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The Lookout

Austin Child Guidance Center's E-Newsletter
Fall 2005

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in Austin Child Guidance Center! Below is our latest news that I am proud to share with you. We have lots of exciting things going on with our annual holiday "stay at home" event, working with New Orleans youth displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and participating in a new endowment initiative. I hope this email finds you well and I wish you, your family, and friends a safe and happy holiday season.

Executive Director Donald J. Zappone, Dr.P.H.

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Katrina Youth To Write About Tragedy

Austin Child Guidance Center is collaborating with the Writer's League of Texas to offer a special mental health service to youth who have resettled in Austin from New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina. Students participating in this group will be assessed and identified for group participation by staff from Communities In Schools placed at McCallum High School. Each student will be matched with a mentor from the Writer's League of Texas to help the students write their personal stories of the "Great New Orleans Flood of 2005." Then, the students will meet as a group that will be facilitated by

Anita Makes the Grade



Anita was 12-years old and depressed. She was failing every class at school and at risk of repeating her grade if her scores did not come up. Her therapist at Austin Child Guidance Center decided that Anita and her family needed a quick intervention to raise her grades and help her pass.

A token economy was implemented in

therapists from Austin Child Guidance Center to read and process excerpts from their writing. These creative groups will work to help the students heal from the tragedy they have experienced.

Save-the-Date: Holiday Classic TV Special



One of Austin's most valued holiday traditions returns – the 8th annual Holiday Classic TV Special. This stay-at-home event invites family and friends to spend quality time together. This year's movie, *All Dogs Christmas Carol*, takes place on December 25 at 2:00 p.m. on KNVA, Channel 54 and benefits Austin Child Guidance Center. Sponsorship opportunities are still available; please contact Josie Kluth at 512- 451-2242 or jkluth@austinchildguidance.org.

[For more on Holiday Classic...](#)

New Contract with Domestic Relations Office

This fall the Travis County Domestic Relations Office began contracting with Austin Child Guidance Center to provide counseling and psychiatric services to children involved in family violence and/or high conflict family litigation with the Travis County District Courts. Austin Child Guidance Center will receive referrals from the Domestic Relations Office, as well as have ongoing consultations about progress of each family. The goals of this collaboration include reducing symptomatic behavior of the children, helping parents develop a working relationship after a divorce or custody dispute, reducing the level of conflict in the family and between parents, and increasing respectful communication among family members.

[For more on Domestic Relations Office...](#)

Travis County Scores Low On Report Card

the household for positive behavior, classroom work, and homework completion. A token economy is a technique for managing behavior that works especially well for children experiencing learning or behavioral difficulties. When a child does something positive, they receive a token. Tokens can be stickers, coins, points, or something that represents a good mark. These are then used like money when a few accumulate to "buy" a reward. These rewards can be anything from a trip to the movies, an ice cream cone, a new t-shirt, or anything else of value to the child.

When Anita's parents implemented the token economy, she really enjoyed it and her life quickly improved in just the first week. She turned in 100% of her homework, her test scores improved, and she made passing grades in all her classes. With this improvement at

and housed; to be prepared for life-long learning; and to be healthy. Travis County received a 'D-' in child health and safety, a 'D+' in child care, and a 'C-' in child school readiness. Working collaboratively under the United Way Success By 6 initiative, over 70 organizations, including Austin Child Guidance Center, are partnering to help Central Texas children be healthy, happy, smart and ready to succeed in school by age 6.

[To read the Report Card...](#)

Center Selected for Non-Profit Endowment Initiative



The Austin Community Foundation recently selected 10 local organizations, including Austin Child Guidance Center, to participate in a new Non-Profit Endowment Initiative. Each organization is challenged to raise endowment funds of \$20,000 a year for four years. If successful, the Austin Community Foundation will provide a 1:4 match of up to \$5,000 each year. Therefore, after four years, Austin Child Guidance Center can grow its endowment by \$100,000 thus better ensuring the Center's future sustainability.

To make a donation to Austin Child Guidance Center's endowment that will be matched by the Austin Community Foundation, please see the coupon below. Be sure to make checks payable to "Austin Community Foundation" and write "ACGC Endowment" in the note section. For more information, please contact Josie Kluth at 512- 451-2242 or jkluth@austinchildguidance.org.

[For more on Austin Community Foundation...](#)

email: jkluth@austinchildguidance.org
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school, Anita's depression alleviated. She and her parents reported being closer and communicating much more. Anita moved onto the next grade too.

[For more info on our services...](#)

Join our mailing list!

Endowment Matching

I am making this donation to support Austin Child Guidance Center's endowment and my gift will be matched by the Austin Community Foundation.

Gift

(name)
(address)
(city/state/zip)
(phone)
(email)

***Make check payable to "Austin Community Foundation" and write "ACGC Endowment" in the note. Mail with coupon to: ACGC, 810 W. 45th Street, Austin, TX 78751. For more info or to donate over the phone, call Josie Kluth at 512-451-2242.**

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