

BOOK NOTES



Our mission: to connect children with their incarcerated mothers through literature

Issue No. 25

July 2015

IN THE NEWS

The San Saba Unit is slated to join the program. Pat Yeargain, team leader at Mt. View, will help them get started. Watch for details later this year.

Women's Storybook Project issued its first annual report.

The **Lola Wright Foundation** presented WSP with a grant to help update the recording equipment.

Did you see the WSP feature article in the *Austin American Statesman* by Nicole Villapondo? There is a link to it on our website.

Check us out on **HuffPost Live**, a live-streaming network. Director Judith Dullnig and volunteer Kristin Sample discussed WSP with Nancy Redd. live.huffingtonpost.com

Help us to keep getting the word out!

Lyrice Johnson is the new editor of **BOOK NOTES**.

Have you liked us on Facebook? [facebook.com/WomensStorybook Project](https://www.facebook.com/WomensStorybookProject)



Thank you to **Rev. Elizabeth Turner**, who has helped WSP for years with reimbursements for expenses.

ANNOUNCING
Women's Storybook Project now has four sponsors:



South Oaks Family Medicine

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We are recording and burning CDs onsite at four of the six prisons: Hilltop, Mt. View, Lane Murray, and Plane State Jail.



Volunteers at Lane Murray.



Training for Plane State Jail in Dayton.



Student volunteers from St. Edward's and Southwestern University helped sort and pack nearly 1,500 Little Golden Books. (Above: Zoe Watts and Emilie Crimmins.)



Scott Thompson, advisor, and Sun Connor, administrative assistant, show an outcome of the new WSP financial system and database, Quickbooks.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

2015 has been an exciting year so far! BOOK NOTES, our newsletter, is back with a new look. And that's not the only new thing about WSP.

We have a new logo, a new video, Story of Storybook, and a new brochure.



BOOK NOTES will be published quarterly, always available electronically, with hard copies being mailed bi-annually.

In April, we published our first annual report, and I hope you liked it.

Most importantly, I want to thank all of our 191 volunteers! We continue to record many mothers, on many Saturdays, with many hours from our technology chair, Brenda Keillor. We now mail CDs to children in four of the six units. In the Fall, we will add the Woodman Jail, Henley Unit and a new unit, San Saba.

I'm also pleased to announce that help has arrived for me, as we've become quite big with many facets. Nancy Phillips is the WSP programs assistant, and I'm grateful to have her on board. Watch for more about Nancy.

Have a Happy Summer!

Judith

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WOMEN'S STORYBOOK PROJECT
OF TEXAS

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MAKING CONNECTIONS ...

The thank you letter below is another wonderful example of how Storybook makes powerful connections.



Dear Ms. Dullnig,

I am writing about the lovely story books and the tapes that my granddaughter has recorded and you have sent to me for her son who I am keeping. When he received the first one and we listened to it he immediately recognized his mama's voice and just smiled through the whole story. He especially liked the cat in the story, it is on every page and we have a big cat. The snowman book and tape arrived on Christmas Eve and I wrapped it up and put it under the tree with the rest of his Christmas presents. Hunter was 18 mos. old when he got his first book and will be 3 yrs. old next week. It is a wonderful way for a child to hear his mom's voice. I play Hunter's [tape] before bed time as a way to prepare him for 'nite-nite' so the last thing he hears is his mommy's voice.

I would like to make a suggestion. I had to call several people to find someone with a cassette player as I no longer have one as most things are on CDs. I have a CD player and I can also play CDs on my computer. If it would be possible you might offer the option of a cassette or CD. CDs also last longer and sometimes the cassette tape breaks or gets balled up in the player. Just a thought.

On behalf of my great grandson, Hunter, and myself, we both sincerely thank you!



Our dancing partners (see Dancing with the Stars, opposite)

Pat Roberts for all her years as BOOK NOTES editor

Katy Sloan for a donation and for allowing WSP to receive a matching contribution from Google

Mona Carver and Carol Brown



for hosting such a wonderful Open Book Party

Brenda Keillor for all her time and expertise as technical chair. She wrote the laptop instructions, trained volunteers, and traveled many times to Gatesville and Dayton, to teach volunteers and launch the CD transition at the four units. She recently accepted a consulting job that will require her to travel.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Pat Roberts, volunteer extraordinaire, has been helping in many ways, and she brings a “special flavor to the WSP family.”

Pat has lived in Texas since 1983 with her husband, Steve. They have three grown daughters, Kerri, Kristin, and Katrina, and 10 grandchildren who call her “Grammie.” She enjoys crafts, especially with her grandchildren, photography, and playing games with friends.

In her spare time, she bakes and customizes cakes!



She has a B.S. in elementary education from Johnson State College in Vermont. Pat is a retired sixth grade language arts teacher, and a member of the Good News United Methodist Church, where she is the mission team leader. Her team just completed pack-

ing 103 health kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Pat has worn many hats for Women’s Story-book Project! She has been a team leader at Hilltop ever since the program started there. She has been the wonderful writer and editor of BOOK NOTES, the WSP newsletter, and is currently a presenter of our program to groups and parties in the Cedar Park area. On the first documentary about WSP, Pat says, “We help the children, we help the families and we help the prison. This is my tiny way of giving back outside the boundaries of my family.”

Hats off to Pat!



DANCING WITH THE STARS!



Rapt Aerial Dance Company are eight dancers who have taken their passion to the sky. They’ve even opened for Willie Nelson. As the charity sponsor for their January 22 Blind Tiger Aerial Soiree, WSP was honored to receive a portion of the proceeds. Many thanks to these *enrapturing* dancers!

(left: Rapt dancer with a volunteer)



Capoeira Evolução (above) sponsored a community dance fundraising event in January, and chose WSP and the *Girls Empowerment Network* to receive proceeds. Seventy-five dancers participated along with live percussion. What a wonderful way to give back!

Dress Code Reminder for Volunteers

NOT ALLOWED: knives, mace, weapons of any kind; phones, pagers, etc.; purses; cameras, photographs; paper money; food items; lighter, matches, tobacco; offensive pictures/language on clothes; white top or pants; clothing that is tight, revealing, see-through, or sleeveless (shoulders must be covered); shorts; hats; sandals that do not cover the top of the foot, i.e., flip-flops, shower shoes.

PERMISSIBLE: sandals/open-toe shoes that cover the top of the foot; skirts (not less than 3 inches above the middle of the knee) capris (3 inches below the knee), pants; sealed bottle of water; sunglasses; tissues; car keys.

MUST HAVE: Photo ID. If you cannot be wanded due to a medical reason (i.e., a pacemaker), you must have documentation indicating metal detector screening may cause malfunction; pat search is required.



**WOMEN'S
STORYBOOK
PROJECT
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700 E. 11th Street
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Do you know anyone
who might want to become
a WSP sponsor?

Book \$3,000
Chapter \$1,000
Paragraph \$500

THIS JUST IN! WSP has hit the big TIMES!



The *NEW YORK TIMES*, that is. “Capturing the Voices of Mothers in Prison,” by WSP volunteer Kristin Sample, posted July 6, and “Reading Aloud to My Daughter, From Prison,” by Lauri Arrington, former offender and WSP participant, posted July 7, the Times parenting blog, Motherlode.



We need your help to make BOOK NOTES newsworthy!

Please send your stories and photos to share about WSP to:
info@storybookproject.org.

BOOK NOTES will be produced quarterly. A hard copy will be mailed twice a year; an electronic issue will be sent quarterly. To receive the electronic issue, please contact: admin@storybookproject.org.