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Texana Center | Behavioral Healthcare & Developmental Disabilities Services  
4910 Airport Avenue | Rosenberg | Texas 77471

## TEXANA ANNUAL AWARDS

Texana Center held the 7th Annual Reaching for the Stars Awards in the Community Room at Cross Creek Ranch. A crowd of over 80 people were present for this Oscar-like evening. Justin Gustafson provided the drum roll for the announcement of each winner. George Patterson presented Natalia Gyrnshyn with Johnson Development with a token of Texana's thanks; a special plaque made by Texana Décor & More...



### IDD Supported Employment Employee of the Year - Brandon Joswiak

Brandon has worked for Rattlers convenience store in Bellville for more than 4 years. He really likes to greet all of the customers as he does his work; everyone in Bellville knows Brandon, you can't shop at Rattlers without getting to know him! He provides housekeeping and stocking services for Rattlers and makes sure that the store is clean and the shelves are well stocked. He is knowledgeable of all of the stock in the store and is very helpful to customers who are trying to find various items. He loves his job, his co-workers and his boss, and he always goes to work with a lot of enthusiasm!



### BH Supported Employment Employee of the Year - Darlene Jackson

Darlene Jackson is a really deserving winner of the Texana BH Employee of the Year. Since she first started working with the Supported Employment Program at the beginning of February 2015, she has overcome many personal challenges and her previous barriers to employment. She was determined to secure full-time employment as a teacher's aide with a local school district, as she wanted to use her years of experience and her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development. Darlene exemplifies what is important in this profession based on; her caring, helpful and engaging personality. It is not an easy job keep one pre-K child engaged never mind a classroom full, but Darlene does this each day by reading stories, singing songs or giving the children individual attention to help them understand. She also communicates with the parents, so that they too, are actively involved, and know how their child's day went and the progress they are making.



### **Supported Employment Employer of the Year - H-E-B**

H-E-B has employed our clients with intellectual disabilities for more than 8 years, at the Riverpark location. Everyone at H-E-B takes time with our clients; coaching them when Texana staff is not in the store to do so. The staff at H-E-B are understanding of their disabilities and accept them as part of the H-E-B family. Lyle's story is a great example of how their inclusion; he stocks the candy at the checkouts. Lyle had noticed that each of the store's Department Managers had framed photographs on the wall at the front of the store. So, next time the area manager was in the store he asked if he thought he was doing a good job, the area manager responded positively, so Lyle said he would like to be promoted to Candy Supervisor and have his photo on the wall – guess what? You can go to H-E-B at Riverpark and Lyle is up there with all the other managers! This is just one reason why H-E-B has won the Employer of the Year Award. Unfortunately, the Manager could not be at the Awards Ceremony to accept the award.



### **Champion of Behavioral Healthcare - Larry Davis**

Larry Davis had served as the President of National Alliance on Mental Illness for a number of years and worked hard to address the issue of affordable housing for people affected by mental illness. He believed that people with behavioral healthcare diagnosis deserve a stable living environment that they can afford; something that is in short supply. Larry worked with Texana Center on a Federal housing grant to develop an apartment complex for people with a behavioral healthcare diagnosis. That goal was attained when Crossroad Villas broke ground at our Rosenberg West Campus in June 2012. There are now 12 apartments that are fully occupied. Larry was elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Crossroads Villas and continues to serve in that capacity today. He is a true champion and advocate for people with behavioral healthcare issues.



### **Supported Employment Manager of the Year - Patty Anderson**

Patty Anderson is the manager of Rattlers convenience store in Bellville. She has worked with Texana's Supported Employment Program for more than 5 years. Patty is very supportive of our clients and has encouraged her staff to be the same and to treat them as part of the Rattlers' team. Our client takes care of stocking the candy but because he does not have the fine motor skills to tear along the perforated edges of the candy box, Patty always makes sure there is someone to help open the boxes, and sometimes she is that person! She also helped our client to master clocking out on the computer. She is a manager that walks her patch, checking on things and making sure that she is visible for customers and staff alike. To help our client she created a flexible schedule and always involves him in company activities including the Rattlers' Christmas Party. Even though we don't ask her to do this, she watches over our client like a mother hen and communicates regularly on his progress and is always giving positive feedback. Patty really deserves this award.



### **Contract Work – Company of the Year - Si Environmental**

Si Environmental began contracting with Texana Center 2 years ago to take care of their shredding needs. In 2013 they hired the clients with intellectual disabilities to do some collating for a mail-out that they had; they then learned about Texana's Shredding Business, asked for more information and readily signed up. Since that time our clients have been going to Si Environmental monthly to pick up their papers for shredding. The staff at Si Environmental is always friendly, courteous and professional towards our clients. It really means a lot to our clients to have this type of contract work at the Learning Center; as it provides a pay check and more importantly, a sense of accomplishment and purpose. Thank you to everyone at Si Environmental for providing this opportunity.



### Community Supporter of the Year - Gurecky Manufacturing

Gurecky Manufacturing and in particular, Joe and Doris Gurecky, have been supporters of Texana for many years. They have sponsored many of our events, made contributions through donations and bought both live and silent auction items in support of Texana Center. They have also provided tours for our Autism Social Skills Group at their manufacturing facility, involving all of their employees, who have been also been very welcoming and have taken time to explain what they are working on to the teens. Joe and Doris Gurecky have participated in ground breaking ceremonies, openings, ribbon cuttings etc. Gurecky Manufacturing has also been kind enough to donate their Sugar Land Skeeters Skybox for our clients as well as for a live auction item at our golf tournament. As you can see, there are many reasons why they won this award, congratulations to Gurecky manufacturing.



### Media Person of the Year - Marquita Griffin

Marquita Griffin is a Journalist with the Fort Bend Herald. Over the years she has proven herself to be extremely supportive of Texana and the work that we do. Whenever we contact her with a story, she is always willing to write it and is able to create articles that are very compelling. Articles include; "The Art of Teaching"; "Texana Center Changes Lives for Good"; feature article on Texana Décor & More... and this April an "Autism Awareness" article in celebration of Autism Awareness Month. Marquita is always willing to showcase Texana in the best way possible and takes her time when writing a feature article; the results always speak for themselves which is why she is the Texana Media Person of the Year.



### Volunteer Organization - Pilot Club of Wharton

The name "Pilot" means "leader and guide." Pilots are caring individuals whose hands on projects focus on brain-related disorders and disabilities. They envision a world where everyone is valued. Texana has been fortunate enough to have experienced their leadership and care, first hand. The Pilot Club of Wharton has been involved with the Learning Center for many years. They have volunteered at the Wharton Learning Center's many Holiday parties including; Christmas, Valentine's Day and Halloween. They have also provided very nice gifts for our clients each Christmas, which are really appreciated and make the party even more special. Many of their members have donated items for our Rags to Riches Resale Shop, which not only provides additional income for Texana, but also jobs for our clients. The club members have also helped our clients to obtain outside employment through local janitorial contracts. Our clients also began delivering meals one day a week with the local Meals on Wheels Program following an introduction by the Pilot Club. Texana thanks you for all that you do!



### Lou Larsen Volunteer of the Year - Eileen McDowell

Over the last 18 years, Eileen McDowell has shown tremendous commitment towards Texana Center clients with intellectual disabilities. She is responsible for establishing the Arts & Crafts Programs at both Missouri City and Rosenberg Learning Centers and has recruited many volunteers to help. This program is completely volunteer-driven and has gone from a small start-up arts & crafts program to having a dedicated room in both learning centers. Eileen has a lot of passion for art and everything related, and she shares this passion with the Texana clients. The clients take enormous pride in producing handcrafted items which are then sold in local shops and at craft fairs in our community. Eileen takes time to make sure that there is a project that each client can do and that will enhance their abilities. In 2013, Texana organized an Artwork Unveiling Ceremony & Reception which was attended by hundred client families and community members. Since that time the program has produced many pieces of commissioned art. Eileen believes in involving everyone in the art program and brings out the creative side of each Texana client. Without Eileen's dedication and drive there would be no Arts & Crafts Program at Texana and all those hidden talents that our clients have would have been lost.

[For more photos from the event click here](#)



## Bluebonnet Society

The Bluebonnet Society held their grant awards celebration at the KC Hall in Bellville. Texana received a \$1,161.00 donation which will be used to purchase Kindle Fire tablets with accessories including a protective case and keyboard. These will be used by the clients at the Learning Center at Bellville; to learn new skills, be able to access a full library of reading, watch videos, listen to music, play games and search the internet for all kinds of information and learn basic technology skills. The Fire HD tablet also has the ability to take pictures and video footage which is another fun skill for our clients to develop. They will also be helpful for non-verbal clients as the tablet has text to speech features. In addition, they also feature adjustable font-sizes for clients who are vision-impaired. The built-in dictionary will also be extremely helpful, as our clients as sometimes have difficulties in understanding a paragraph because of the words used. Also the touch-screen is easier for clients with, fine motor control issues, to use rather than a keyboard which often frustrates them. We believe the Fire HD tablets will open a new world for our clients and will motivate them into wanting to learn because it is interesting and fun. Thank you to the Bluebonnet Society for this donation.



## Behavior Improvement Center Tours

The Behavior Improvement Center has started a social skills group for adults with autism with a goal of preparing these young adults for the workplace. As they did not know what type of jobs were available they have been touring local businesses to practice their social skills and find out what types of jobs are available and what qualifications, if any, are required. We would like to thank the following businesses for allowing us to tour; Anson Aviation, Fort Bend Herald, Gurecky Manufacturing, Legacy Ford, OCuSOFT, Rosenberg Police Department, Stafford Municipal TV and Sugar Land Skeeters. Future tours include Fort Bend Office of Emergency Management and Pennywise Resale Shop. We are extremely lucky to have so many local businesses that are willing to support this program to help these young adults with autism. This photo shows them at Stafford Municipal TV learning about what is involved in television production.



## Spotlight at Fort Bend Junior Service League Meeting

Andrea Suarez, FBJS� Provisional who chose Texana Center for her Core Placement volunteering, gave a short presentation regarding Texana Center at the FBJS�'s Meeting. She showed a short video clip about Texana's involvement with the League over the past 6 years—[click here to view](#). Andrea finished by making an appeal for new books for ages 0-3 years for the Texana Therapy for Tots Program. We are lucky to have her as a volunteer!

## Ismaili Group Visit

Members from the Ismaili Jamatkhana Center Sugar Land; Faisal Momin and Ashma Hakani visited Texana Center to learn more about our programs. After showing a short video, Kate Johnson-Patagoc, Director Specialized Services took them on a tour of our Autism Program. They asked lots of questions and were impressed by the work that is being by our behavior analysts. We hope this is the beginning of a community partnership.



## SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

### Fulshear-Simonton Lions Club

Texana Center was invited to a meeting of the Fulshear-Simonton Lions Club as the guest speaker. Tracey Shaw and Andi Wallis showed a short video about Texana and shared information about the 'Forward Together in Fulshear Capital Campaign' to build a Texana Campus in Fulshear. A short animated video of the future Fulshear campus was also shown to club members.

### Fort Bend Networking Group—Fulshear

Texana Center was the guest speaker of this newly formed networking group at Center Court Pizza and Brew in Fulshear. The networkers were given an overview of Texana with both a video of services provided and the future Fulshear Campus on FM 359 and Wallis Street. Tricia Turner, Capital Campaign Steering Committee member emphasized how important this campus will be and told members of the upcoming special screening of the 'Wizard of Oz'



### Special Viewing of the Wizard of Oz

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Santikos Palladium AVX for a special viewing of the classic Wizard of Oz! This is a fantastic opportunity to see this timeless movie on the big screen and help Texana at the same time!! For Tickets, go to: <http://bit.ly/TexanaMovieEvent>

Ticket proceeds will benefit the building of the new Texana Fulshear Campus to deliver life changing services to adults and children with autism and intellectual disabilities with the goal of unlocking their potential for an independent and productive life within our community. If you are interested in a **sponsorship** please contact: Andi Wallis, Community Relations Manager Ph: 281.239.1427 or [andi.wallis@texanacenter.com](mailto:andi.wallis@texanacenter.com)

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to a special viewing of



4:00pm  
Sunday, June 26th

A "fun" dinner family event benefiting the Texana Center Capital Campaign

SANTIKOS PALLADIUM AVX  
7025 WEST GRAND PARKWAY SOUTH • FULSHEAR, TX 77409

Door Prizes, Photo Booth and Yellow Bricks! OA My!!

\$20 Adult  
\$10 Kids

Get your Early Bird Tickets TODAY at <http://bit.ly/TexanaMovieEvent>

EARLY BIRD Pricing ends June 17th

Ticket proceeds will benefit the building of the new Texana Fulshear Campus to deliver life changing services to adults and children with autism and intellectual disabilities with the goal of unlocking their potential for an independent and productive life within our community.

For more information visit our website at [santikos.com](http://santikos.com)




Sponsorship Opportunities:

EMERALD CITY VIP LEVEL ~ \$500

- 4 plush electric recliners
- Seat Side Service
- Food Tray for individual use
- Company logo on all 4 chairs
- Company name on all 4 chairs
- Complimentary valet service outside of theater
- Recognition at the event during announcements
- 18 complimentary food
- 2 complimentary beverages

**SOLD**

MUNCHKINLAND LEVEL ~ \$250

- 4 prime seats
- Movie Pack for each child and small popcorn
- Company name on screen during previews
- Company name on Texana website

OZ, THE GREAT & POWERFUL LEVEL ~ \$500

- 10 prime seats
- Movie Pack for each child and small popcorn
- Company logo on screen during previews
- Company logo on Texana website
- Company logo on display outside of theater
- Recognition at the event during announcements

OVER THE RAINBOW LEVEL ~ \$125

- 4 prime seats
- Movie Pack for each child and small popcorn
- Company name on screen during previews
- Company name on Texana website

Individual Tickets  
Adults \$20  
Kids \$10

If you or your company would like to sponsor this event, please contact Andi Wallis at 281-239-1427 or [andi.wallis@texanacenter.com](mailto:andi.wallis@texanacenter.com)



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