

Fall 2000

Community works

Newsletter of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa



COMMUNITY
SERVICE COUNCIL
OF GREATER TULSA

*Providing
leadership for
community-based
planning and
mobilization of
resources to best
meet the human
service needs
of the greater
Tulsa area*

Annual meeting

The Community Service Council annual meeting will be Tuesday, **December 5**, at noon, in the Tulsa Area United Way Building--Collins Room. Officers and members of the Board of Directors for 2001 will be elected. All Board members and member agencies of the Council are invited to attend.



When disaster strikes

*The Volunteer Center announces a new plan
for coordinating volunteer assistance*

The Tulsa Volunteer Center has recently developed a plan to coordinate "emergent" volunteers in the event of a local disaster, under an agreement with Project Impact of the City of Tulsa and in collaboration with the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency.

We have learned from the traumatic events in our own state that large numbers of untrained volunteers who have no connection with disaster relief agencies will come forward to help when disaster strikes. How our community utilizes these "spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers" contributes significantly to a comprehensive response plan and, ultimately, a successful recovery for our city. Our hope is that this plan never has to be implemented. But, we must be prepared to quickly mobilize and deploy large numbers of volunteers to meet a broad array of community needs in the aftermath of a disaster.

Tulsa County is vulnerable to a wide range of threats, the most significant of which are **tornados**, floods, hazardous material incidents, transportation accidents, and urban fires. In the event of a disaster, many people in our community, desiring to help, will come forward to offer their time and resources to help others. Responding agencies and organizations will require competent assistance in order to meet community needs. These organizations are likely to include:

- ◆ Traditional disaster relief agencies, e.g., Red Cross, Salvation Army, Food Bank
- ◆ Local governments, e.g., cities, county, special districts
- ◆ Community-based organizations, especially those that serve vulnerable populations
- ◆ Groups not previously known or not previously involved in disaster preparedness/response

In the recovery phase, the Tulsa Volunteer Center will:

- ◆ Operate a central call center by establishing a phone bank at the SUNTECH phone center located at 9th and Detroit where TVC staff and volunteers will receive all calls from the general public wanting to help.
- ◆ Initiate and maintain contact with helping/responding agencies to gather information about their volunteer needs.
- ◆ Match volunteers with particular skills to agencies where those skills can be best utilized to meet critical community needs.
- ◆ Provide ongoing updates about what agencies need volunteers for, so that Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency can tell the public through local media.
- ◆ Using our database of potential volunteer resources, contact sources where volunteers might be recruited to meet specific needs, i.e. union groups, corporations with employee volunteer groups, schools, civic groups, etc.

The Volunteer Center is a program of the Community Service Council. Call for more information: 585-5551.

2000 CSC Community Awards Celebration

Congratulations to all who were honored at the Council's annual Awards Celebration on October 26th!



In the spirit of the Dream Catcher ... with these awards, the Community Service Council celebrates progress toward catching, shaping, and realizing our community's dreams for a brighter future

Carole Huff Hicks, outgoing President of the Community Service Council, received sincere thanks for her two years as President and her many years of service to the Council.



Enjoy more information and photos from the Awards Celebration on the CSC website!

www.csctulsa.org

The Awards Presentation, in the Gilcrease Auditorium, was followed by a Reception in the Vista Room, hosted by AEP-Public Service Company of Oklahoma.

Brook and Jill Tarbel presented the **Tarbel Award for Contribution in the Field of Disabilities** to **Joseph C. Fallin, Esq.** ... longstanding leader and advocate for Oklahomans with disabilities.



Brook Tarbel, presenting the award to Joseph Fallin

Susan Neal presented the **Community Service Council Partner Award** to **QuikTrip Corporation** ... innovator in corporate support for important community service initiatives.

2000 Dream Catcher Award honorees are:

Deborah S. Karns ... committed system-builder for home and community based long term care services for low-income frail elderly and others with chronic health needs.

Steven Dow and **Jerome Lee** ... visionary risk-takers and partnership builders for high quality early education and care for young children from low-income families.



Award winners and presenters (left to right) included: Jerome Lee, Ken Lackey, Barbara Gish, Joseph Fallin, Russell Bennett, Steven Dow, David Bernstein, Rep. Mike Thornbrugh, Mrs. Thornbrugh, Deborah Karns, Melanie Spector, Susan Neal, Chester Cadieux, Sen. Mike Morgan

David Bernstein presented the **David Bernstein Distinguished Leadership Award** to **Rev. Russell Bennett** ... tireless and caring leader for individual and social justice.



David Bernstein, Rev. Russell Bennett, Carole Huff Hicks, Susan Neal, and Phil Dessauer, Jr.

Rep. Mike Thornbrugh, Sen. Mike Morgan, Barbara Gish, Ken Lackey and **Susan Neal** ... effective advocates for a multidisciplinary team system for child abuse investigations, implemented throughout Oklahoma.

Dr. Melanie Spector ... crusader for HIV/AIDS prevention for incarcerated women.

The Council's Work Impacts the Tulsa Community

Leadership for positive change ... innovative approaches ... award-winning initiatives

Empowering East Tulsa Youth ... Recycle Olympics 2000

The youth committee from the East Tulsa Prevention Coalition and TulsaRecycles! curbside recycling program teamed up to present the first-ever Recycle Olympics 2000. On October 19, more than 300 youth and adults participated in this event, planned and staffed by East Tulsa youth.

"We wanted to host an event that originated from the Coalition and involved every sector of the community," said Gary Percefull, CSC Board member and event Chair. "With this one event we were able to address many of our coalition goals."

The East Tulsa Prevention Coalition's mission is positive development of families and youth. Sponsored by the Community Service Council's Area Prevention Resource Center, the Coalition is supported by numerous school, community, civic, business, cultural, faith, and student organizations.

Twenty-four teams of 5-8 middle and high school youth competed in five Olympic-style competitions for cash prizes (\$200, \$100 & \$50); teams' winnings will support their groups' activities. Teams represented a cross section of the community: church groups, apartments, theater groups, leadership groups, cultural groups, and many different school organizations including ROTC, Honor Society, Speech, Academic teams, Key Club, and Student Council.

Teens participated in the Obstacle Course Relay, a paper airplane competition, recyclables sorting competition, academic recycling trivia, and a recycled art competition.



"We really made an effort to appeal to all types of kids from athletic, to cerebral, to artistic," said Community Service Council Youth Planner, Emily Thompson.

Forty-seven youth volunteers ran the team games, the team check-in, and the volunteer check-in, and assisted the organizations that provided individual games.

The entire coalition got involved in this event. Additional individual recycling activities and prizes for youth of all ages were provided by the City of Tulsa Park and Recreation Department and Public Works, Tulsa Refuse, Ogden Martin, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Citizens Crime Commission, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Neighborhood Financial Center, Community Action Project of Tulsa County, and the YWCA Intercultural Service Center. Coalition chair, Deputy Police Chief Charlie Jackson, was present and supported the event by bringing twelve School Resource Officers to volunteer. Cherokee Village Neighborhood Association volunteers served pizza, pop, and ice cream. The Met collected approximately 300 pledge cards signed by participants promising to recycle which entered them in a prize drawing for an electric scooter.

The Coalition is committed to involving youth as true partners in planning and decision-making, giving both adults and youth the experience of working together as equals. The Area Prevention Resource Center's Youth Planners, Emily Thompson, a senior at Booker T. Washington, and Theresa Nguyen, a senior at East Central, have been employed by the Community Service Council since last summer. They were the liaisons to the youth committee, recruited the teams and youth volunteers, and deserve much of the credit for the event's success.



Youth came up with the idea for the t-shirt and poster design which had a "Where's Binny?" theme. Binny is the City of Tulsa's recycling mascot,

a walking, talking recycle bin.

A team of six youth coalition members were mentored in marketing efforts by Gary Percefull, a partner in The Scissortail Group, a public relations firm. They personally distributed press releases to television and radio stations and the Tulsa World. Their efforts paid off when the youth appeared on two morning shows and the event was covered by three television stations, two radio stations, and the Tulsa World.

The youth also conceived the idea of making the "World's Largest Aluminum Can Pyramid"--a large overall project that everyone could contribute to by bringing recyclables. The result: a pyramid that reached nearly six feet high and required about 2,200 soda cans to build. The pyramid was later featured in the Brookside BooHaHa Parade and will be displayed in front of the Martin-East Regional Library to promote America Recycles Day on November 15th.



CSC's East Tulsa Prevention Coalition team includes Gary Percefull, Dolores Verbonitz, Theresa Nguyen, and Karen Smith.

"Congratulations ..."



Jim Lyall, CSC Associate Director, is celebrating **20 years at the Council** in November.

Lyall (pictured with his wife, Sherry) joined the Council as director of Helpline, and now oversees the Council's Information and Communication Services division and coordinates community involvement addressing emergency services, homelessness and basic needs. He was honored with a surprise luncheon at the office on November 3rd.



David Bernstein was recently honored with the annual **Interfaith Award** sponsored by Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and NCCJ.

He recently retired after sixteen years of service as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa; previously he served as Executive Director of the Community Service Council from 1973 until 1984, and of the Mental Health Association in Tulsa from 1969 until 1973. He helped create the Suicide Prevention Center in Tulsa (1968), HELPLINE (1970), and Tulsa's Intercultural Service Center. He has worked for resettlement of Soviet Jewry and Vietnamese refugees over the years. He has also been an active member of Tulsa's SAY NO TO HATE COALITION and a participant in the NCCJ's Trialogues.

David Bernstein has come out of a very short retirement to coordinate CSC's new **2-1-1-HELPLINE** initiative.

The **Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC)** has been honored by Keep Oklahoma Beautiful with the **Youth Community Agency award for Youth Environmental Project of the Year**. Their award-winning project was part of Tulsa's first **National Youth Service Day** — an annual day of service for millions of youth who volunteer all around the world.

YVC, Keep Tulsa Beautiful, and The City of Tulsa organized the local project through which 100 Tulsa youth partnered with 100 adult National Service Members from across Oklahoma to clean up an area near the Greenwood historic district. Volunteers cleaned 90 tons of trash with help from city workers. Debris included everything from old tires and couches to abandoned boats and cars. The area has been blocked off to keep trash from collecting again, and the city is now working on plans for the area. A party after the event on the grounds of OSU Tulsa celebrated youth volunteerism.



Buck Robinson, an 8th grader at Madison Middle School, participated in the award-winning youth environmental project

Two Youth Advisory Council members, Katie Miller and Emily Ashby, Union Intermediate High School students, and Ricki Wimmer, Program Director of the YVC of Tulsa (part of the Tulsa Volunteer Center), received the award on behalf of the YVC at the KOB statewide conference in August. The YVC is already planning for the 2001 National Youth Service Day Project.

Congratulations to CSC staff members **Janice Nicklas** and **Mary Finley**. Both earned places on the U.S. duathlon team, then traveled to Calais, France to compete in the **World Duathlon Championship** on October 7th.



In Calais for the World Duathlon Championship: Tulsans Marilyn Cunningham, Janice Nicklas and Mary Finley

Janice Nicklas was honored at the national level by Funders Concerned About AIDS, for her outstanding leadership in making Tulsa "a more compassionate and accessible place for all those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS." She received the **2000 Russ Radley AIDS Grantmaker Award** during the Council on Foundations annual conference in Los Angeles.

Alice Blue and **Karen Smith** were recently commended by **The Williams Companies** for parenting workshops they presented for company employees. Both are with the **Area Prevention Resource Center**, sponsored by the Community Service Council.



Sally Frasier, a Tulsa City-County Library Commissioner (and a member of the Board of the Community Service Council), was recently named to the first-ever **National Advocacy Honor Roll** by the American Library Association and Associates for Library Trustees and Advocates.

This award recognizes those who have supported and strengthened library services at a local, state and national level. Sally Frasier has served on the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, the Urban Libraries Council Board, and Friends of the Library in Tulsa and Oklahoma.

She helped lead the 1998 campaign which received the largest voter approval in library history and resulted in remodeling and refurbishing 23 libraries in Tulsa County. (The late) Phil Dessauer, father of CSC Executive Director Phil Dessauer, Jr., also received this honor.



Sally Frasier reads a favorite story to children at the Kendall-Whittier Library.

Day of Caring

Hundreds of corporate volunteers assisted Council-related programs through this year's United Way Day of Caring

The Community Service Council salutes the many caring volunteers who made these projects possible!

TULSA ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES: TULSA HOUSING AUTHORITY

On September 8, as a part of United Way's Day of Caring 2000, employees from The Holmes Organisation displayed their outstanding talents for "multi-tasking" by assembling 50 bed kits for families who move into Tulsa Housing Authority Riverview and Sandy Park apartment complexes.

The TAF bed kits are distributed throughout the year to families who have relocated to the apartment complexes and have little or no resources for their children. Blankets, hand towels, washcloths, toothbrushes/toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and

combs, plus books for the children are included in the bed kits and were generously donated by employees from Bank of Oklahoma, Sunoco, Inc., Bank One, ONG, and The Holmes Organisation.

In their "spare time" time that day, the Holmes Team also assembled 200 information kits for TAF families and painted one of TAF's offices and the adjacent hallway! The Tulsa Alliance for Families gratefully acknowledges the individual and company commitment to our TAF families.

Day of Caring--continued on next page ...

CSC welcomes 2000-2001 National AIDS Fund AmeriCorps Team-Tulsa

Team members (from left) and their host sites are:
(Not pictured: Melinda Foster--Community of Hope)



Jamie Baker--Tulsa C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry
Terry Taylor, second year member--Planned Parenthood
Kara Jones, team coordinator--American Red Cross
Brad Gordon--H.O.P.E. Testing Clinic
Wanda Cruz--Planned Parenthood
Sam Wolthuis--University of Tulsa and Planned Parenthood

(Far right:) Janice Nicklas, CSC Staff

EAST TULSA PREVENTION COALITION: COOPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On September 8, 27 volunteers from the Nordam Group visited Cooper Elementary School for a Day of Caring Project. This project was a collaborative effort between East Tulsa Prevention Coalition, Cooper Elementary School, Cooper PTA, and the Nordam Group. The main focus of the project was to clean out the courtyard in the middle of the school for an outdoor science classroom. The volunteers cleaned out the fountain, built three flower beds for flowers, vegetables, and herbs, prepared the ground for planting, and planted some flowers.



They also worked with the children painting bird houses, read to the children, and fixed playground equipment. The East Tulsa Prevention Coalition helped coordinate the project and purchased some of the supplies. Cooper PTA purchased food, beverages, and snacks for the volunteers.



At recess, the children beat the volunteers in a heated game of soccer.

AVID READERS

Thirty Williams Companies employee volunteers read to more than sixty young children at six day care centers, through the AVID Readers Program.

AVID (Area Volunteers Instilling Desire) seeks to improve literacy by helping young children develop a lifelong love of reading.

WEATHER COALITION

Fifteen volunteers from the staff of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services worked hard for the Tulsa Weather Coalition on this year's Day of Caring. Home visits were completed and air conditioner units were cleaned on behalf of 50 clients.

DHS volunteers also performed some very important end of season inventory tasks that will get the Tulsa Weather Coalition off to a good start in 2001.

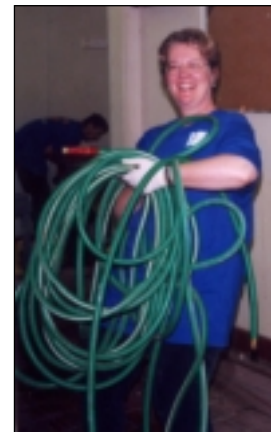
Special thanks to Martha Lowe for organizing the DHS volunteers.

VOLUNTEER CENTER WRAPSHOP

On Friday, September 8th, 34 Day of Caring volunteers from Tulsa University worked at the Volunteer Center's WrapShop preparing the site for our annual holiday fund raising event.



The group, included staff, faculty and students, worked from 9 - 3 moving stored supplies from Sapulpa to Woodland Hills Mall, cleaning floors, building tables and shelves, and hanging the many paper racks. In addition they provided a truck to haul the supplies and many brought tools.



This was a great group who would not stop until the job was completed. Mazzio's provided lunch.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER: GOLDEN PAINTBRUSH AWARD

Making Child Care Better for Tulsa

Ten child care programs were invited to suggest ways volunteers could help improve their sites. Each request included a painting project. Paint was indeed flowing on September 8th as the following companies completed these projects:

CROWE & DUNLEVY sent 15 employees to KIDS KASTLE in Sand Springs to paint interior rooms, build a sandbox, and complete other playground maintenance. Kids Kastle is a new program where the director, a former family child care home provider, has expanded to meet the needs of more children by opening a child care center.

DETRICK PRUDENTIAL REAL ESTATE had 10 employees working at SALVATION ARMY NORTH both painting and working on playground maintenance. Salvation Army North and Salvation Army West are both Success by Six ® sites working with the United Way and the Child Care Resource Center to improve the quality of child care through a project funded by Bank of America.

MARK IV AUTOMOTIVE enlisted 10 employees to make outdoor improvements, painting several pieces of climbing equipment and the window awnings. ROBYN'S NEST had just received their 2 STAR rating from the Department of Human Services that week, and also had been notified that it had been awarded a grant for additional playground improvements.

BANK OF AMERICA & SAGENET were able to send a total of 10 volunteers to Day Schools #1 at 51st and Memorial. These volunteers installed a basketball goal, painted hopscotch on the playground, and also worked on interior painting. Several volunteers also spent time reading with the children. DAY SCHOOLS #1 is a 2 STAR program working with Child Care Resource Center's (CCRC) Quality Through Accreditation Project to become an accredited program.

UNIVERSITY OF TULSA had 35 students and staff members involved in painting a large gym floor for CROSSTOWN EARLY LEARNING CENTER, a NAEYC, 3 STAR program. The Crosstown gym has been the recipient of several mural painting projects during previous Day of Caring events. When the students finished painting the floor they decided to add the VERY LARGE TREE to the Winnie the Pooh wall.

TULSA'S LONG TERM CARE AUTHORITY had 10 volunteers painting the indoor playroom at MEMORIAL VILLAGE CHILD CARE, and made plans for painting a wall mural at SALVATION ARMY WEST.

TULSA GLASS PLANT arrived with 40 volunteers at OSAGE HILLS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER. Their work included outdoor playground maintenance and building and grounds attention, painting play equipment, interior walls, and a newly built covered patio for a playground for infants and toddlers. They also built an indoor play area, installing carpet and a small decorative fence. Osage Hills CDC is a 2 STAR program that has also received their NAEYC accreditation while being part of CCRC's Quality Through Accreditation Program.

CHUBBS INSURANCE sent 15 volunteers to TOWNE SQUARE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER to paint outdoor play equipment, and a mural of "paper dolls" around the outside of their facility. The volunteers also secured an outdoor picnic table, trimmed tree limbs, and completed other playground maintenance. Towne Square CDC is also a 2 STAR program that has received NAEYC accreditation through the CCRC accreditation program.

TULSA FEDERAL EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION was welcomed by HAPPY HANDS for their painting project. Eleven volunteers worked painting classrooms and a stairway. HAPPY HANDS is a program for children who are deaf or have deaf parents or siblings. They are a 3 STAR, NAEYC accredited program.

This project is unique because it involved 10 child care centers serving over 850 children that all benefitted from over 150 volunteers willing to spend a "Day of Caring." Each program has newly painted rooms, and a new perspective of United Way and how volunteers care about their community.

A child care center director called afterward and asked if she could be put on the list for Day of Caring next year. She had heard from another program about their participation. One of the center directors continually thanked the volunteers at her building. "I just can't believe you really care enough to do this kind of work for us."



The Community Service Council thanks all the 2000 Day of Caring volunteers!



2000 WrapShop

Raising funds for the Tulsa Volunteer Center

As the holiday season approaches, everyone is invited to join in the fun at the WrapShop, an annual fund-raising project benefitting the Tulsa Volunteer Center. The WrapShop will be open **December 9-24** at Woodland Hills Mall, 71st & Memorial, on the upper level, in the food court.

By having holiday gifts beautifully wrapped, or (new this year!) by buying wrapping supplies there, people can support the programs of the Volunteer Center year-'round.

Volunteers are needed for morning, afternoon or evening shifts, to wrap gifts, make bows, take orders, inventory supplies, and assist with package pick-up. Family members or groups may volunteer together.

For more information, please call the Volunteer Center at 585-5551.

About the Community Service Council and "Community Works"...

The Community Service Council provides **leadership** to help the Tulsa area community work together to identify and address its **health and human service needs**. With a focus on **prevention**, the Council works to improve conditions which promote the highest quality of life for all residents, as well as to assure a high-quality, cost-effective, accessible, well-organized continuum of services which can assist people in need in a successful and caring way.

To accomplish these goals, the Community Service Council conducts **research** ... mobilizes collaborative community-based **planning and action** ... develops **pilot projects** ... provides **information** about conditions, needs, services, and best practices ... **advocates** for effective decision making ... **supports service providers** through technical assistance and networking opportunities ... **links people**

with helping resources ... and **promotes volunteerism**.

The Council is a non-profit citizen-led United Way agency, founded in 1941. It is a founding member of and has provided leadership for the National Association of Planning Councils.

At the Community Service Council we believe that **effective action depends upon accurate and useful information** and a thoughtful understanding of complex problems and issues, their causes and interrelationships, and what works in preventing or alleviating them.

This "Community Works" newsletter helps further effective action by describing **successes** achieved by groups and individuals working together ... emerging **trends** ... **research findings** and their implications ...

reflections and personal stories from leaders in the field, within and outside the Council ... **advocacy updates** and calls to action ... useful new **publications** ... **opportunities** to become involved ... and **information** about the Council, its work and its people.

The theme "**community works**" suggests *community involvement and support, community decision making, and building for the future based on a strong sense of community.*

We hope the Council, this newsletter, and our new website, www.csctulsa.org, will be helpful to you in your work.

We welcome your ideas and involvement! Please contact Phil Dessauer, Jr., Executive Director (pdessauer@csctulsa.org) or Conni Hussain (info@csctulsa.org) at the Community Service Council, 918/585-5551.



2000 Friends of the Council Campaign

The Community Service Council thanks these Friends for their generous support!

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Nancy Kachel by Martin Wing
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by "K" and Tim Caldwell
Nancy McDonald by Jack J. Francis
Nancy McDonald by Martin Wing
Dr. Dan Plunket by Dr. Stan
and Barbara Grogg
Robert J. Riggs, Jr. by Debora Grillot

***Please help support the important work
of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa!***

We hope you'll consider the Council for your end-of-year charitable contributions.



TULSA KICKOFF EVENT:

Tuesday,
December 5
11:30-12:30
Reynolds Center
11th & Harvard

International Year of Volunteers 2001

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001). Tulsa's "kickoff" event for this special year will be at the Reynolds Center on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 11:30-12:30. All area nonprofits, corporations, churches, schools, clubs, groups, and individuals are invited to take a few minutes to cheer on the volunteers who give so much to Tulsa. Agencies and groups are encouraged to carry banners and wear their uniforms when they take their place together in the volunteer parade. The celebration will feature local celebrities, a Mayoral proclamation, commemorative ribbons for all volunteers, and more.

International organizations and countries representing hundreds of millions of volunteers worldwide have joined the United Nations to commemorate the year. The U.S. Steering Committee includes United Way of America, Points of Light Foundation, Association of Junior Leagues International, Volunteers of America, and many others.

Goals include **recognition** of volunteer service as an important part of all communities; **facilitation** of volunteer service for the greater good of society; **networking** to increase partnering of successful volunteer programs with community and business sectors; and **promotion** to create a climate of public and official opinion more supportive of voluntary action.

All Tulsans are asked to "remember to recognize, enable, and promote the volunteer spirit in your company or organization throughout the coming year!"

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