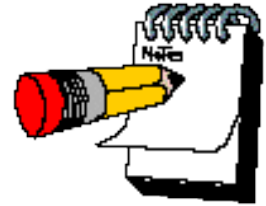


A Note from your Director

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

Hopefully, by now, you've had a chance to pull up our website, (www.storybookproject.org), and have seen our new "facelift". The MIS Team Inception at UT did a great job with our new "face". Thank you, Jeri Saper, for all your input during this process. Remember, if you want to tell friends about WSP, encourage them to view our website and watch the documentary online!



A feature on the website page (located under Volunteer) is a tab called Volunteer Spot. This is a new sign-up procedure for Gatesville volunteers. Be sure to read the article by Dugie Graham that tells about this exciting new feature. As the number of volunteers for Dayton increase, they, too, will soon use this sign-up method.

Volunteers are the core of this special program, and as we continue to expand (another facility will be added in the fall), your role as a volunteer is more important than ever! When you choose at least two Saturdays per session (that is, two visits every six months), please try to honor your commitment on those dates. I understand that unexpected events and emergencies arise, and you may not be able to make your requested dates, but please attempt to find a substitute. This will help greatly in decreasing the number of SOS messages. It will also prevent us from canceling and disappointing the mothers and children. Of course, if a substitute can't be found, tell Dugie and she will send out her famous email. An updated roster will be mailed when sign-ups begin for the next session.

I also want to thank our new IT Team (information technology): Jeri Saper, website; Dugie Graham, Volunteer Spot, general emails; Mona Carver, Facebook. They will keep everyone connected with updating all our current events via social media.

A Grant Application Committee has been formed to help secure additional funds. Thank you Pat Yeargain, HESSIE BRAWLEY, Susan Pintchovski and Kim Weidman for helping us begin this venture. A special thanks goes to Pat for her expertise.

Thank you, Volunteers, for all of your help. We are working very hard to provide WSP in every facility where applicable, and we are almost there! I recently received a letter from an offender at the Hobby facility in Marlin, TX asking us to please bring Storybook to that prison.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!

Judith

It's Raining Recognition!

If recognition were rain, Storybook's certainly wouldn't be experiencing a drought! As noted in the last Book Notes, WSP has been the recent recipient of several awards and grants.

The Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer

Service Award was presented to Judith Dullnig for the second year in a row on April 8. For her continued efforts and dedication in restoring the relationships between an offender parent and her children through reading, Windham School District selected Judith to receive the honorable

(continued on page 3—Recognition)



Book Notes

The communications newsletter Women's Storybook Project of Texas

Director and Publisher.....**Judith Dullnig**
jjdull@earthlink.net

Volunteer Chair**Judy Fox**
jzfox@austin.rr.com

Volunteer Chair, Plane/Henley...**Wynona Montgomery**
wynonamo@gmail.com

Transportation and Arrangements Chair
.....**Felicia Kutchev**
ronkutchey@yahoo.com

Supplies Chair**Lydia Hewett**
lydiahewett@sbcglobal.net

Supplies Chair, Plane/Henley.....**Brenda Dykes**
bldykes@esc4.com

Communications Chair**Kathy Brothers**
kdbrothers1@yahoo.com

e-Communications and Scheduling Chair
.....**Dugie Graham**
dugiegraham1950@gmail.com

Newsletter Chair**Pat Roberts**
patsrob@swbell.net

Electronic Newsletter Chair.....**Mona Carver**
mcarver@austin.rr.com

Newsletter Production Chair**Angela Nunley**
angelanunley@gmail.com

Lane Murray
Team Leader**Nancy Wallace**
nweichertwallace@satx.rr.com

Team Leader**Susanna Busico**
sbusico@sbcglobal.net

Woodman
Team Leader**Judy Darnell**
adarnell@austin.rr.com

Team Leader**Kelley Finkel**
kfinkel@gmail.com

Hilltop
Team Leader**Pat Roberts**
patsrob@swbell.net

Team Leader**Lynne Riley**
lriley15@austin.rr.com

Mountain View
Team Leader**Angela Nunley**
angelanunley@gmail.com

Team Leader**Ruby Russo**
whoisrubyrusso@yahoo.com

Plane/Henley
Team Leader**Ellie Chaikind**
elliechaikind@aol.com

Team Leader**JoAnn Innerarity**
mjinnerarity@comcast.net

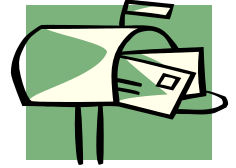
Team Leader**Rhonda Chandler**
rchandler@hwa.com

**Want to make a tax free contribution?
Send it to:**

**Women's Storybook Project of Texas
c/o Austin Community Foundation
P.O. Box 5159 Austin, TX 78763
a 501(c)3 non-profit organization**

Making Connections

A letter from a
caregiver



Ms. Dullnig,

I am writing in response to the Storybook Project package we received. I have a ten year old daughter whose mother is incarcerated. The damage to the relationship between my daughter and her mother began a couple of years before her mother was incarcerated. Now she is very bitter and angry with her mother. I know she misses her, but she shows little express of her feeling toward her. I'm sure her mother deeply regrets the damage she has created in the relationship with her daughter. Even though she receives letters from her mom all the time, I think she was truly moved by the arrival of the book and tape. She followed along in the book as she listened to her mom read the story. Even though she was very upset after listening to it the first time, I think the impact it had on her may help her begin to try and find forgiveness towards her mom. Then they can begin to rebuild their relationship with one another. She has listened to it several times since she got it. I think it's helpful for her to get to hear her mother's voice in a positive reflection. It helps my daughter feel like her mom does still care about her. We would graciously welcome any future books her mother might be allowed to send. Overall I think this is a very good program, and might be helpful for the mothers to begin repairing their relationship with their children.

Sincerely,

KR



Can you help?

- Desperately needed: a volunteer to coordinate the Texas Book Festival the first weekend (Saturday and Sunday) of November. This would include setting up the table and coordinating volunteers in two hour shifts.
- Dayton, TX has the largest female offender facility, Plane, in TX with 2900 offenders. An adjoining facility is Henley with a population of 500 offenders. Warden Howard has requested we extend WSP to Henley in the Fall which means we will need more volunteers from the Baytown, Houston, and surrounding areas. Please share Storybook Project with your friends, family, churches and synagogues and ask them to join this worthwhile program.

(Recognition- continued from page 1)

Judy Burd volunteer award. This award is named in tribute to curriculum specialist, Judy Burd, who was employed with the Windham School District where she developed the nationally recognized pre-release program CHANGES. She was also the WSD Volunteer Program Coordinator and, in that capacity, encouraged many to give of their time in service to others.



L to R: TBCJ Chairman Oliver Bell, Greater Houston Salvation Army Major Chris Flanagan, recipient of the Judy Burd Award Judith Dullnig and TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston.

The Irving J. Fain Award was presented to Women's Storybook Project and Temple Beth Shalom of Austin in Washington, D.C. It was one of seventeen Social Action Programs chosen from a large group of applicants with programs designed to mend the world. Judith and Jeri Saper were presented with the award on May 3.

Later in May, Judith, a Doncaster consultant for Tanner Companies, and Storybook Project were one of five charities to receive the Partners in Caring Grant in recognition of her work. The Tanner Foundation Grant was "given in acknowledgement and appreciation of Judith's determination to maintain the precious bond between mother and child during the most difficult of times."

The shower of recent recognitions joins the others already under the umbrella of Women's Storybook Project. In the past year, WSP has also been honored with the United Methodist Church's Austin District's Juanita Peterson Fund, the Methodist Peace with Justice Grant, and the Heineman Foundation Grant. 🍷



- **Ellen Loeb**, one of our founding mothers, for all your support through the years.
- **Linda Cox** for the extraordinary article you wrote for The Response Magazine. Readers can access the article at:
<http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umw/response/articles/item/index.cfm?id=435>
- **MIS Team Inception**, Mc Comb's School of Business, for giving our website a wonderful facelift!
- **Cindy Harmon and Michelle Peterson** for agreeing to shift through the piles of memories and create a scrapbook!
- **Kim Weidman** for agreeing to supervise the incoming student interns next year.
- **Laura Edge**, for becoming a new Co-Team Leader at Plane to help meet the demand of the increasing number of mothers who want to participate in this program.
- **Ellie Chaikind and JoAnne Innararity**, for volunteering as Team Leaders for Henley when the program begins there in October.
- **Gloria Kelly and Paula Jamison** for offering to write Thank You notes for WSP donations.
- **The St. Edward's Team**, **Andrea**, **Marivel**, **Emily**, and **Cecilia**, for sorting and packing many of the books from the Holiday Book Drive.
- **Dugie Graham, Nancy Snyder, and Lydia Hewett** for the sorting and packing party help! 🍷





Volunteer Spotlight

Wynona Montgomery

"You cannot make yourself feel something you do not feel, but you can make yourself do right in spite of your feelings."

Pearl Buck

This Baytown resident joined the ranks of WSP two years ago, and what a joyful asset she's been!

Wynona, a single lady with 11 grandchildren (shared through her sister's children!) is a native Texan with deep roots. Her great-great-great grandparents came here from Louisiana in the late 1820's, and few descendants have seen any need to move away.

Wynona attended Lee College in Baytown and graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont with a degree in education. She earned her master's in education at the University of Houston and has done post-graduate work at UT-Austin, Lamar University, and the University of Houston/Clear Lake.

She taught school for 15 years and then went into administration for 20 years. Wynona retired from Goose Creek schools in Baytown where she had been an elementary principal. An active community member she serves on several boards including the United Way of Baytown Area and the Baytown Symphony Orchestra Board. She is also active in the West Chambers Country Pilot Club, the Baytown area retired teachers association, and the Gamma Nu chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. She served as the luminary bag chair for the Bay Area Relay for Life this year.

In her spare (!?) time, she enjoys traveling. Some of her favorite trips were to China, Japan, Hong Kong, Ireland, England, and Scandinavia. She just returned from a wonderful trip to Israel where she visited many Holy Land sites and, the most fun of all she states, floated in the Dead



Sea. She also enjoys reading, collects Hard Rock Cafe bears, and hopes to add to her extensive collection on her current trip to Russia and later this year to Italy.

Wynona first heard about Storybook from JoAn Martin who addressed a group of retired teachers about the organization. While her formal title is Volunteer Chairman, she also arranges transportation to Plane. She is the liaison to the prison, sending volunteer names, inquiring about new offenders, and preparing for the third Saturday to help insure things will run smoothly. She finds that WSP encompasses all things in which she is interested: "As a former educator of young children, I love the fact that Storybook works to connect offenders and their children in a way that is positive and up lifting. Since I am a lover and proponent of reading, I especially love the use of books to make that connection possible." 🧡

A Program of Giving to Others

By Nancy Wallace

Each month the students at St. Thomas Episcopal School in San Antonio participate in the Matthew 25 Program, which gets its name from the verse in the Bible that says, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you do it for me."

In February, Women's Storybook Project was chosen to be the recipient of the children's giving to others. On February 11th, I had the pleasure of speaking to the students, ranging from Pre-k through 5th grade, during their chapel time. They were absolutely precious! After the presentation they asked some thoughtful, insightful questions.

The following Friday, February 18th, I went back to St. Thomas to pick up the books that the children had given. You can imagine my amazement when I picked up 5 boxes of books that totaled 277 books from a school that has a little over 100 students! AND they also donated 69 mailers! To say that these children are learning the lesson of giving to others would be a gross understatement!

A HUGE "Thank You" to all the staff and students at St. Thomas Episcopal School for their kind, generous, loving hearts. Kids giving to kids - it's the BEST! 🧡



Storybook's New Signup Procedures

By Dugie Graham

Storybook is launching a new signup procedure. You had a glimpse a few weeks ago with an invitation from me, Dugie Graham, your Electronic Chairman, using VolunteerSpot. We will start publishing our six month calendar for Gatesville visits on VolunteerSpot, a not-for-profit website which was designed to make signup for volunteering easier.

If you have never used an electronic invitation, relax. It's quite simple. You will receive an email invitation from me. On it will be the highlighted words, "sign up now." You will click on those words, and the link will take you to a new page. That page instructs you to click on the clipboard to signup and then confirm when you are done. At that point another new page will appear. Follow the instructions. VolunteerSpot will send you a confirmation of your signup and then a reminder only two days before the event.

Because Felicia has to arrange your transportation and your team leader has to send the facility your names and driver's license numbers, you will be sent an email 1 1/2 to 2 weeks prior to the prison visit, just as always.

We also plan to have a current link to VolunteerSpot signup on our website under the volunteer tab. Our fondest hope is that this method of signup will be easy and fair for everyone.

I can be reached by home phone 512-306-0788 or cell phone 989-430-4313 or email dugiegraham1950@gmail.com. 📧



What's Happening?

- The first training of WSP volunteers to be held in the office had to be postponed, but finally happened on April 5. Major Henson and retired Warden Nancy Botkin assisted in the training. Some important reminders were: NO cell phones, avoid wearing all white, no open toed shoes, and no sleeveless tops.



- Two new volunteers, Cindy Harmon and Michelle Peterson, are beginning to create a scrapbook for Storybook which will encompass its history as well as current events. If you have any photos or memorabilia that you are willing to donate to the scrap bookers for preservation, send an email describing what you have to Cindy at charmon89@sbcglobal.net.
- On June 2, there was a Grant Application and Development meeting at the Research Library. The next meeting is scheduled for July. 📧



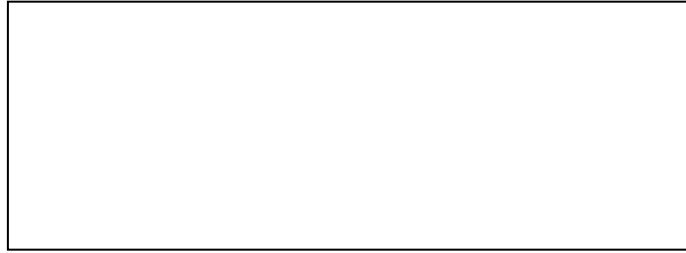
Apricot Team: Judy Fox and Dugie Graham, our online database team



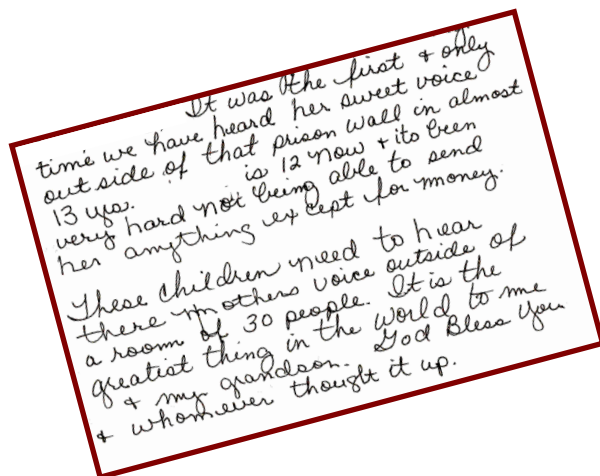
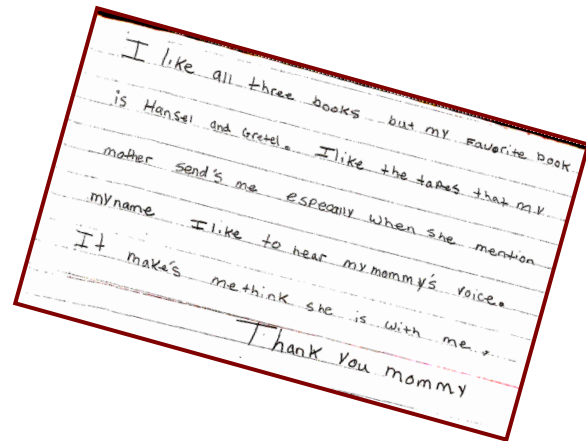
Scrapbook Team: Michelle Peterson and Cindy Harmon



IT (Information Technology) Team: Jeri Saper, Dugie Graham, Mona Carver (unavailable)



Austin Community Foundation
P.O. Box 5159
Austin, TX 78763



<http://storybookproject.org/donate>

How you can contribute:

\$10 will purchase a book and tape

**\$15 will purchase a book, a tape,
and a padded mailer**

\$100 will purchase 15 books