

Book Notes



Our Mission: To connect children with their incarcerated moms through the joy of literature.

What's Happening?

We LOVE our volunteers at WSP!

WSP is growing again. In October, WSP will open the ninth unit at Hobby, in Marlin, Texas. This unit has a



Vicky Blumhagen, team lead, Hobby Unit

capacity of approximately 1,500 female offenders. Regional Director Melody Nelson and Senior Warden Vikki Wright are looking forward to this because the offenders at the unit have been asking for WSP for months now. The new team leaders, Vicky Blumhagen and Crystal Wade, have been organizing for months and are eager to get started. Pat Yeargain, long time team leader for the Mountain View Unit, will help launch the program, starting with 12 offenders. New volunteers are being recruited in the Marlin area, adding to the excitement. All of the dedicated WSP volunteers and staff join together in wishing much success to our new Hobby Unit team!

Looking to the future, WSP's strategic plan envisions expanding into all female Texas Department of Criminal Justice units by 2020. We hope to open two more female units in the Gatesville area early next year. You can turn

pages while turning lives by signing up to volunteer, or show your support by making a contribution.

**Mark your calendars for November.
WE NEED YOU!**

Every weekend in November starting November 4, our largest annual book drive will be held at the [Sunset Valley Barnes & Noble](#) location. We need volunteers to fill two-hour shifts, between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm most days. The job is simple. Promote WSP by telling about your experiences as a volunteer, handing out brochures, and suggesting appropriate books for donation. WSP will provide all materials. Your volunteer testimony is the greatest way to get the word out! Sign up to volunteer at [signup.com](#) or contact Dugie Graham for help.

**BARNES
& NOBLE**

And the first weekend in December, St. John's UMC will be hosting their annual [Alternative Gift Market](#). The proceeds of this event are distributed to the non-profits that participate. WSP has been selected to receive a share of those proceeds. Our obligation is to provide volunteers on Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, 2017, between 10 am and 3 pm. Our job will be to tell the WSP story and our volunteer testimonials. If you would like to participate in this great event, please contact the WSP office at 512-861-5110 or RSVP to admin@storybookproject.org.

A Reminder: No Apple watches are allowed into the units.

in other news ...



WSP had a good representation at the TDCJ training in October. There were 4 new volunteers and a few who needed to retrain.



Princesleah and her prof, Beth Eakman

Princesleah Aguilera, a student at St. Edward's University, has joined WSP for the fall 2017 semester. She is enrolled in a grant writing class for which she will use WSP as her non-profit assignment. Professor Elizabeth Eakman will monitor her work. Princesleah's objective is to research, select and cultivate, and then write and submit a grant request on behalf of WSP. We wish her lots of luck!

Most of us have followed the news of Hurricane Harvey and the severe damage that was caused along the Texas coast from Corpus Christi to Beaumont. Sadly, several of the WSP volunteers in



WSP board member, David Graham helping re-build in Victoria.

the Houston-Dayton area were affected by the storm. In support of the efforts to assist in some small way following Hurricane Harvey, former intern and Readers Circle member, [Emilie Crimmins](#), and Austin resident, [Gabrielle Foytik](#), ten boxes of books were delivered to Houston area shelters for young children to enjoy.



- [Dugie Graham](#) for overseeing WSP's part in the Texas Book Festival
- [Emilie Crimmins](#) for organizing the WSP volunteer "greeters" at the Brodie Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive



- [Lyrica Johnson](#) for the many volunteer hours she spent on the Book Notes!!! Although she works full time and cares for her young son; she still plans to volunteer at the prisons.
- [Patrice Karst](#), author of The Invisible String, for helping us provide copies of her book to incarcerated moms.

Thank you, ladies for your hard work in extending the WSP mission by delivering the joy of literature.



Kim Weidmann with Harvey donations

Annual Fund 2017

The holidays are fast approaching and Women's Storybook Project is preparing for the new year, 2018. Founder [Judith Dullnig](#), in her new role as board president and chair of program expansion, is excited to plan for two additional units in 2018. Her vision is to bring WSP to all of the TDCJ female units by 2020.

Judith's excitement and dedication to Women's Storybook Project will provide the momentum, but [we need your support to accomplish the vision](#). In a few weeks you will receive an annual appeal letter. On behalf of WSP, we ask for your consideration in making a monetary commitment to support the nine TDCJ units currently receiving the WSP program, and for the future expansion units joining us in 2018.

Your gift can simply turn pages while turning lives!

Volunteers who travel to the prisons:

Please contact Cynthia Winer at volunteer@storybookproject.org with driver's license information. We are updating our database.

If there has been a change on your DL (change of address, expiration date, etc.), please contact TDCJ before going to a unit at 936-295-6371.



- [Dugie and David](#) for hosting a lovely "Thank You" party for the members of the Reader's Circle
- [Vickie Blumhagen](#) and Crystal Wade for becoming the Team Leaders for the Hobby Unit

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BOOK NOTES

WOMEN'S STORYBOOK PROJECT OF TEXAS

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Board of Directors

Judith Dullnig | president & founder
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Volunteer Spotlight

The position of inventory and intern chair for Women's Storybook Project is a very important, very big job. Our Volunteer Spotlight recipient, **Ms. Kim Weidmann**, accepted this position in 2008 and has done an outstanding job! Kim and her volunteers are in charge of inventorying book donations and packing boxes with books for all ages to distribute to the various TDCJ units. Kim and her team are amazing!

Kim, a native Texan and longtime member of Westlake United Methodist Church, is a very involved member of her community. In addition to her role as an early education pre-school teacher, Kim is a nature lover. She loves to tell stories about her adventures of bee keeping and the bee's abilities as master communicators. She also spends her time volunteering at Refugee Services of Texas.

Mother to two grown daughters, Mara and Leah, and wife to husband Eric, this family loves the great outdoors. Kim and Eric enjoy traveling, and tend to explore a new country by hiking the mountains and trails of the countries they are visiting. Kim has aspirations of walking parts of the Camino de Santiago in Spain and climbing Machu Picchu



in Peru. This summer, Kim and the family traveled to Spain and came back with wonderful tales to tell.

As a WSP volunteer, Kim loves listening to the offenders' stories and reading the responses of children who have received the gift that no one else can give them—the tangible show of their mother's love and concern. **"This is proof positive to me that the Storybook Project plays a crucial role in supporting the emotional stability of these valuable children and their likewise vulnerable mothers. Using books as the medium for this essential loving communication must positively influence the child's interest in reading,"** professes Kim.

Congratulations and thank you for all of your time, energy and positivity that you give to WSP!



Making Connections

This is just a sample of what we hear from our moms.

"I have not heard from my kids in over a year. No visits because I don't want them to see me in a place like this. No phone because they are hard to set up and cost money. So they were left without being able to hear me or see me until Storybook Project came into my life. Thanks to you all, they are able to receive books and hear my voice – and by hearing my voice they remembered me and wrote me a letter all because of Storybook a way a communication was opened for me!"

"I love the Storybook program. It really puts a smile on my daughter's face. My daughter listens to her book every morning before heading off to day care. The Storybook program has brought us closer through books...I love interacting with my daughter through this program. Continue to keep mothers such as myself close to our children. This allows them to know even though we are in prison they are not forgot about."

Another way to financially support Women's Storybook Project is with a stock donation!

Please contact
info@storybookproject.org
for further details.

Remember to like/follow us on Facebook!

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on all of the fun!



A WSP member of The Reader's Circle, and Judith Dullnig, Founder of WSP

November 2017 Barnes & Noble book fairs every weekend

December 2017 St. John's UMC Alternative Gift Market

March 2018 Amplify Austin



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OF TEXAS

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My Grandson LOVES it. He immediately recognized his mothers voice on the tape. He sits very still while I turn the pages for him and we do not have any other distractions during this special time ie: no T.V. or anything or anyone else around. It is what we do in the mornings to begin our routine for the day.