

# TEXANA TALKS



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

## TEXANA CHOSEN AS BENEFICIARY

Cross Creek Ranch has chosen Texana Center as a beneficiary of their very popular Scarecrow Festival, now entering its 5th year. Cross Creek Ranch General Manager Rob Bamford said the time was right to add a new beneficiary.

"We have raised money for Arts Fulshear over the past four years supporting their unique contributions to the surrounding area and now Texana Center is also going to be making an impact on the lives of people who desperately need these types of services," he said.

Funds raised as a result of this event will be designated to the 'Forward Together in Fulshear Capital Campaign' to building a Texas Campus on 114.65 acres of and purchased on FM359 in Fulshear.

This year's Scarecrow Festival will invite people to imaginatively decorate scarecrows for a \$1,000 grand prize to the theme, "Forever in Blue Jeans." The fall celebration will also include carnival rides and games, live music, food trucks, children's activities and other features.

The festival is open to the public and has free admission.

Learn more about Cross Creek Ranch at [www.crosscreektexas.com](http://www.crosscreektexas.com).



## YELLOW BRICK ROAD BRICK CAMPAIGN

The 'Yellow Brick Road Campaign' is raising funds for the capital campaign to build a Texana Campus in Fulshear. This is your opportunity to leave a legacy by purchasing a brick which will eventually be laid in a prominent area on this beautiful campus; knowing that you helped a child with autism or an adult with an intellectual disability to be one step closer to having a place where they can grow.

There are two sizes of bricks 4" x 4" at \$125 or 8" x 8" at \$250. We know it will be some time until we raise the \$12 million to make this campus a reality, so in the meantime, the adults in our Texana Décor & More Program have created replica bricks, so that you have a keepsake for your home or office when you purchase a brick.

Please show your care and leave your footprint on our campus and take us one step further down the yellow brick road to our \$12 million goal and home!

For more information visit: <http://www.thatsmybrick.com/texanacenter>



Top right shows actual brick.

Bottom right is a rendering of the campus.

Bottom left is the replica brick.



## TEXANA COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

In 2009 the Texana Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Community Advisory Board to support our community relations and fundraising efforts for Texana's programs. They felt that a strong and effective Community Advisory Board would be a real asset to Texana.

The Community Advisory Board was set up on an informal basis and although was not intended to have a governing or decision making role but rather would serve to provide ideas, advice and recommendations to the Texana Board of Trustees through the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT believed that Texana Center would accomplish considerably more, and the mission would be stronger throughout our community with the assistance of a Community Advisory Board.

Since that time our goal has been to recruit 30-40 thoughtful community leaders who have a genuine interest in autism, intellectual disabilities and/or behavioral healthcare services with a desire to see increased access to services for those in need.

We are currently recruiting additional members, if you have an interest, a skill set or talent that you would like to share with Texana Center please contact Tracey Shaw - [tracey.shaw@texanacenter.com](mailto:tracey.shaw@texanacenter.com)



## HOST A BOOK DRIVE for TEXANA'S THERAPY FOR TOTS

Are you part of a group or organization that is looking for a very worthwhile project. Then, why not host a Book Drive for Texana's Therapy for Tots Program.

Therapy for Tots is an infant/toddler program for children with any type of developmental delay under the age of 3 years. To qualify for the program the infant or toddler must be 15% to 24% delayed.

The program encourages parents to read to their child but many do not have access to books or libraries, so our goal is to provide books that they can take home and read over and over again.

Reading promotes a stronger bond between parent and child, helps with basic speech skills, logical thinking skills, concentration, increases vocabulary and it is fun.

If you are interested in hosting a book drive please contact Andi Wallis, Community Relations Manager and she will provide a personalized flyer for you to use to promote your effort. She can also help with you a book list if that would be helpful.

Email: [andi.wallis@texanacenter.com](mailto:andi.wallis@texanacenter.com)  
[andi.wallis@texanacenter.com](mailto:andi.wallis@texanacenter.com)



**Children's  
BOOK  
DRIVE**

We are collecting *new* and *like-new* books for children ages 0-3.

Books will be given to low-income families in Texana's Therapy for Tots program to encourage parents to read to their children daily.

**YOUR DROP-OFF LOCATION**

**YOUR DATES**

Therapy for Tots is an infant and toddler program that provides early identification and delivery of therapeutic services for children from birth to 36 months with developmental delays or established risk factors for developing delays. The delays fall between 15% to 24%.

**Texana**  
Therapy for Tots

If your child is not meeting their developmental milestones, Texana can provide you with a free screening by calling 281-238-1836 or emailing [T3.referrals@texanacenter.com](mailto:T3.referrals@texanacenter.com)

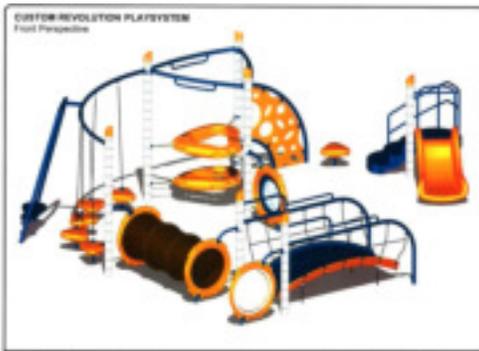
More information is available at [texanacenter.com](http://texanacenter.com)

## AUTISM PROGRAM NEEDS FUNDS TO REPLACE A PLAYGROUND

Texana's Autism programs need funds to replace 20+ year old play equipment that is rusting and very out of date and includes a merry-go-round. We also hope to replace the playground surface with poured in rubber which is much easier to maintain, does not get tracked into the building or picked up by the children.

We would like to install a playground structure which is intended for children 2 to 5 years, our existing structure is designed for older children, so the younger ones really do not have suitable equipment. Why is this important? Play is key for developing thinking, language, emotional, problem solving and creative skills in children, as well as the social skills that are the foundation for all relationships. For most children, the playground is typically the first place where they engage with other children and with the world at large. It is common for children with autism to have very limited play skills; playing with only a few toys, or playing in a repetitive manner. Play often does not come naturally to them, so they have to be specifically taught these very important play skills that seem to come easily to most typically developing children. The Children's Center for Autism uses applied behavior analysis to carefully assess each child's individual skills and then develop a program to specifically teach these important activities.

The program has selected equipment specifically with the needs of children with autism to develop playground skills, imaginative play, social skills and could be used for natural environment training.



We have raised \$18,500 to date which represents about 40% of what is needed to make this playground a reality.

If you would like to donate, there are a couple of ways to submit your contribution:

Check made payable to Texana Center and mail to:

*Texana Center, Development Office,  
4910 Airport Ave. Bldg. B, Rosenberg TX 77471  
OR*

*If you prefer to donate online [click here.](#)*

## NEW APPOINTMENTS IN SPECIALIZED SERVICES



### **Alyssa Martin**

Alyssa Martin has been appointed Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) Assistant Manager of Behavior Treatment & Training Center (BTTC). Alyssa graduated in 2011 from the University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL) with a Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis having received her BS in Psychology from West Virginia University in 2007.

Alyssa began her career at Texana as a Behavior Analyst Intern at BTTC in 2010. After that she worked as a BCBA in Texana's Children's Center for Autism and the Behavior Improvement Center. Her experience at UHCL includes the ABA Skip program, Severe Behavior Disorders Research Clinic, and as a Behavior Consultant with Pasadena ISD.

To make the transition very smooth she has been assisting part time at BTTC during the summer and will begin her full-time position on August 1, 2016.



### **Holly Bihler**

Holly Bihler has been appointed to the position of Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) Assistant Manager of the Children's Center for Autism. Holly graduated in 2006 Southern Illinois University with a Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis having previously graduated with a BS in Psychology from Western Michigan University in 2004.

Holly began her career at Texana as a Behavior Analyst at the Behavior Treatment & Training Center (BTTC) in 2010. She was later promoted to Assistant Manager of BTTC. She has previous experience as a Behavior Analyst at Our Lady of Peace/Children's Peace Center in Kentucky and the Center for Comprehensive Services in Illinois. She transitioned to her new position at the Children's Center for Autism full-time on July 18, 2016.