

November 2016 - Issue 91

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

COMMISSIONER SMITH VISITS

Texana Center hosted a visit by Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Charles Smith, who was selected by Governor Greg Abbott to serve as Commissioner for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in June, 2016.

Commissioner Smith spent two hours with Texana Center. He toured the Children's Center for Autism and had an opportunity to see the program in action. He also heard from each of Texana's Division Directors regarding their top issues, concerns, and challenges. Danette Castle, CEO and Lee Johnson, Deputy Director at the Texas Council of Community Services were also present. In addition, Texana Board of Trustees Chair Dianne Wilson and newly appointed Board member Dr. Mary desVignes-Kendrick attended the meeting.



AN EVENING WITH TEXANA

George & Gretchen Lane were kind enough to open their beautiful house to host the first "Evening with Texana" event in the Fulshear area.

Community Advisory Board Chair, Melody Hess, welcomed and introduced Tracey Shaw, Development Director, who provided an overview of Texana Center and Kate Johnson-Patagoc, Director of Specialized Services, who gave a presentation on the vision for the Texana Fulshear Campus. Kate also showed video footage of both our Adult Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Program and the Children's Center for Autism to demonstrate the difference Texana makes in people's lives. Tracey Shaw presented a gift made by adults in the Texana Décor & More... program to Gretchen Lane. We would also like to thank NewFirst National Bank for helping with the refreshments.



[For more photographs click here](#)

TRICK OR TREAT—AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM

As Halloween approaches many children and parents alike are excited about being able to trick or treat together. However, imagine if you had a child who had no idea how to participate in this activity. Most of us take it for granted that our children will be able to 'trick or treat' with little or no instruction, other than teaching them about safety. However, that is not the case with children with an autism diagnosis; they have to be precisely taught the steps for a successful event. Many children with autism will throw tantrums while putting on a costume and then may get upset along the way thus ruining the Halloween outing for their siblings. For this reason, the staff in the Children's Center for Autism has a program for the children which they have been doing for over 11 years. They take time to repeatedly practice skills like; putting on a costume, knocking at doors, saying "trick or treat", remaining outside the door, holding their bag open for a treat and looking at the person and saying "thank you." Two weeks before Halloween, Texana employees sign up to be visited daily by the children, a pumpkin emblem is placed on the office door to signify the person is in and ready for trick or treating. The children then practice trick or treating by visiting different buildings and offices on the Texana Rosenberg campuses. They go through this routine for several days until they have learned how to trick or treat, so that on the big night they will know what to do, and their family can enjoy everything together. Siblings of children with autism are also affected by autism when their brother or sister's behavior is so unmanageable that the family would rather stay in. Texana's programs concentrate on correcting that behavior so that a fun time can be had by all.



[For more photographs click here](#)

TEXANA PARTICIPATES IN THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL



Texana Center was one of the beneficiaries for the Cross Creek Ranch Annual Scarecrow Festival. We had a booth and sold items from the Texana Learning Center Art Programs we also handed out leaflets and had fun Fall Festival games for the children. The Learning Center at Rosenberg had an entry in the Scarecrow Contest - there was a Star Trek theme in The Next Generation. Unfortunately, we did not win but had a fun time anyway. The festival was well attended with and the weather cooperated.



TEXANA TURNS OUT IN FORCE AT 5K WALK

Texana Center is committed to suicide prevention and has begun rolling out classes on the subject for all employees to attend. To demonstrate our commitment, Shena Timberlake, Director of Behavioral Healthcare Services entered a Texana Team in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's 'Out of the Darkness 5K Walk' at Sugar Land's Memorial Park. She was pleasantly surprised that 53 walkers signed up, as well as a number of dogs that participated in the 'Paws for Prevention' part of the walk. Texana also had an information booth at the event.



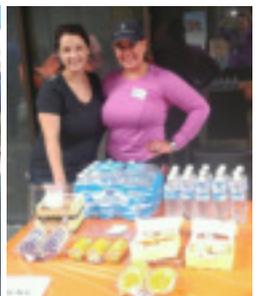
[For more photographs from the walk click here](#)

FALL FESTIVAL FUN FOR THE KIDS

The Children's Center for Autism in Rosenberg and Sugar Land both organized Fall Festivals for the children in the program. Members of the Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJS�) volunteered to help with the Rosenberg Fall Festival. They helped with set-up, decorate, man the games, face paint, make popcorn hands with the kids, and clean-up. The FBJS� Core Placement volunteers provided cupcakes, cookies, snack bags and juice boxes. They really made this a special event for our kids—thank you to all the FBJS� volunteers.



The Children's Center for Autism program in Sugar Land also had a Fall Festival and we were fortunate to have Fort Bend Junior Service League members volunteer to help with their event., too The children had a great time with ghost bowling, pumpkin painting, face painting and potato sack races. All the activities were followed by cupcakes, cookies and drinks. Thank you again to our volunteers from FBJS�.



P.R.O.W. HOSTED A FUN HALLOWEEN EVENT

Ladies from the Professional Referral Organization of Women (P.R.O.W) helped to organized a great Halloween Event for the children and teens in the Behavior Improvement Center After School Program. They had a lot of activities which included; decorating pumpkins, creating paper pumpkins, playing games and a scavenger hunt for a bag full of goodies. P.R.O.W. also brought cupcakes, lemonade and cookies for the event. The party provided the group an opportunity to practice their social skills with each other and interact with the ladies. Everyone did a great job and enjoyed all of the ghoulish activities, making it a party to remember. Thank you to P.R.O.W. for helping to make the event extra special!



SAVE THE DATE - MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017



This is one for your calendar for 2017, join us for the Texana Tee Off at the beautiful Weston Lakes Country Club on Monday April 3, 2017. This fundraising golf tournament is a lot of fun with a fantastic course to play on, dinner at the clubhouse, a silent and live auction that always has some unique and items that you just can't go out and buy. The proceeds from the tournament will go towards our capital campaign to build an additional Texana Campus in Fulshear which will serve adults and children with autism and also intellectual disabilities. If you would like more information about sponsorships, teams or would be interested in joining our committee please contact: Andi Wallis 281.239.1427

