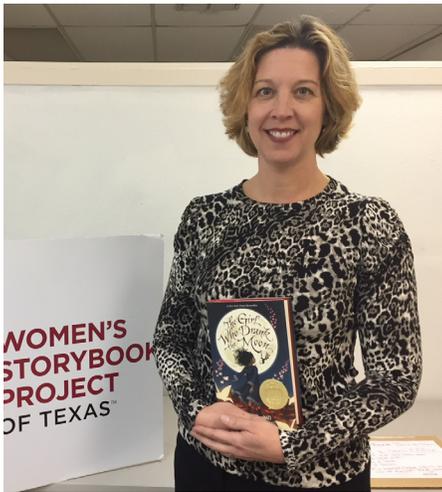


Book Notes



PROGRAMS



Bergan Casey

Bergan helped WSP in many ways as the Interim Executive Director.

She's returned to her clients and managing her communications business, Casey Communications. Thank you, Bergan! WSP is currently interviewing candidates for the role of Executive Director.



Margene Beckham and her Lockhart Team.

Margene Beckham and Laurie Smith Traverso are our two new Team Leaders at the Lockhart Unit! Nancy Wallace will also be helping them.



WSP is keeping up with changing technology! Katie Mitchell, a WSP Volunteer, and her Google Team have designed an app for WSP to help us keep up with technology. Jeri Saper and Mona Carver, the WSP Tech Team, have been working on instructions to help caregivers download the recordings. Pat Yeargain and Betsy McCraine, the team leaders at the Mt. View Unit, are helping to conduct a pilot study.

EVENTS

WSP has a new home! TMTA has been our home for the past several years, but it was necessary to find a new home since the property had been rezoned for a new building.



Thank you, John and Ann, for providing space for our first office. Thank you, David Graham, for helping us find our new home, and thank you, volunteers, for helping with a successful move to our new office.



Photo from the Luncheon

The 2nd Annual Luncheon was a great success.

Thank you, Table Hosts, who invited new guests and donors to our annual event, thank you to all the donors and thank you to the underwriters who allowed WSP to net \$102,000. Our guest speakers were a mother and daughter who had experienced the impact of our program. Melodye Nelson, Texas Department of Criminal justice, also spoke of the importance of WSP to the incarcerated moms.



In April, there was an Open Book Party in Temple, Texas, arranged by Bergan Casey and hosted by Karen Matous and Charlynn Casey-attended by several friends of the hostess. Thank you, ladies! Would YOU like to host an Open Book Party or do you have a friend who might want to share our story with friends in their neighborhood? It's a fun way to tell people about this special program.



Debbie with granddaughters and Judith
Debbie listened with her granddaughters as they heard their mom read them a story from a CD. This is on a video which was produced by Kevin and Brandon from [WFAA Dallas](#) and can be viewed on our website.

DONATIONS



Mothers Day Campaign at St. Marks

Laurie Mayor organized a Mother's Day Campaign at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Donors thanked their mothers with a gift to WSP and notes were sent to honored moms.
Thank you!



L-R: Sun Connor, Megan Hedgecock, Beshar Garcia, Dugie Graham, Judith Dulling, Pat Yeargain

Besher, our wonderful, longtime, super supporter, is back again! We were so happy to receive his (156) books at the new office. He began donating books at 8 years old after hearing about WSP at a Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive. Besher continues to think about WSP as he and his mom, Sara, plan for his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth Shalom. He has a twinkle in his eye when he talks about this special event and incorporating WSP.



Julia Taylor and Wanda Stimson delivered over 100 books to the new WSP office from members of Grace Episcopal Church. Georgetown, TX

COMING UP

Reader's Circle Wine and Cheese Party: October 18, 2018

Texas Book Festival, October 27-28. Jamie Dickens will be organizing the WSP table. She has wonderful ideas about helping us be noticed!

Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive at Sunset Valley, the month of November.

Emilie Crimmins will be organizing this event. BN loved the great job Emilie did last year!

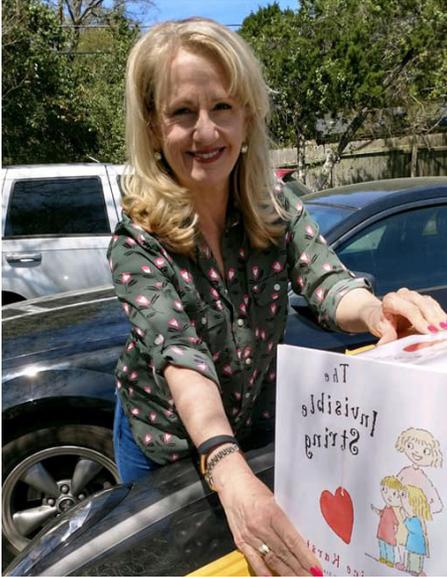
Prison volunteers, remember to sign up through our website so we can add you to our database and give you correct info on TDCJ trainings.

"Dear Storybook volunteers: You all have made a huge impact on me and babies life. It's definitely lightened the burden on our hearts. I want you all to know you've blessed me and my family in such a tremendous way. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

"My parents were incarcerated and their parents before that and I'd not known anything better and had been in trouble myself. However, after participating in this program I'm determined to end the cycle."

Reminder: No leggings or tight fitting clothes allowed in the units

VOLUNTEERS



Vickie Blumhagen

Vickie Blumhagen, WSP team leader, has copies of *The Invisible String* for the moms at the Hobby Unit. They may choose a copy to read at their last session.



Shevawn Eisman

Thank you, Kim Weidman and Shevawn Eisman and other Interns for helping with our move. Kim packed the remaining books and labeled all the book boxes. Shevawn and many Interns organized the boxes at the new office.



Mayor Wynona

We have a Mayor amongst us!! Wynona Montgomery was elected Mayor of Cove, TX. Wynona wears many hats, including the job of WSP Volunteer Chairman for the Plane State Jail and the Henley Unit in Dayton, TX.



Volunteer meeting

Thanks to all of the WSP team leads and chairs who attended the Lunch and Learn event. Our program could not be a success without the help and hard work of our volunteers!



WSP is partnering with Generation SERVE. They will assist with providing teen volunteers for our upcoming fall annual Barnes & Noble book drive!

VOLUNTEER LETTER

"I went with the Lane Murray group on Saturday, and it was a great experience!"

I was with team leader Cynthia and we ended up being a smaller-than-expected group of six, after several of the ladies on our list were not able to make it. Three of us of the six were very-first-timers... so I'm sure Cynthia felt she had her hands full with the novices, but we got it all done. :))

This experience was just as rewarding as I knew it would be. I already have two friends who have said they want to hear more about my experience (so maybe I'll be recruiting new volunteers!). I'm signed up for a June date to go to a different Gatesville unit. And from what I hear, Lockhart may be added soon... I would certainly be happy to help support that team if there is a need in future.

I haven't met Judith, and not sure how to contact her, but please pass along to her my positive feedback and my thanks as a newbie. I work with a lot of nonprofits of various shapes, sizes, and missions - as my job + as a volunteer - but I can already say there's something very special about WSP, and I'm grateful to become part of it."



I'm a 69-year-old grandfather of 3 beautiful grandchildren. Due to an unfortunate situation, my daughter was taken to jail for 9 months. To keep the children together because I believe family should stay together, i took charge of them. Being on a fix income it was very difficult for me to take them to see their mother, since we live so far away and my eye sight is not what it used to be. Plus the 2 oldest were in school.

The first time they received the books and CDs it was like Christmas to them. I told them to go sit down on their little bench, which i have for them to watch TV. When I turned it on, their eyes lit up and their mouths dropped. The boy was the first to speak. He turned to me and said, "grandpa grandpa it's mommy." the girls just kept saying "yes, it is, yes, it is"" Ian turned back to face the CD player and sat there just staring at it with no expression on his face. I asked him what was wrong. He didn't say anything for a minute or 2. Then he said, without turning towards me, "when is she coming home?" it's very hard for them to understand time especially 6 months. Their mom had sent books and CDs to each one. My grandson played his over and over for a couple of days that i practically memorized the stories. I then told them that they could listen to it twice a day and once at night. My grandson didn't accept it at first, but it was grandpas' rules.

When the second batch arrived, they couldn't wait to play the CDs. The first time they got their gifts I only had one CD player. So needless to say, a small problem arose -who was going to listen to his or hers cd first. Of course, the oldest won. So, I bought them each a small cd player. It's a joy for me to see them happy when they listen to the CDs. They quickly learned to operate the cd players, and Ian has learned to read some of the books by listening to his mom read, i did not interfere with her reading. Their mommy was there with them, yet so far away. He said that he learned to read some of the books, so when his mommy came home. He could read to her.

I don't know how to tell you, how appreciative I am and how much the children enjoy listening to their mom. If you could only be present when the children receive and listen to their gifts, then you could see and feel how important this program is.

