

November 2017 - Issue 103

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

## TXABA THANKS TEXANA FAMILIES FOR ADVOCACY

Texana Association for Behavior Analysts - Public Policy Group (TXABA-PPG) and Texana Center recently held a special presentation to thank two families who repeatedly went to Austin during the Legislative session. They testified with regard to Medicaid funding for applied behavior analysis and also for their support of behavior analyst licensure. TXABA-PPG sent them two flags which had been flown over the Texas State Capitol on June 15, 2017 on the day Governor Abbott signed the Behavior Analyst Licensure Bill into Law. Prior to the bill being signed into law, there was no regulation or licensing of behavior analysts which would stop providers who had been disciplined in other states from practicing in Texas; even if their certifications had been revoked or if they had been barred from practicing in other jurisdictions.

*Photograph L to R:*

Kate Johnson-Patagoc, Director Texana's Specialized Services; Esra Rajan and her children, Holly Bihler, Assistant Manager; Mellissa Montalbo and Courtney Laudont, Behavior Analyst.



## TEXANA VOLUNTEERS AT THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL



Texana Center was one of the beneficiaries of the 2017 Scarecrow Festival which was held recently at Cross Creek Ranch. Texana provided a number of volunteers to assist with set-up and decoration, selling wrist bands and also with the 'paint a pumpkin' tent. Fortunately, the rain held off for what was a very successful event. Funds will be donated by Johnson Development and will be applied to the Forward Together in Fulshear Capital Campaign to build an additional Texana Campus on FM 359 in Fulshear.

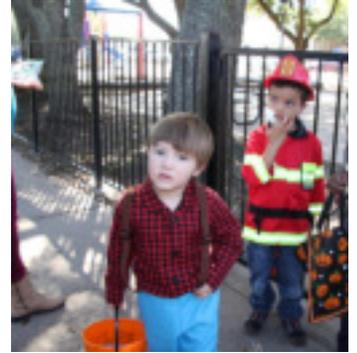


[For More Photographs Click Here](#)

# TRICK OR TREATING TIME AGAIN AT TEXANA



October is the time of year that the children in Texana's autism program begin learning and then practicing their 'trick or treat' skills. Texana Employees who wish to participate in the trick or treating program are given a picture of a pumpkin which they place on their door and then in the afternoon they close their door ready for an invasion of tigers, superhero's and much more. Often children with autism do not tolerate costumes very well and have to practice putting them on and keeping them on while they trick or treat. They are taught how to knock at the door if there is a pumpkin and wait patiently for the door to open and then they learn to say "trick or treat" and after they are given a piece of candy to say 'thank you'. All of this may sound very trivial but to a family who wants to take all of their children out trick or treating it can make a huge difference. It is also fun for our Texana employees to see the costumes and watch the kids progress each day of the program. This program ensures a Happy Halloween for all concerned.



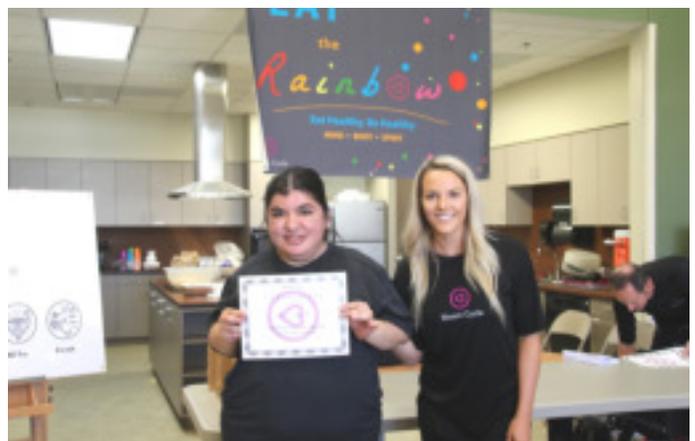
# BOY SCOUT REHABS OLD PICNIC BENCHES

The Children's Center for Autism's benches were looking pretty tired and in need of a makeover, planks no longer lined up making it difficult to use the table top. Fortunately, Boy Scout Xander Corbin was looking for a project for his Eagle Scout Award, and approached Texana Center to see if we had something we needed - it was perfect timing. Xander and fellow boy scouts came to Texana with new wood and stain and completely refurbished the existing benches, basically giving us five brand new benches. The benches are used all year round at the program for completing work assignments, outside parties and for employees to have lunch, so everyone was delighted to have 'new' picnic benches.



# BLOOM CYCLE CELEBRATION EVENT

It was a celebration of achievements for many of the Texana clients who are part of the Bloom Cycle spin classes. Volunteer, John Watson, introduced the idea of a fitness class which would help our clients' to get healthy and would be a lot of fun. He organized an incentive program to encourage the clients to keep going to class which culminated in a celebration event for the riders and their families to recognize their participation, encourage them to continue the program, and for the riders to promote the class to get others in the center to participate. Each rider received an "encouragement package" and eight awards were given to those considered to be extraordinary riders. John also introduced a new program - 'Eat the Rainbow' - to promote healthy eating. He also recognize his fellow volunteer instructors and thanked them for their dedication to the Bloom Cycle program. There was a lot of pride and sense of achievement by all the riders at the celebration. Congratulations to all the participants, keep riding!



# TEXANA COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Texana Community Advisory Board was established some 9 years ago and has been very active ever since. Comprising of some 30 local leaders from our community, their mission is to support Texana Center through; opportunities to increase community awareness, support fundraising efforts and expand the number of volunteers. They continue to help Texana increase awareness of the center and the programs that we provide by searching for various speaking opportunities with local organizations and groups. They serve on event committees and help Texana in obtaining sponsorships and participate in our events. They also bring potential members and other volunteers to assist in Texana programs. Melody Hess, New First National Bank is the current chair and has served a very successful two year term, incoming chair is Katina Scott, so we know we are in very good hands for another two years. If you have an interest in serving on our Community Advisory Board and would like more information please contact: Tracey Shaw at 281-239-1311 or [tracey.shaw@texanacenter.com](mailto:tracey.shaw@texanacenter.com)



Most recently the Community Advisory Board members visited the Texana Behavior Treatment & Training Center (BTTC) in Richmond and took a tour of the facility. The BTTC is a short term residential treatment program for children and adolescents ages 8-17 with diagnoses of intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism that exhibit challenging behaviors such as: self injurious behavior, aggression toward others, property destruction or other behavior which puts their continued residence in the community at risk. Tracy Woods, BTTC Manager, related a story of a 15 year client who had never eaten anything but banana baby food and exhibited very challenging behaviors, after 9 months of applied behavior analysis treatment, he left the facility eating all types of foods. In addition, his challenging behaviors were also under control, making his home much safer for him and his family. A truly great program.



## TEXANA ATTENDS TSTC RESOURCE FAIR



Texana employees were invited to attend a Resource Fair which was recently hosted at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Rosenberg. Texana's Youth Case Managers, Edilia Mota and Lindsey Bartay provided the students with information regarding their mental health, the services offered by Texana Center and suicide prevention materials and the Crisis Line 1-800-633-5686.



# Texana Center

*PRESENTS*

## 'AUTISM FROM THE INSIDE'

### PANEL DISCUSSION

Featuring three successful young men diagnosed with autism



Justin Moehn  
Your Autism Expert



Kevin San Jose  
Behavior Technician  
WCJC Student



Jeremy Pilloff  
Behavior Technician  
U of H Student

**Panel Moderator : Debbie Elder, Owner/Director, Shady Oak Primary School**

This panel discussion will allow teens and young adults with autism, parents, and other community members to hear three different perspectives on the challenges of growing up with an autism diagnosis. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the barriers and the people and strategies that helped these young men achieve many successes in life. The presentation will promote awareness of autism, and help parents and others see a variety of possibilities of how adults with an autism diagnosis can live happy, productive and successful lives.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017**

**5:30 to 6:30 PM**

**Texana Center | 4910 Airport Avenue | Building G | Rosenberg**



Preparations are in full swing for the Texana Trot 5K Fun Run, or walk, if you prefer! This is your opportunity to support a great cause while helping your health and experiencing the beautiful setting of Cross Creek Ranch in Fulshear. Foti Kallergis from ABC Channel 13 will emcee the event and Jason Harley, The Summit Fitness will provide the pre-walk warm-up. This is sure to be a fun event with all proceeds being assigned to the Texana Capital Campaign to build a campus in Fulshear for adults with intellectual disabilities and adults and children with autism.

**Texana Center would like to thank our Sponsors**

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**Fulshear Animal Hospital**

**FRIEND SPONSOR**

**New First National Bank**

***There is still time to sign up and participate in this fun run/walk. Participants will receive a t-shirt and a run medal.***

Click here to Register [bit.ly/TexanaTrotSIGNUP](http://bit.ly/TexanaTrotSIGNUP)