



Rehabilitation Programs Division Quarterly Newsletter

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Mission Statement

A team of professionals skilled in developing and providing rehabilitation and reentry programs that facilitate positive change in the lives of offenders.



Program Spotlight/Success Corner

Rarely do I come across an organization that provides so many wonderful services to so many people, and fits into so many service-related categories. The Calvary Commission, with its international Christian missionary work, TDCJ chaplaincy volunteers, and Christian residential after-care, is a pioneer in helping to create promise-filled futures for ex-offenders like Willie Rodriguez, a former Serious Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) inmate.

The Calvary Commission operates an orphanage, a relief distribution center, as well as churches in Mexico, and has formed the Greater Europe Outreach to provide educational and relief programs in Romania and other Eastern European countries. It operates development programs for indigenous tribes in Mexico and Peru, a chaplaincy program ministry in the prison system in Belize, Central America, as well as developing chaplaincy training and certification in Cuba.

The Calvary Commission also operates the International Center of Missions, a Bible college format institute with on-site training in foreign countries to develop missionaries for strategic missions assignments. It also provides short-term opportunities for missions exposure.

Calvary Commission – Christian Volunteer Service Providers and After-care Transition with God’s Vision by Rhonda Slater



Willie was 16 years old when he was convicted of Aggravated Robbery, and sentenced to 13 years at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). He spent most of his sentence in Administrative Segregation as a very troubled, angry young man, having been a gang member since barely entering high school. Leslie Woolley, Program Director of SVORI at the Estelle High Security Unit, saw a spark in this young man, and accepted him into the SVORI program. Willie stated that he decided to strive to change, that he didn’t want to be in prison for the

rest of his life. Through the SVORI program, he discovered God by reading the Bible, and he felt God’s call to change the direction in which his life was going. He informed me that the SVORI program can show willing participants how to look at life positively and can give them necessary job skills, such as working with computers. He realized that the SVORI staff didn’t have to help offenders like him, and he appreciated their sacrifices to help him change. When he became eligible for parole, he applied to the Calvary Commission, where, if he wanted, he could attend bible college and perform missionary work. Willie was paroled on October 13, 2010 to the Calvary Commission in Lindale, Texas. He stated that God helps him stay on a positive path in life; he also has a willingness not to return to prison or bad, destructive habits. He also explained that serving Christ, giving to people, and adopting a low-income neighborhood for an urban renewal program through inner-city churches and camps, makes him feel successful (he grew up in a low-income neighborhood in San Antonio, Texas).

Program Spotlight/Success Corner, cont'd.

Willie explained that when he arrived at the Calvary Commission, he observed that the house had strict rules, such as the residents could not watch secular television or listen to secular music. He realized that he had changed because all he wanted to do was read his bible. He also learned new skills while staying at the house, such as carpentry through re-building houses. He also attends Bible College, and explained to me that through reading the Bible, he has improved his reading skills. Intake Coordinator and Pastor Patrick Heese told me that Willie is attending classes to get his GED through Tyler Junior College. Willie also travels with the Calvary Commission to places like Mexico, Corpus Christi, and Galveston to spread the word of God to gang members. Willie tells them his story, hoping to inspire positive change. Willie returns to county jails to share his story with other inmates, as well. He says that when he tells the inmates of the 10 years he spent in Administrative Segregation and the positive changes in his life, they are amazed. At the end of our interview, Willie told me that it is wonderful to be free and not worry about anything, and "there is a life out here."

Pastor Heese helped coordinate Willie's move to the Calvary Commission, my interviews with Willie, as well as with the founder of Calvary Commission, Joe Fauss. In 1996, Heese, a former TDCJ inmate at the Lopez State Jail, heard Fauss talk about the Calvary Commission during one of his visits, and decided that he wanted to work with him upon release. In 1998, Patrick Heese received approval to go to the Calvary Commission, and since then, he has traveled to Mexico, the Gurney and Huntsville Units, as well as Lopez State Jail "to give hope to the offenders through the Scriptures."

The Calvary Commission can also help those who remain with them the opportunity of earning an Associate Degree through their International Center of Missions (ICOM), and their Bachelor, Masters, or Doctorate degrees through affiliate organizations; however, not every ex-offender who participates at the Calvary Commission chooses to become a minister. The Calvary Commission also provides services to the ex-offenders such as life skills, and those who leave the Calvary Commission are encouraged to find a place of worship that will help them find employment. Ex-offenders can learn from other Calvary Commission participants how to pour concrete, rebuild houses or buildings, learn plumbing, tiling, carpentry, or electrician skills while staying at the Calvary Commission.

Pastor Heese explained that eligibility requirements for an offender to be accepted to the Calvary Commission are very strenuous. A potential candidate must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Must be very active in Chaplaincy programs;
- Must be within one (1) year of parole;
- Cannot be classified as a sex offender;
- Cannot have need for MH/MR services; and
- No recent disciplinaries.

Pastor Heese further explained that a potential candidate must get a recommendation from their unit chaplain, and must be involved in full-time Bible study. Offenders cannot be observed watching secular television shows. Potential candidates must realize that the Calvary Commission is very structured; from 6:00 AM – 10:00PM, participants at the

Calvary Commission are required to work and/or study the Bible. Participants must realize that God has a calling for them, and they must surrender to God's plan for them. "The potential candidate is a humble disciple of God, someone who wants to be taught," explained Pastor Heese. Some paroled offenders will stay through their transition to the free world, and then the Calvary Commission will help them by connecting them to a church family who can help them find employment. Some, like Willie, choose to make the Calvary Commission participants their family, and the Commission housing is their home. Willie's childhood was difficult, but through his faith in God, he has reconnected with his sister and brother. However, his new home and family are the staff and residents of the Calvary Commission.

Mr. Fauss has been a visiting chaplain with the TDCJ since 1974. Many inmates who have heard him speak about God's message of hope have become inspired to read the Bible and follow a Christian path, either by themselves or through their work at the Calvary Commission. Mr. Fauss spoke briefly with me about the Calvary Commission's origin in Tyler, Texas. In 1969, he and his wife started a Teen Challenge Center in their coffee house. They observed how their young customers to whom they were ministering the word of God had lost their way to the extent that some were being sent to prison. Mr. Fauss explained that when he and his wife went to minister to their former customers, they also encountered other offenders who needed help. Thus, in 1977, the Fauss's created the Calvary Commission. Now, 34 years later, the Calvary Commission houses men in Lindale, Texas, and women in The Refuge Women's Center in Palestine, Texas. The men's dormitory was completed in 1998, while the women's housing was completed in 2006. The Refuge Women's Center is a place of security and solitude, where the paroled women can transition successfully and re-connect with their children.

Not all of the Calvary Commission participants are ex-offenders, so the paroled offender must learn to acclimate successfully to a new environment, which in itself is extremely difficult. An offender who found Christianity during incarceration needs residential aftercare that "can provide structure, training, discipline, discipleship, and a Christian community to meet the paroled offender's spiritual, physical, social, emotional needs, and provide the ex-offender with vision and goals for a successful future." The Calvary Commission can assist those offenders who became involved in Christian-based studies while incarcerated to transition to the free world without faltering in their beliefs.

For more information about the Calvary Commission, please visit the following website: <http://www.calvarycommission.org/about/>.



Current Issues

Adult Corrections Reform: Lower Crime, Lower Costs by Marc Levin, Director, Center for Effective Justice

In the last several years, Texas has become emblematic of the growing movement to be both tough and smart on crime, as it has achieved significant declines in both its crime and incarceration rates. Policies initiated since 2005 have expanded capacity in alternatives to incarceration that hold nonviolent offenders accountable and provide effective supervision. Since that time, Texas has seen a double-digit reduction in crime, reaching its lowest crime rate since 1973.¹ In this same period, the state's adult incarceration rate has fallen 9 percent. Texas, which in 2004 had the nation's second highest incarceration rate, now has the fourth highest.²

Texas Crime and Incarceration Rates Tumble³

| Year | FBI Index Crime Rate | Incarceration Rate Per 100k |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2005 | 4,857.1 | 681 |
| 2010 | 4,236.4 | 620 |
| % Change | -12.8% | -9.0% |

Two key budgetary strategies enabled Texas to cut crime and avoid building more than 17,000 new prison beds.

The first strategy involved appropriating \$55 million in 2005 for probation departments that agreed to target 10 percent fewer prison revocations and to implement graduated sanctions. Graduated sanctions ensure swift, sure, and commensurate sanctions (e.g., increased reporting, extended term, electronic monitoring, weekend in jail, etc.) for rules violations, such as missing meetings, rather than letting them pile up and then revoking that probationer to prison. Most of the funding went towards reducing caseloads from nearly 150 (in major urban areas) to 110 probationers per officer, and expanding specialized, much smaller caseloads for subgroups such as mentally ill probationers. This facilitated closer supervision, and the consistent application of such sanctions, which led to a decline in revocations in these departments, saving taxpayers \$119 million.⁴

The second strategy, in 2007, was the appropriation of \$241 million for a package of prison alternatives that included more intermediate sanctions and substance abuse treatment beds, drug courts, and mental illness treatment slots. This package was in lieu of spending \$2 billion on 17,332 new prison beds that the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) had otherwise projected would be needed by 2012.⁵ The search for alternatives came in response to statements from judges, prosecutors, and corrections officials, bolstered by data, indicating that increasing numbers of low-level, nonviolent offenders were being directly sentenced, or revoked from probation, to prison. Why? Because of long waiting lists for many alternatives.

Furthermore, parolees often remained in prison because of waiting lists for halfway houses and programs they had to complete before release, a backlog addressed by the 2007 package.⁶ All told, the 2008-09 budget added 4,000 new probation and parole treatment beds, 500 in-

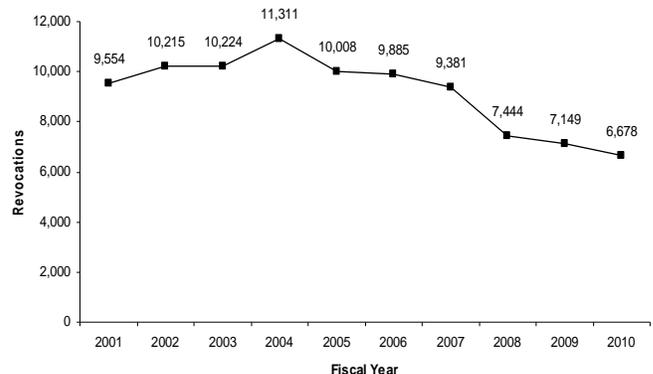
prison treatment beds, 1,200 halfway house beds, 1,500 mental health pre-trial diversion beds, and 3,000 outpatient drug treatment slots.

Perhaps reflecting increased confidence by judges, juries, and prosecutors in probation, sentences to prison actually declined 6 percent in 2009 while more nonviolent offenders went on probation.⁷ This reversed the historical increase of 6 percent per year in prison commitments.⁸

Furthermore, probation and parole revocations together account for approximately half of the annual prison intakes, and both have declined recently as supervision has been strengthened.⁹ From 2005 to 2010, Texas' probation revocation rate fell from 16.4 to 14.7 percent.¹⁰

Similarly, during the last several years, parole offices have improved supervision by expanding the use of graduated sanctions, implementing instant drug testing, and restoring the parole chaplaincy program. Thus, despite there being more parolees, the number of new crimes committed by parolees declined 8.5 percent from 2007 to 2010, contributing to a sharp reduction in parole revocations.¹¹

Texas Parole Revocations to Prison¹²



Capitalizing on Texas' recent success, the Legislature in 2011 followed the recommendation of both the Texas Public Policy Foundation and Governor Rick Perry in ordering the closure of the Sugar Land Central Unit, the first such prison closure in Texas history. This will save taxpayers approximately \$20 million over the biennium in operating costs, in addition to the one-time proceeds from the sale of the property.

In 2011, Texas policymakers also took many additional steps to continue the new Texas trend of lower crime and incarceration rates. First, lawmakers grappling with a challenging budget environment found operational savings such as closing one adult and three juvenile lock-ups and reducing subsidized housing for high-level corrections officials, rather than cutting back on cost-effective alternatives to prison and in-prison treatment programs that have paid dividends since being expanded in 2007.

Current Issues, cont'd.

In 2011, lawmakers also passed, and the Governor signed, several key bills. SB 1055 allows counties to opt for performance incentive funding based on reducing commitments to prison of low-level offenders while also reducing recidivism, increasing the share of probationers making victim restitution, and increasing the employment rate among probationers. Second, HB 1205 creates a positive incentive for probationers to pursue self-improvement by allowing judges to award time credits for exemplary behavior, such as earning a degree, fully paying restitution, and completing treatment programs.

Finally, HB 2649 is projected to save \$49 million by incentivizing state jail inmates, the lowest-level, nonviolent offenders in state lockups, to complete educational, treatment, and vocational programs and exhibit exemplary behavior. Under this legislation, judges can require those offenders who demonstrated such exemplary conduct to spend several months of their sentence on probation, whereas under the former law most state jail felons had no opportunity for probation or supervision upon release. Transitioning exemplary state jail inmates upon reentry to probation ensures that they will be held accountable to an officer, directed to find a job and housing, and required to comply with restrictions such as drug testing, curfews, and avoiding anti-social peers.

While Texas, like all states, has more work to do to strengthen its criminal justice system, Texas' progress over the last several years is a

shining example of how states can adopt strategies that deliver less crime and a lower bill to taxpayers.

Editors note: Reprinted and edited with permission from Texas Public Policy Foundation

¹ Texas Crime Rates, FBI Reports.

² Marc Levin, "Texas Criminal Justice Reform: Lower Crime, Lower Cost" Texas Public Policy Foundation (Jan. 2010).

³ Texas Crime Rates 1960-2010.

⁴ "Adult Probation" 2011-12 Texas Legislators' Guide to the Issues, Texas Public Policy Foundation.

⁵ "Adult & Juvenile Correctional Population Projections Fiscal Years 2007-2012" Legislative Budget Board (Jan. 2007).

⁶ "Justice Reinvestment in Texas: Assessing the Impact of the 2007 Justice Reinvestment Initiative" Council of State Governments Justice Center (Apr. 2009).

⁷ Garron Guszak, Legislative Budget Board, email (16 Dec. 2009).

⁸ "Current Correctional Population Indicators" Legislative Budget Board (Apr. 2011).

⁹ "Adult & Juvenile Correctional Population Projections Fiscal Years 2011-2016" Legislative Budget Board (Jan. 2011).

¹⁰ "Statewide Criminal Justice Recidivism and Revocation Rates" Legislative Budget Board (Jan. 2011).

¹¹ "2007 Annual Report" Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles; and "2010 Annual Report" Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

¹² Tony Fabelo, "Texas Justice Reinvestment: Outcomes, Challenges and Policy Options to Consider" Council of State Governments Justice Center (Mar. 2011); and Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Statistics.

Current News

Inside Texas prison, seminary begins to change lives by: Keith Collier, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Reaching Southwestern's newest student population takes a little effort and a criminal background check.

The journey begins with a drive south from Houston along a small farm-to-market road lined with fields of livestock and crops managed by some of Texas' most violent offenders.



After taking a lonely road to Darrington prison's front gate, Southwestern Seminary professors must pass through a series of security checkpoints, past the gates topped with razor wire, through a metal detector and pat-down, and down a hall to the education wing.

Housed in this maximum security unit, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's new bachelor's degree in biblical studies gives inmates the opportunity to experience life transformation through studying the Bible, as well as share that transformation with others.

Southwestern, in its first convocation inside Darrington's chapel, signified an innovative venture between the seminary and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Celebrating the launch of the new

program, seminary administrators joined state Sens. John Whitmire and Dan Patrick, as well as TDCJ leadership, special guests, and the 39 inmates who compose the inaugural class.

Ben Phillips, associate dean at Southwestern's Houston campus and director of the extension program, welcomed everyone to the convocation.

"We are here to celebrate what God is going to be doing and how God is going to use these men and the lives they touch to bring honor and glory to His name," Phillips said, "because we believe above all else that God uses His Gospel, given in His Word, to change people's lives, to take the worst of the worst, to take sinners and transform them into Christlike saints."

"I've been in literally scores of prisons, and this is a new experience for me, to be at a seminary inside a TDCJ facility, and Darrington will certainly be recognized for being a trailblazer," Whitmire, who chairs the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, told the media in a news conference prior to the convocation on Aug. 29.

Whitmire stepped across party lines to join Patrick, his fellow committee member, in getting legislative approval for the program. In spring 2010, the two traveled with TDCJ officials and seminary administration

Current News, cont'd.

to Louisiana's Angola Prison to see the program started by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, which served as the model for Darrington's new program.

While in Louisiana, Whitmire told Angola's warden, "I've never seen so many people serving a life sentence with a smile on their face." Two days later, he committed with others to work toward a similar program in Texas.

TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston also commented on the trip to Angola.

"The one incredible thing with the seminary there, and what we know will be the case here, is that when you give offenders hope -- in this case, hope through faith and the ability to change their hearts and lives -- significant changes occur both with respect to the individuals involved and also those they reach and touch after they go through the program."

The 125-hour accredited bachelor's degree is taught and supervised by three full-time and two adjunct professors from Southwestern Seminary. Forty inmate-students were selected from approximately 700 applications, with each of them having at least 10 years before parole eligibility. Two preliminary classes began in March in order to refine the program. Over the summer, the Darrington students learned research and writing skills to prepare for the official start of the program in August, which consists of 15 credit hours. The fall semester began with 39 of the 40 students enrolled.

Everyone involved in the collaborative effort remarked about how amazed they were to go from the initial idea to preliminary classes in less than a year.

"We are grateful for all that God has done in this short one-year period," said Denny Autrey, dean of Southwestern's Houston campus who taught the first preliminary class.

The seminary hopes to add 40 students per year, as funding allows. Private funding supports the entire project, with no taxpayer money. Along with paying professors, generous donations provided furniture, computers, materials and books for the library.

Darrington Warden Brenda Chaney said, "We have worked hard to get to this point. We have 39 offenders now in this program, and they're all working hard also. We have formed a good relationship with Southwestern, and we're looking for amazing things to happen here."

"Only God could make this happen," Sen. Patrick said. "Everybody in this project from day one focused on how God can change lives."

As part of the program, its graduates will minister to other inmates.

"They will not only assist in mentoring and counseling other inmates at Darrington," Whitmire said, "but someday, when the graduation rate grows, they will go to other units and start impacting young non-violent

inmates and help them turn their lives around because they will be returning to the streets of Texas."

Whitmire said of all the programs he's endorsed in his long tenure in the Texas Senate, including drug and alcohol treatment, job training, and rehabilitation programs, "this one is the big one."

Grove Norwood, chairman of the Heart of Texas Foundation, originated the idea for the seminary program in Texas prisons and sees the potential impact the degree can have on inmates as well as society upon their release.

"Over four years," Norwood said, "we believe that spiritual transformation will change a man here, and they will have a moral rehabilitation."

Southwestern President Paige Patterson said, "From the earliest moments of Christianity's founding, the prisoner was a very important individual." He cited Hebrews 13:3, saying, "Remember the prisoner as though you were bound with him."

Patterson, addressing the 39 inmate students during his convocation sermon, spoke of a life controlled by the Holy Spirit.

"If I'm ever to have the fruit of the Spirit in my life, God has to work an amazing and remarkable change [in my heart]," Patterson said.

"The law serves its purposes, but the law never transformed anybody. It protects the social order to a certain degree, but more important still, the Bible says it is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. It's there to convict us of our need of a spiritual change."

Patterson concluded his sermon with a charge to the students to let their studies result in heart change.

"The end result is not just the accumulation of knowledge in the head," Patterson said. "The end result is a powerful moving of the Holy Spirit to make us new and create in us the fruit of the Spirit."

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Staff Development

REHABILITATION PROGRAMS DIVISION ONLINE DISTANCE TRAINING by Rhonda Slater

The Rehabilitation Programs Division has developed these on-line training courses to be utilized by clinical staff working with TDCJ offenders to obtain continuing education hours for license renewal. These courses cannot be applied to the required hours needed for LCDC Counselor Intern Registration (Rule§140.406(b) Texas Administrative Code). These courses can be applied to the CCJP or CCJP-A 270 hours of education if the subject falls within the 8 core functions.

RPD is currently seeking approval from other licensing boards to utilize this online distance training for licensure renewal. Upon notice of approval, the professions to which the classes may apply will be added. In addition, several other sessions are currently under development.

At the end of each session, there is a test for credit. You must print and complete the test for submission, as noted below. You will be required to score at least 70% correct or better to receive credit for the course.

An individual may only complete an on-line session and receive credit once during a two (2) year period for a particular license or certification. To receive credit, you must send a completed Information Sheet and the original completed test(s) to:

Simon Beardsley
Clinical Staff Development Coordinator
Two Financial Plaza, Ste: 370
Huntsville, TX 77340
Phone: (936) 437-2839
simon.beardsley@tdcj.state.tx.us

Due to training schedules and existing workload, participants should not expect the results of their submission for approximately two weeks from the time all information is received.

The content of the available online courses can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/pgm&svcs/SATP/pgms&svcs-SATP-home.htm>

Introduction and Summary of Sessions
Registration Form
Course RPD1013: Understanding Addiction
Course RPD1013 - Test
Course RPD1014: Anger Management
Course RPD1014 - Test
Course RPD1015: Self-help, Mutual-help and Recovery Groups
Course RPD1015 - Test
Course RPD1016: Introduction to Relapse
Course RPD1016 - Test
Course RPD1017: HIV/AIDS
Course RPD1017 - Test
Course RPD1018: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Course RPD1018 - Test
Course RPD1019 – Trans-Disciplinary Ethical Principles & Responsibilities in Professional Counseling
Course RPD1019 – Test



Announcements

Rehabilitation Programs Division would like to welcome the following staff to our team:

New:

Lori Thurman, Program Supervisor I - Pre-Release Special Offender Population - LeBlanc Unit
Marion Callahan, Substance Abuse Counselor I - Substance Abuse Treatment Program - LeBlanc Unit
William Collins, Chaplain I - Garza West Unit
Deborah Maxwell, Associate Psychologist I - Sex Offender Rehabilitation Program - Hightower Unit

Transfers/Laterals:

Donald Lacy, Chaplain II - Lychner Jail
Charlotte Knapp, Chaplain I - Darrington Unit
Jimmie Baker, Chaplain I - Telford Unit

Promotions:

Martha Smith promoted to Program Supervisor I - Rehabilitation Tier Program
Rhonda Lindsey promoted to Program Supervisor III - Sex Offender Rehabilitation Program - Goree Unit
Jeanette Garza promoted to Substance Abuse Counselor I - Substance Abuse Treatment Program - Hamilton Unit
Clayton Heald promoted to Case Manager III - Transitional Case Manager - Estelle Unit

Catina Wells career path promoted to Associate Psychologist IV - Goree Unit
Subrena Antwine career path promoted to Associate Psychologist IV - Goree Unit
Charwan Washington career path promoted to Associate Psychologist IV - Goree Unit
Steven Beams career path promoted to Case Manager III - Goree Unit



Employee Spotlight by: *Katrena Merchant, Administrative Assistant IV, Rehabilitation Programs Division*



Hommie Mock
Rehabilitation Programs Division

Program Supervisor II
Sex Offender Rehabilitation Program

Hommie Mock grew up in Huntsville, Texas. She graduated from Huntsville High School and attended college at Sam Houston State University, where she earned her degree in Social Work. While attending college, she began working for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) as a Correctional Officer (CO) at the Byrd Unit from 1985 to 1992.

While working hard at the TDCJ, Hommie pursued her goals by finishing her degree in Social Work and attending school to earn her Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADAC) license. Hommie worked for the Parole Division as a Caseworker and then as a Parole Officer. On October 1, 2006, the Rehabilitation Programs Division hired Hommie as a Program Specialist I in the Serious Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) Program at the Estelle High Security Unit. In her position, she worked closely with SVORI offenders as a teacher and a counselor, encouraging them to make positive changes in their lives.

Leslie Woolley, Program Director of SVORI speaks highly of Hommie. She said this of her, "She was an excellent employee who exceeded standards through her ability to relate to administrative segregation offenders. She spent many hours counseling these hardened offenders. She encouraged the SVORI offenders not to give up hope and believe in themselves, that they could become productive citizens upon release. Ms. Mock was respected and admired by the offenders and her co-workers for her dedication and professionalism. She is a valued employee and an asset to this agency, along with being a personal friend. It was a pleasure to have worked with her on a daily basis for the 2 ½ years she was in SVORI."

Dennis Stark, one of the SVORI offenders with whom Hommie worked, wrote a tribute letter about this caring, hard-working employee. In his

letter, Dennis states, "I am blessed to know Ms. Mock. She is a great teacher in the classroom and even a better person. A year after I completed the SVORI Program (where she was my life-skills teacher), I landed in jail due to a substance abuse problem. After a couple of months at the Pam Lychner State Jail, I received a letter from Ms. Mock on behalf of the SVORI staff. I'm not sure how she knew I was there, but she did. I thought, 'Oh no, I'm in trouble now!' She said to me, you are a good person, you just made a bad decision. The letter then went on to tell me to remember what I learned in the program and apply it to my everyday living, and I would do just fine once released. Having heard those words from her seemed to take away the shame and guilt that was taking over my mind while I sat in that jail cell again. Ms. Mock taught me not only to love and respect myself, but how to care about other people and to pick them up when they are down. With that and having taken advantage of the opportunity to go through the SVORI Program again, I know I am a better man. I am scheduled for release on 08-29-2011, and I know I will do just fine. Thank you, Ms. Mock!"

In 2008, Hommie promoted to the Program Specialist III in the Sex Offender Rehabilitation Program (SORP). In 2010, she again promoted to her current position as Program Supervisor II. In this position, Hommie verifies that sex offenders are registered properly, along with ensuring they are assigned to the correct risk level. She analyzes risk assessment levels of sex offenders, which is her primary duty. Joe Bon-Jorno, Manager II of the SORP, states that Hommie "has brought a wealth of experience to SORP. I am most impressed with her hard-work ethic. She has a positive attitude, a generous nature, and a willingness to take on any project(s) asked of her. She goes about her work with a contagious calmness, and I have seen her love of family many times." Hommie Mock is a mentor to many employees within the Rehabilitation Programs Division, encouraging them to work hard and pursue their goals as she has done. She is a valuable asset to the division.



Photo taken by Cathy Stokes, Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF).

The Rehabilitation Programs Division Newsletter is published quarterly.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles, events or other newsworthy items for publication consideration.

All submissions should be forwarded to:
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- Youthful Offender Program (females)

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- Substance Abuse Program
- State Jail Substance Abuse Program
- Youthful Offender Program (males)
- Driving While Intoxicated Program
- Staff Development
- Program Quality Assurance

Rachel Alderete
Program Supervisor III
Rehabilitation Tier Tracking Placement
Two Financial Plaza, Ste. 370
Huntsville, Texas 77340
(936) 437-7184
(936) 437-7077 (Fax)

- Further Investigation- Rehabilitation (FIR)

Joseph Bon-Jorno
Manager II
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(936) 437-2870
(936) 437-7077 (Fax)

- Sex Offender Rehabilitation Programs (males)
- Civil Commitment
- Risk Assessment
- Orchiectomy

Charlotte Trow
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- Budget
- Travel
- Placement

Wanda Redding
Program Specialist III
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- Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative (BAMBI)
- GO KIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids Incentive and Direction to Succeed)
- RPD Manuals
- RPD Policies
- Special Projects

Marvin Dunbar
Manager III Support Services
861B IH-45 North, Rm. 128
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(936) 437-6267
(936) 437-6299 (Fax)

- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA)
- Special Programs and Projects
- Chaplaincy
- Volunteer Services
- Serious Violent Offenders Reentry Initiative (SVORI)
- Gang Renunciation and Disassociation (GRAD)

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- Offender DNA Specimen Collection

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(936) 437-6024
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- Analyze incoming program proposals
- Oversee facilitation of special programs and projects with community-based organizations
- Track volunteer-facilitated programs

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- Chaplaincy

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- Faith-based Dorms
- InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI)

Linda Green
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- Volunteer Services

Leslie Woolley
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264 FM 3478
Huntsville, Texas 77342
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(936) 439-1368 (Fax)

- Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI)