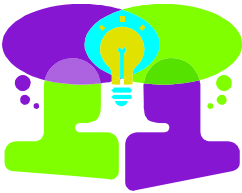
Congratulations to Stacy Sandorskey, Director, STAR Program, her staff, and all those involved in making the recent STAR audit such a success. They met all their performance benchmarks with all scores above 90%. Great job!



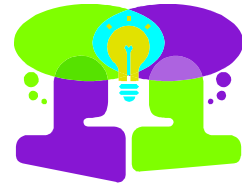
# Common Sense Parenting

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 11 & 18, 2010  
8:45am - 4:00pm

**WHERE:** TPMHMR Children's Services Building  
1500 S. Taylor Street  
Amarillo, Texas 79101



**Instructor:**  
Janice James, MA, QMHP



Get new ideas and skills, hone old ones, and gain confidence  
“to do what really matters; create bonds, enhance the  
relationships and teach the values of your family that will be  
handed down for generations to come.”

*~ The Authors of Common Sense Parenting*

**Must attend both sessions for certificate.**

(CEUs offered for LPCs, MSWs, Childcare Workers and General)

**NO CHARGE**

**Must pre-register: 806.359.2005 Limited seating.**

**No childcare ■ Parents only**

**Sponsored by: STAR (Services to At Risk) Youth and their Families**

Funded by TDFPS

A Grant Program of TPMHMR