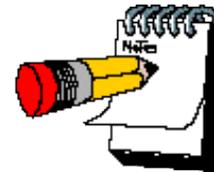


A Note from your Director



Dear Volunteers and WSP Supporters,

I have some very exciting news to share with you!

“The Women’s Storybook Project of Texas has been selected to receive a prestigious Governor’s Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award. To be chosen is truly an honor, and the Texas Board of Criminal Justice would like to recognize the Women’s Storybook Project of Texas for its efforts to improve the lives of incarcerated mothers and their children.”

The recognition will take place April 8, 2010 at the board meeting at the Crown Plaza Hotel. I believe the award is presented by the Governor.

Thank you, wonderful volunteers and supporters, for helping make this award possible! We are making a difference.

Happy Spring!

Judith

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSELLERS

Community Connects Through Book Drive

Barnes and Noble in three cities across Texas (Austin, San Antonio, and Houston) named WSP as the recipient for books donated at the Holiday Book Drive during November and December. The community involvement from this multi-city event is as impressive as the book donations.



The Kulick family: Ronit, Daniel (age 10), and Ben (age 5) were greeters at B&N Arboretum in Austin

Greeters from WSP (volunteers, families, grandparents, honor societies, middle school kids, and even Scouts!) explained the program to arriving patrons. The

*(continued on page 3
—Book Drive)*

Lights! Camera! Action!

(Continued from Issue 11)

In December 2009's issue of Book Notes, we shared Parts One and Two of Sandy Hain's work on producing a marketing documentary for WSP. This is a continuation of those articles.

Part Three: Meet the Producer

On Sunday, Sandy and Ellie drove to Austin where Judith hosted a "Meet the Producer" luncheon in her home. Many volunteers were



Sandy interviews team leader Pat Roberts for the documentary.

(continued on page 5—Producer)



Book Notes
The communications newsletter of
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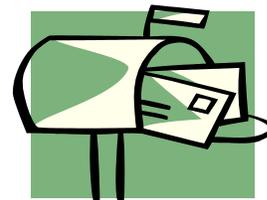
WSP THANKS	PILLAR TO POST THE HOME OF HOME INSPECTION (512) 515-0021 <i>for donating the printing and distribution of Book Notes</i>
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Want to make a tax free contribution?
Send it to:

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
 grateful grandmother



December 25, 2009

Dear Judith Dullnig & Storybook Project of Texas Volunteers,

I am writing on behalf of my 3 1/2 year old granddaughter, MT, as well as myself. Words cannot express the gratitude or the magnitude of the sheer joy of the program that this project brings. If only you could have seen the happiness on this child's face the second she heard her mama's voice. I get so emotional every time I think about it. After the story, the message at the end her mom said Merry Christmas and I love you. And M immediately hollered back to the recording, "I love you, too, Mama!" as if she was right there in her lap. It was the sweetest thing. She listened and read along to the recording over and over again. I believe she loved this over anything she received for Christmas, besides her Princess dress she will wear to visit her mama this Sunday. The package couldn't have come at a better time.

Thank you soooooo much. I hope that this program will continue with great success. It sure gives comfort to the child anytime she needs to hear her mama's voice. If only there was a way for the inmate to have a recording of their child to listen to anytime they need a little comfort of home. I pray daily for this to all be over with and a happy transition back into society. God Bless you all for all you are doing. You have made one child a very happy little girl and the days until she reunites with her mama a little happier and easier.

Very Sincerely Yours,

KE and MT

**Hilltop sets a new hard-to-beat record ...
 80 books recorded in the January visit**

Can you help?



Volunteers are needed April 14-17 to assist with two hour shifts at our booth at the Texas Library Association Conference in San Antonio. It will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in the heart of downtown historic San Antonio along the banks of the River Walk. Volunteer with a friend or two and make it a day trip (i.e. shopping!). Please contact Judith Dullnig if you are able to help.

(Book Drive- continued from page 1)

greeters found the experience to be very rewarding, as expressed in their feedback comments to Judith (see back cover of this issue). One Girl Scout leader explained in her blog that even her less confident and shy girls found that they could overcome their fear of speaking when it's to benefit someone else. These girls were smiling at the door and engaging people to think about someone else during the holiday season as well as roaming the store in pairs to offer books to people as suggested purchases.

Nancy Snyder and her grandson, Reed, who is a Junior at Westlake High School, truly enjoyed the experience. She states that Reed "walked right up to people as they entered the store and gave them the information with condensed yet crucial details. He is enthusiastic about the project and my participation, and that attitude was conveyed to the customers who listened to him. They were more likely to listen to him than to me, but we both thoroughly enjoyed our experience and were pleased to hear the bell ring fairly often that indicated someone had purchased a book for WSP."

As a result of everyone's efforts, an amazing 3,368 books were donated! Equally important, several people and groups volunteered to get involved and significant monetary donations were received.

All three Barnes and Noble stores pledged to continue their participation in the 2010 holiday season, and possibly another location in River Oaks, Houston, will join in.

Online donations from the WSP website in 2009 were \$825. In 2010, \$465 so far!!



What's Happening?

- April 15 from 2-3:20 P.M., Nancy Wallace and Judith will be on a panel at the Texas Library Association Conference in San Antonio introducing WSP to participants.
- The WSP social gathering for volunteers and sponsors at the beautiful country home of Kathie Hanson will be Saturday, April 24. Bring friends who might be interested in WSP. The heart-grabbing WSP documentary will be available for viewing! Watch for the Evite (be sure your current email address is on file with Judy Fox!)
- On February 19, WSP volunteers Topsy Woodson, Marge Gurrola and Wanda Stimson staffed an exhibit table at the annual Sun City Non-Profit Fair. WSP was one of 55 organizations soliciting volunteers and making their services known to this active senior community.



- **Casandra Perks**, a student at St. Edwards, who has chosen to write a paper on WSP for her American Dilemmas class and has become an invaluable "Girl Friday" for Judith sorting books and performing many other helpful tasks. Welcome to the WSP team, Casandra!



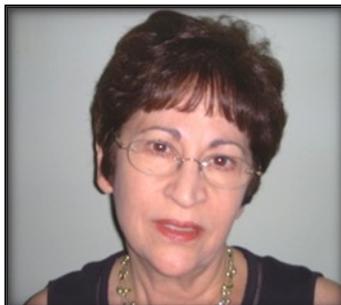
- **Barnes and Noble Greeters:**
Mothers and their children and their friends
Grandmothers and grandkids
Some students from St. Luke's Episcopal School, San Antonio; Stratford High School Honor Students, Houston; Houston Academy for International Studies; 6th Grade World Cultures Class, Canyon Vista Middle School, Austin
Houston Girl Scout and Brownie Troup 21181; San Antonio Girl Scout Troup 360 of Southwest Texas, Stinson Service Group; Austin Brownie Troup 2240
Church and synagogue members
Pat Osoria, San Antonio
Barnes and Noble employees, Janice at Arboretum, Austin; Caren at La Cantera, San Antonio; Katelya at Town and Country, Houston
And, of course, our own WSP volunteers! 



Volunteer Spotlight

JoAnn Innerarity, Plane Henley Co-Leader

JoAnn Innerarity, the third co-leader for Plane Henley, was born in Chicago but raised in Tucson and El Paso as her father needed dryer climates for his health. After attending the University of Texas, she taught in El Paso for a year, but the lure of the big city attracted her, so she moved in 1968 to Houston where she met her husband, Mike. They have a grown daughter whose degree is in Environmental Studies. Mike is employed by ExxonMobil and is a couple of years from retirement.



JoAnn retired four years ago from teaching high school English. Although she misses working with students, she is enjoying her time free of grading papers and with time to travel and to work for non-profits she never knew about. She has completed training for Literacy Advance, a Houston non-profit committed to helping individuals learn English, and is looking forward to getting her first students to tutor this month.

JoAnn's interest include volunteering, reading, attending plays, traveling and watching the Food Channel. WSP is an especially cherished volunteer opportunity for her. She learned about WSP from Ellie Chaikind, as they belong to the same temple where JoAnn is on the temple board and serves as membership chair. She and Ellie team together to find more volunteers for Storybook and to organize members into other social/volunteer activities.

JoAnn has enjoyed watching Judith, whom she calls a miracle worker, accomplish the training and start up necessities at Plane Henley. "Personally," she says, "I am so inspired by the offenders who are desperately trying to better themselves and who have realized that books can open up a new world for them and for their children. I wish we could go more than once a month!"



Pleasant Working Lunch

On Wednesday, January 27, Judith Dullnig, Judy Darnell, and Liz Davis enjoyed a working lunch with the Woodman Jail principal, Azure Mach, and the education secretary, Patty Blanchard, at the quaint cafe "Feather Your Nest" in Gatesville. These informal luncheons, the second with the prisons, are a time to express appreciation for the prison employees who give of their time and make our success possible, as well as an opportunity to share concerns between WSP and the specific unit.

Ms. Mach is a "new" principal for the Windham School District (the school district for the Gatesville prison system), having come on board about six months ago. Patty Blanchard, a long time employee, is WSP's most direct link for necessary information and address labels each month. Woodman experiences high turnover as it is a facility for short term offenders or those awaiting evaluation. These ladies interview each offender and choose primarily those involved in the parenting program available to them. Their dedication and willingness to help does not go unnoticed!



*Patty Blanchard, Azure Mach, Judy Darnell
and Liz Davis*

Concerns addressed that day included timing of visits and procedures. Since the Saturday officer leaves by

2:30, a decision to change the hours for Storybook to start 10-15 minutes earlier to assure a completion time by 2:30 was agreed upon. Ms. Mach's preferred order of reading was also adopted: offenders with fewest children first (so they can leave and return to their jobs or dorms) and those with more children last.

What a productive and enjoyable way to "put heads together" to improve the Storybook experience!



(**Producer**—continued from page 1)

able to attend and enjoyed the time with Sandy. Everyone gathered in a large circle where feelings, experiences, and thoughts about WSP were shared. While volunteers enjoyed a light luncheon and fellowship with one another, Sandy once again set up his camera and microphone and interviewed volunteers. Despite the pressure of the lights and the camera, wonderful captures were made of the passion our volunteers feel for WSP.

Part Four: “Fly on the Wall”

How many times have you wished, as a volunteer, that you could just be a fly on the wall in the home of a child receiving the book from his/her mother? Well, through Sandy’s camera, we finally have that opportunity!

On Monday, Sandy and Ellie traveled through a major flooding rainstorm to Alvin, where they were first greeted by a young grandmother and her 2 and 4 year old grandchildren whom she cares for in their mother’s absence. In their cramped trailer, love abounded as the grandmother produced each of the carefully bagged books and tapes they have received, one of their favorites being I Love You Forever, which the four year old could now read and sing along with her mother’s voice on tape. The active two year old was also captured listening to his mother’s newest book. The grandmother shared the fact that not only the children benefited from hearing their mother; she, also, loved hearing her daughter’s voice.

That evening, after driving north another hour, a wonderful family of three children (ages 11, 9, and 8) and their sole caregiver, the father, greeted them. Unfortunately, the first tape malfunctioned when the daughter started the recorder. Not to be deterred, she produced the last book she had received, after which she shared some wonderful feelings about how hearing her mom’s voice and receiving the book help her to feel connected to her mother. Sandy, skillfully humorous and sensitive in his questioning, was a hit with the children. Both boys then followed along with their mom’s voice as she read the new book they had received. The younger, a second grader, laughed as his mother ad-libbed about some of the pictures and wanted him to

point out objects. He was totally immersed in the reading and oblivious to everything but the voice of his mother.

During the interview, he talked about how much he misses her, how he loves to hear her voice, and that when she comes home, he’s going to make sure she has all the things she loves! The “flies on the wall” in the room had to fight back tears as they heard these heartfelt emotions and observed the father, also impacted by the voice of his wife, during these difficult times while he struggles to keep his family intact. What a beautiful family and a perfect example of how WSP can make a significant difference and provide such a healthy and loving contact between child and Mom and caregiver!

We are all looking forward with eager anticipation to our April 24 social (see What’s Happening!) when we can be “flies on the wall” and watch this promising documentary. Thank you Sandy, Ellie, and all those who helped make it possible! 🙏

Feather in Our Cap!



One of the many reasons that WSP was chosen by the National Crime Prevention Council as one of the top strategies in the country for Faith and Restorative Justice is because so many faiths are involved. This support continues with funding from St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese, Temple Beth Shalom, Cedar Park Methodist, Good News Methodist in Leander/Cedar Park, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, San Antonio.

In addition, WSP is fortunate to have continued financial support from Westlake Methodist Church, including being accepted as a recipient of the Juanita Peterson Fund through Westlake Methodist.

Of course, this interfaith support helps WSP financially, but it is also a very important “asset” for grant writing. Funding sources will be interested in the numerous faith-based organizations that find WSP a worthy project. It’s a “feather in our cap” to be able to list so many of these organizations! 🙏



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



Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive More Books for WSP = More Smiles on Little Faces!



Girl Scout Greeter thoughts:

"I wanted to help. That was a bigger feeling than being afraid."

"Helping someone else do something makes me feel good."

"Working for something I believe in with my friends is easy."

"I was so happy to help these kids!"

Honor Society teacher:

"It was a wonderful experience for me and my students. Thanks for letting us participate and for promoting such a wonderful cause."

Thank you,
EVERYONE!



Look inside this issue for more details about the Holiday Book Drive.