

## A Note from your Director

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

Our Fall events have begun! Judy Fox and Jeri Saper provided information at Temple Beth Shalom's Religious School Book Fair with several interested families asking about our project. Retired Warden Nancy Botkin joined Linda Cox at Westlake Methodist Church for a WSP presentation with about 66 members listening and asking questions. Seven people were interested in volunteering and many requested a copy of our documentary to present to other groups.

Wanda Stimson has arranged for a presentation at the Grace Episcopal Church ECW meeting in Georgetown, and I will be showing our documentary at the National Council of Jewish Women of Austin's October evening meeting. WSP will have a table at the Restorative Justice Ministries Conference; and, of course, we have the Texas Book Festival. The Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drives will soon follow.

We are also spreading the success of our program around the country in addition to cities in Texas! Last spring I had the privilege of conducting a workshop about WSP at the annual American Jail Association Conference in Portland, Oregon; "Building Bridges Over the Rivers of Change." It was so exciting to receive this feedback from some of the attendees:

"The program was awesome."

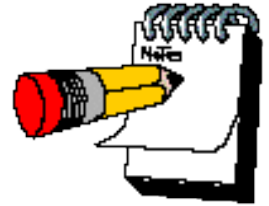
"I would love to see our facility implement this program."

"Very inspiring."

"Something I would like to try to implement in our facility."

This truly is a simple idea with a big impact! Thank you, all, and Happy Fall. And a special thanks to Pat Roberts who researched non-profits and placed WSP in its proper stages for our lead article.

*Judith*



### WSP Reaches a New Stage: Ground and Grow!

Seven years after Storybook was a "twinkle in Judith's eye," it is steadily advancing through the stages of what author Judith Simon presents in her book Five Life Stages of Nonprofit Organizations: Where You Are, Where You're Going, and What to Expect When You Get There.

In Stage One, IMAGINE AND INSPIRE, the ground work for Storybook was investigated and what was once a twinkle became a nonprofit organization under the TIFA (Texas Inmate Family Association) umbrella and was named simply "Storybook Project." Donations of materials and resources put Storybook in the first prison facil-

*(continued on page 3—New Stage)*

### An Apricot a Day... Keeps Growth Woes Away!

Through Austin Community Foundation, representatives from small nonprofits have an opportunity to learn about a new, cutting edge software program, Apricot. This is an online data management system created by Community Tech Knowledge (located in Austin) which tracks and reports services and performances. Judy Fox, Dugie Graham, and Judith



Dullnig attended the presentation on September 23. In addition to being very excited about implementing this database system with all its pos-

*(continued on page 3—Apricot)*



**Book Notes**  
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**Women's Storybook Project**  
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**WSP  
THANKS**

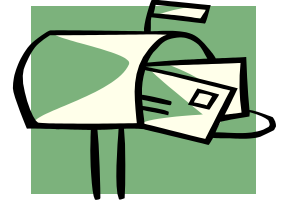
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*for donating the printing and  
distribution of Book Notes*

**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 and her grandson



August 26, 2010

Dear Women's Storybook Project of Texas,

*I am writing to let you know how much this program has been appreciated by our family, and in particular, a little 7 year old boy named R---. R---'s mother is incarcerated in Plane State Jail for the past 8 months. She is my daughter. This experience has been extremely difficult on our family, as we are upstanding citizens in our community and dealing with a family member incarcerated is one of life's greatest challenges. I am the guardian of this little son of hers. I am his grandmother. While this experience of separation from his mother is very difficult, the Storybook Project of Texas has helped to bridge the gap for him. When R--- received the first book and the tape, we sat down together with excitement to listen and read along in the book. When he heard his mother's voice reading the story to him, tears ran down his face with joy. Hearing her voice made a huge difference to his life. Since the first book arrived, we have received two more along with the tapes of her reading to him. R---'s books and tapes have a special place in his room. They are displayed next to his mother's picture. I am so grateful to this program for creating this link for young children who suffer the separation of a parent.. R--- has no contact with his father. We do not know where he is or how to contact him so having this link to his mother is priceless. When a new book and tape arrive in the mail, it is a special ritual for us to open the package and take out the book and listen to the tape of his mother's voice reading to him. God Bless you all for this project. You bring so much joy into the lives of little ones who must get through this in some way. This project helps to carry on, to some degree, those "motherly" things that make life so special for children. Please continue your good work on the project. It is one of the most positive things that can help a child still feel the love of their mother.*

*While my daughter has certainly made mistakes and wrong choices, we love and miss her and pray for God to touch her life in a special way. Many things are changing for her during this incarceration. She is becoming a woman of determination to make a great change in her life and also a better life for R---. I believe with all my heart that a lot of this is attributed to special people and projects like this. Please continue your efforts with the Storybook Project of Texas. God Bless You.*

Sincerely,  
L.S. and R. D.

*(New Stage- continued from page 1)*

ity and slowly but surely the growth continued.

Stage Two, FOUND AND FRAME, followed with dedicated volunteers working to develop an organizational identity and the birth of a new name "Women's Storybook Project of Texas," a brochure, and logo.



*Team Leader Susanna Busico, Supporter Le Anne Skinner, and Baytown volunteer, Jo An Martin, move supplies at the new WSP office.*

A different non-profit organization, Austin Community Foundation, agreed to share their 501(c)3 status with WSP. Additionally, word-of-mouth marketing worked to expand the resources for materials to include corporate

sponsors such as Barnes and Noble, a documentary producer, and many other enthusiastic supporters. Individuals and organizations made WSP their community service projects. Amazingly, the volunteer base grew by leaps and bounds allowing WSP's services to benefit the children of incarcerated offenders in five facilities state-wide. As word of this program spread, it became a model for other facilities around the country.

And the growth doesn't stop there. As WSP moves into Stage Three, GROUND AND GROW, perhaps the most exciting times of all are at hand! The time consuming procedure has been

initiated to gain its own 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Barry Silverberg, an instructor at Austin Community College, is assisting Judith in this year-long process. A board of directors is a necessary part of a non-profit organization, and Eileen "Ike" West, author and grant writing advisor and instructor, offered assistance with the formation of the board. In addition, a grant writing committee is being formed to aid WSP in securing funding. "Ike" met with several chairpersons



*"Ike" West met with several team leaders and chairpersons to discuss strategic planning for WSP's continued growth.*

and team leaders at Sylvia Fitz's home on July 10 to discuss the need for strategic planning for the exciting upcoming growth. We now have our own office space in a building at 700 East 11th Street in Austin! The space is owned by the Texas Motor Transportation Association who liked the premise of WSP enough to support it with two 12 x 15 foot rooms, keeping the rent within our budget. (Check the Volunteers Needed section of this issue to see how you can help with this.)

These steps all help Storybook to become its own entity, facilitating its growth and development into an active independent, valid, solid non-profit organization!

"We are awesome! Watch us GROW!"



*(Apricot—continued from page 1)*

sibilities, they were very eager to accept ACF's offer to help fund this program.

Apricot offers many services, some of which are:

- increase productivity, efficiency, and mission success
- satisfy multiple funder reporting requirements
- confidently measure and report the organization's performance and success
- access superior on demand help and support
- as easy to use as Facebook; no special technical expertise needed

For WSP, this is a perfect solution for managing a fast growing organization. Judith anticipates using Apricot as a safe harbor (secure location) for volunteer information (with a limited number of designated users having access). Additionally, it can provide and produce data and graphics to aid in applying for grants. For example, it could track success in terms of numbers (books, tapes, children, money, donors, supporters, volunteers, etc.). Another possibility is an on line calendar where volunteers can go directly to plug in the dates they would like to volunteer at various facilities.

Flexible and able to adjust to change and growth, Apricot seems like the perfect solution to simplify tracking and reporting for WSP.



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Dugie Graham Electronic Chairman

In the 90's, Dugie and her husband of 38 years, David, moved to Austin for "only two years" because of his job. Having called Illinois, Louisiana, Virginia, Texas and Michigan home during their lives, they were happy two years ago to name Austin as their retirement home. Their son, Paul, and his family reside in California,




while daughter, Julie and her soon to be deployed husband, Capt. Bix Benson, live in Fort Polk, Louisiana. Their second son, Andrew, also lives in the Austin area. Birdie, a golden retriever, and Rocky, a Himalayan cat, complete the family unit.

Dugie graduated with a degree in Medical Technology from LSU (Louisiana State University) in 1972. Now retired, Dugie has spent 20+ years working in hospitals and clinic laboratories in various communities where they have lived. Primarily, though, she was a stay-at-home mom. Active in her church, Westlake United Methodist, she serves on the altar guild, care and flower ministry, and as an usher.

Her goal is to serve wherever her God and her heart lead her, which is evidenced in her commitments. A mission oriented individual, she has served as a Care Minister, an ESL tutor for Any Baby Can, and as a participant in Interfaith Hospitality Network and Mobile Loaves and Fishes programs. Additionally, she has functioned as a leader and participant in several work mission trips to Reynosa, Mexico and, after Hurricane Katrina, to New Orleans. Additionally, in the past she served as a direct care volunteer with Hospice of Baton Rouge and as a Hospice volunteer at the Louisiana Correctional

Women's Institution.

In between all of these noble undertakings, Dugie cooks, gardens, sews, reads, knits, crochets, does crossword puzzles and even finds the time for another passion: travel! Believing that life is too short to repeat recipes, she frequents cooking classes and volunteers with the Central Market Cooking School. This writer feels quite certain she must have a calendar with double the amount of days on it!

Storybook Project is fortunate, indeed, to have Dugie on board! She first heard about WSP from Linda Cox at their church about a year and a half ago. She volunteers at the Gatesville facilities whenever possible and recently agreed to fill the "Electronics Chair" position. She feels honored and humbled to be a bridge with other volunteers helping to connect children with their incarcerated moms. Dugie, WSP is honored to have you as one of our own! 



### Can you help?

- **Volunteers needed to help with WSP's booth** at the Texas Book Festival October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> on the Capitol grounds in Austin. Contact Susanna Busico at [sbusico@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbusico@sbcglobal.net) or 512-293-0866.
- **Organizer** needed to schedule volunteers to meet and greet shoppers at the Houston River Oaks Barnes and Noble location.
- **Volunteers to meet and greet at Houston River Oaks and Austin Arboretum Barnes and Noble locations.** Last year, several honor student groups from schools and also Scouts were wonderful assistants in this endeavor if you have contacts with groups such as these. This is a great opportunity for a community service project!
- Now that we have office space, we need several **volunteers who would be willing to approach area businesses** such as Office Supply, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, etc. to ask for donations such as paint and office supplies.



## What's Happening?

**Texas Book Festival** is coming up on October 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> on the state Capitol grounds in Austin. WSP traditionally has a booth at this event.

**Holiday Book Drive**—This Holiday Season, three Texas Barnes and Noble locations (Austin, San Antonio, and Houston) have agreed to support WSP. The newest addition, River Oaks B&N in Houston, will start their two month drive on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon with a kick-off party. All WSP volunteers are encouraged to participate in this exciting event and carpooling is encouraged. Contact Judith if you are interested.

**Grant writing** is underway with the help of some wonderful WSP supporters!

**Restorative Justice Ministry Conference** will be Saturday, October 9, in Georgetown. WSP will host a table at this event. Family, offender and reentry issues will be the focus of the conference. A registration fee is required. Contact Judith for more information.

**Professor Timothy Braun from St. Edward's University** was so impressed with what last year's student, Casandra Perks, learned that he increased the student involvement this year. WSP has five interns from St. Ed's who will help in various ways. Welcome Jessica Cottrell, Lyla Bear, Patrick Desso, Monica Cazares and Samone Hamilton.

**Jeri Saper** received the **2010 Volunteer Leadership Award** from the Jewish Community Association of Austin. Jeri is very active in WSP, serving as the coordinator for NCJW volunteers. Congratulations, Jeri. 🍷



**Eileen "Ike" West** for the seminar she gave to the WSP committee members offering guidance on how to form a board of directors.

**Sylvia Fitz** for hosting, at the last minute, the seminar led by Ike.

**Jane Roberts** for accepting the job of development for Baytown groups.

**Felicia Kutchey** for all the time you have spent on WSP scheduling and arranging for Gatesville volunteers, and for agreeing to continue transportation and final arrangements for Gatesville visits.

**Dugie Graham** for becoming the e-Communications Chair which entails sending emails and assisting with scheduling Gatesville volunteers.

**Mona Carver** for accepting Electronic Newsletter Chair.

**Wynona Montgomery** for becoming Volunteer Chairman for Plane/Henley in Dayton.

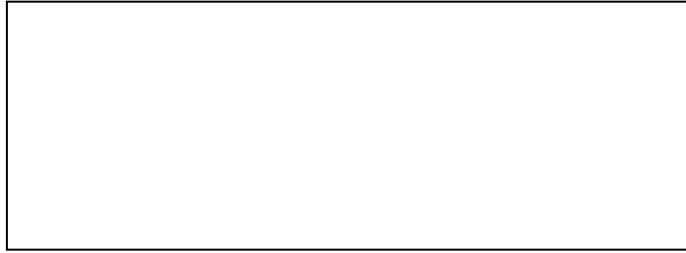
**LeAnne Skinner** for helping to locate office space for Storybook .

**John Esparza and Jessie Dominguez** at Texas Motor Transportation Association for making it possible for WSP to have office space.

**Jack Fox and Jon Dullnig** for moving all the books and supplies from the storage facilities to the new office.

**Jenny Rutherford**, Rhonda Chandler's mother, for volunteering to mail the 73 books and tapes for the Plane/Henley facility this month.

**Michelle Peterson and Cindy Harmon** for agreeing to help with the assembling of a WSP scrapbook. 🍷



Austin Community Foundation  
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