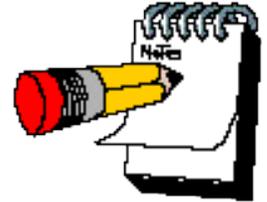


## A Note from your Director

In September, 2003, we started Storybook Project at Lane Murray. We had a handful of volunteers and five tape recorders. WSP is now in five prisons (Gatesville and Dayton) with a team of 90 volunteers! Our long range goal is to provide WSP in as many female prisons as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice recommends. Another goal is to have the ability to learn if this program is having an impact on recidivism.



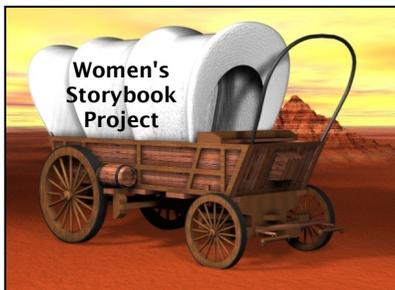
Now back from the future to the present! It seems that TDCJ is still trying to determine the best way to record volunteer activity at the prisons, resulting in some changes in the verification process. I want to assure you that if a social security number is requested, only the last four digits will be submitted. I look forward to resolving this problem with TDCJ and the Windham School District (the school system for the prison).

I want to thank Suzanna Busico, a new volunteer, for offering to schedule shifts for the Texas Book Festival in Austin. Our presence there has not only made the community aware of WSP, but many volunteers have become part of Storybook because of information they received from our booth. Please contact Susanna Busico, [sbusico@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbusico@sbcglobal.net) or 512-331-7126, about available two-hour shifts on October 31 and November 1.

A final bright note ... WSP mailed 2,030 books and tapes to children over the past year. Happy Fall and keep up the good work!

*Judith*

## Storybook Project Goes West!



The 29th Annual Training Conference and Jail Expo in Portland, Oregon has invited WSP's director, Judith Dullnig, to present a workshop next Spring. Retired Warden Nancy Botkin also plans to attend and assist Judith with the presentation. Their goals are to describe the program, its successes, its goals, and its future in Texas. An example of a start up program for their community will be provided, and participants will have time for questions and answers.

It is exciting to see that this project's concept is spreading even outside of Texas to help children of incarcerated women in other communities!

## Revised Application for New Volunteers

There is a revised TDCJ application (not yet available on line) for those wishing to volunteer for Storybook. Contact Judy Fox [jzfox@austin.rr.com](mailto:jzfox@austin.rr.com) for the NEW version. On the application please check Windham School District and write in **WSP** under "Unit of Interest". Mail it to Windham School District, P.O. Box 40, Huntsville, Texas 77342; Attention Connie Mc Murrey (NOT the address on the application).

## Making Connections



In this issue of Book Notes, we'd like to make a FAMILY connection with notes from the mother, sister, and child of one offender in the Storybook Project at Plane Henley near Houston. Reading these unedited letters will remind you once again of the impact WSP has on families.

### FROM HER SISTER

*First, I wanted to thank you for selecting my sister for your program. She had wrote to me that there was a total of 2500 women but only twelve were selected and she was one of the lucky women.*

*When her three children received the surprise package in the mail, they were so excited to open it. As soon as they opened the package they saw the tapes and books. We put the tapes in the recorder and boy they were on top of the world.*

*The oldest was thrilled because the package came a day after her birthday and she had no idea what the surprise was going to be. She said that was the best present ever. Now she can hear her mom's voice every night before she goes to bed.*

*The second child was excited because her mom picked a book that she could read by the end of the summer. She recognized the words that were in the book and her mom read it to her in which she enjoyed every minute of it.*

*The youngest was so excited that he actually thought he could talk to her because he could hear her voice. It was an awesome moment? He told her I LOVE YOU MOM!*

*It was the best thing ever to see each of the children's' face glow with joy and happiness. They love hearing her voice they play the tapes on a daily basis because they cannot talk to her just in writing.*

*Thanks again...for selecting my sister into your program they all look forward to receiving more*

*books in the future. I hope this program continues to grow it is the best connection for the children.*

*Thanks again,  
LF*

### FROM HER MOTHER

*I'm writing you to thank you from the bottom of my heart. This project has brought my grandchildren so much joy words cannot explain.*

*Thank you so much for granting this opportunity for my daughter to communicate with her children. I love the fact she was chosen to participate in this awesome project.*

*When my grandchildren first received their books and tapes, they were so excited just to hear their mom's voice. Then after several times of hearing the tape, they were excited about the book she had read to them.*

*...Every night, they listen and now can read with their mom.*

*The books are excellent and age appropriate.*

*At this time, I would like to thank you for such an awesome project for the mothers and children please keep this project going for other families it's very personal and very educational for our children.*

***Please keep donations coming in for future families.***

*Again, thank you so much for opening the doors to a better communication, allowing our children to love to read with their mother reading to them on a personal level.*

*Sincerely,  
GR*

### FROM HER CHILD

*Thank you for picking my mom for your program. I love my book. I love that it is a pop-up book too! I love hearing my Mom's pretty voice every night before I go to bed. So I'm glad you picked her...I cannot wait to get more books from my Mom. 😊 I loved everything!*

*Thanks again,  
J*



## What's Happening?

- **Special Training Session** for new WSP members (and those who receive a letter that retraining is required) on November 7.
- **Sandy Hain**, who will be filming the WSP documentary, is arriving next month from Palo Alto, California. Judith hopes to coordinate his visit with the WSP Annual Social and the Nuts and Bolts meeting, thereby giving Sandy the opportunity to meet many volunteers. TENTATIVELY mark your calendars for the **WSP Annual Social on October 25**. We are seeking a location for this gathering. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Lydia Crafts**, an independent journalist, would like to do a piece on Women's Storybook Project. She plans to accompany one team into a prison on a Saturday. Her work has been aired by public radio stations, including NPR and KUT radio.



- **Melanie Smith and Troop 1500 of Enterprising Girl Scouts Beyond Bars** for conducting a book drive. They donated 85 books! Your efforts are appreciated!
- **Suzanna Busico** for generously agreeing to organize and schedule volunteers for the Texas Book Festival this fall.
- **Linda Cox** for completing the proposal to the Juanita Peterson Fund for WSP funding. Hopefully, we will be selected once again.
- **Hilltop Volunteers - Pat Roberts, Lynne Riley, Charlene Hiney, Angela Nunley, and Margery Gurrola** for going above and beyond staying until after 4:30 on August 15 to insure that all 66 children had been read to in that session!
- **Felicia Kutchey, Scheduling Chairman**, for working and reworking the schedule for volunteers and drivers making the August Gatesville trip an ultimate success!



## Can you help?

Contact  
Judith Dullnig  
(512) 560-8739

- A **volunteer** is needed to **schedule greeters** at the Barnes and Noble Community Book Drive during November and December.
- **Greeters** are needed for the Barnes and Noble Book Drive in November and December. Do you know of a youth group, Scout group, school group, etc. who might want to "greet" customers during the book drives? This would be a great community project.
- Storybook needs a **host/hostess** willing to open his/her home for the **WSP Annual Social** on Sunday, October 25. This could be a volunteer, a supporter, or a friend who is willing to help out. A catered afternoon tea for about 40 people is anticipated. Since we'd like to invite our documentarian, Sandy Hain, who will be visiting from California, the date is inflexible.
- **Volunteers** are needed on the following dates in Gatesville:
  - Mountain View: October 10
  - Hilltop: October 17
  - Lane Murray: November 21; December 19



## Volunteer Spotlight

JoAn Martin

Plane Henley, located in Dayton near Houston, is Storybook's latest success story. JoAn Martin is a co-leader for this facility.

A native of South Alabama, JoAn attended Abilene Christian University where she met and later married Kelly Martin. She earned a Master's Degree from the University of Houston. The couple has lived in Baytown since 1953 where JoAn taught for 22 years. After 58 years of marriage,



JoAn and Kelly have four adult children, seven adult grandchildren, and two (will be three in November) great grandchildren. They feel fortunate to have almost 30 family members around them in the Houston area.

After retiring from teaching, JoAn wrote children's books as well as a romance novel published in June 2009 entitled Retrieving Morning. JoAn has served as an educational consultant to Houston area schools. As an adjunct teacher, she has taught at the University of Houston, University of St. Thomas, and Lee College in Baytown.

In the past year, JoAn says she has become obsessive about WSP. As a children's writer, she was drawn to the Storybook booth at the Texas Book Festival, and it was there that her involvement began. Ultimately she worked with Judith to start WSP in the Houston area where it launched in January this year. She recruits volunteers and is very excited about going to Plane Henley to record mothers reading to their children. There's hopeful anticipation of expanding the program there soon.

The first time she went to the prison, she came home and babysat her two great grandchildren. Her heart broke to think that there were some children, like her 3 and 5 year olds, whose moth-

ers were not able to be there to love and care for them. "Storybook is the most rewarding activity I have ever done. Thank God for caring, loving, parents who are always there for their children. Storybook Project is able to promote a part of that," she states. 

### Opportunities to Help Storybook

For three years, WSP has had a non-profit table at the Texas Book Festival allowing the community to learn about us. Several people who took the flyers have since become volunteers! The festival, which is held on the grounds of the Capitol and surrounding streets, will be on October 31 and November 1. We need volunteers to hand out brochures and answer questions that passer-bys may have. The shifts are two hours, and it is fun to pair up with another volunteer or friend to talk about WSP. Suzanna Busico will schedule the shifts. You can contact her at [sbusico@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbusico@sbcglobal.net) or 512.331.7126.

Barnes and Noble Booksellers have selected WSP again as their project for their Community Holiday Book Drives. Not only does it help WSP to be connected with a notable company, but we are spreading across the state! WSP will be sponsored at B&N Arboretum (perhaps also at Brodie) in Austin and at the Memorial Drive B&N in Houston. Additionally, it is probable that our friend, Caren Creech Berlanga, formerly of B&N Arboretum, will want to sponsor us at the new La Cantera B&N in San Antonio. More exposure and more books!

The Arboretum store will allow us to have "greeters" on most weekends during November and December. A "greeter" stands by a table near the front of the store and hands a flyer to those entering. Sometimes people stop to learn more about WSP, others will take the flyer and continue to shop. Many donate books at the cash register, some contact us later (and become volunteers!) and others have given financial donations. A volunteer is needed to schedule the weekend shifts, and "greeters" are needed be at the store to hand out flyers. The shifts are usually two hours and volunteers work in pairs.

*(continued on page 5—Opportunities)*

*(continued from page 4—Opportunities)*

This has been a wonderful opportunity for Storybook Project, not only for exposure but for the number of books we receive. The first year WSP gathered 2500 books from three stores; last year, even with the slowing of the economy, the community donated 1800 books from just two stores and over a shorter period of time.

Since we will be sponsored for a longer period of time in 2009, and we have more weekends,

we will need more greeters in order to make the most of this opportunity. Many of you have volunteered in the past, and hopefully you will continue to be able to do that. However, since there will be additional weekends, there is a need for more volunteers. This could be a community project for another group! If you know of any groups such as a Girl Scout troop, Boy Scout troop, youth group, school group, women's group, or others that might want to participate and be "greeters", please contact Judith. 



## Need Training?

Whether you are a new volunteer just starting with Storybook, or a seasoned volunteer who's been in the program over two years, you may need training or re-training.

On November 7, retired Warden Nancy Botkin and Major Henson will come to Austin (location to be announced) from Gatesville to provide a "refresher" course for those who have been a volunteer for more than two years. New Texas Department of Criminal Justice requirements include retraining every two years for volunteers within the prison system. This course will also be open to those who are newly volunteering and require training. Major Henson is very entertaining and makes the time pass quickly. If you wish to attend the Austin session, please notify them at 512-926-4482. **ALWAYS TAKE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OR RETRAINING LETTER WITH YOU TO ANY TRAINING SESSION.**

Please contact Judy Fox at [jzfox@austin.rr.com](mailto:jzfox@austin.rr.com) if you are eligible and interested in attending the sessions offered on November 7. For new volunteers, eligibility is established after you complete the application and have received the acceptance letter; for seasoned volunteers, you will receive a letter in the mail when retraining is required.



**Change your mailing address ?  
Make a financial contribution ?  
Add a supporter to the mailing list ?**



**Women's Storybook Project of Texas  
c/o Austin Community Foundation  
P.O. Box 5159 Austin, TX 78763**

**WSP  
THANKS ...**

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*(512) 515-0021  
for donating the printing and  
distribution of Book Notes*

### Who's Who

**Judith Dullnig**, Director  
**Judy Fox**, Volunteer Chair  
**Felicia Kutchey**, Scheduling Chair  
**Sylvia Fitz**, Supplies Chair  
**Kathy Brothers**, Communications Chair  
**Pat Roberts**, Newsletter Chair  
**Angela Nunley**, Newsletter Production Chair  
**Nancy Wallace**, Lane Murray Team Leader  
**Paula Jameson**, Lane Murray Team Leader  
**Judy Darnell**, Woodman Team Leader  
**Liz Davis**, Woodman Team Leader  
**Pat Roberts**, Hilltop Team Leader  
**Lynne Riley**, Hilltop Team Leader  
**Angela Nunley**, Mt. View Team Leader  
**Ruby Russo**, Mt. View Team Leader  
**JoAn Martin**, Plane Henley Team Leader  
**Ellie Chaikind**, Plane Henley Team Leader  
**JoAnn Innerarity**, Plane Henley Team Leader

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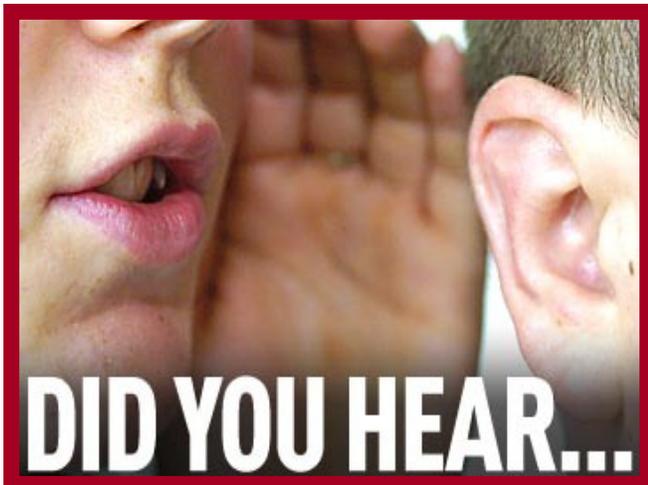


Austin Community Foundation  
P.O. Box 5159  
Austin, TX 78763



## Help Give the Greatest Gift!

*"The greatest gift is a passion for reading." Elizabeth Hardwick*



**There's a new revised volunteer application form from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Contact Judy Fox (see Who's Who inside) and she will provide the new application for anyone interested in joining Women's Storybook Project of Texas!**