



Friends For Hope

April 2007

Celebrate Our Children Day

Mark your calendar for April 21, 2007. This is the day that Friends For Hope has designated to have a community wide celebration of our children. This is the 4th annual celebration. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We feel that the more awareness we can put before the public, the better chances we have of protecting our children from abuse. The day is filled with activities geared toward the whole family spending time together.



In addition to all of the fun games, we will have numerous booths set up with safety information and parenting information, as well as child finger printing by the local sheriff's office, medivac helicopter, fire trucks and ambulances for tours. Call today to order your t-shirt today.



Friends For Hope will be sponsoring a men's softball tournament. The entry fee is \$150. Anyone wishing to have a team needs to contact Coco at Friends For Hope.

We will also be having a barbeque dinner. With all proceeds going to benefit the children. Call or come by for BBQ tickets (\$8.00)



We are very excited and hope to make this years children's celebration the most successful. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our office(325-884-2281).

*It takes all of us working together as a community
to make events like this a success.*



STAR & Jr. STAR

Because One is too Many...

This is the theme of Green Ribbon Week, a part of TAASA's fight against sexual assault and harassment. April is set aside to increase awareness of the prevalence of sexual harassment and sexual assault on school campuses state wide. Additionally, this month was designed to promote respect and empathy in the lives of every participant. Our local STAR students will be involved in activities at their schools to promote this important commitment to help end sexual violence in all its forms.

The STAR and JR. STAR students will also be busy with trying to raise funds for upcoming events such as, the STAR Leadership Conference that will be held in Corsicana, TX, on the campus of Navarro County College, June 22-24, and the National Youth Leadership Conference that will be August 2-4, in Orlando, Florida. The STAR students will have some type of fund raiser at the 4th Annual Celebrate Our Children on April 21 at the park. On behalf of our STAR students, we invite everyone to come out to the park and support our kids!

As always, we would like to extend an invitation to any middle or high school aged student, who has a strong desire to help and mentor their peers and to be a part of a unique group of students to come to a STAR meeting.

STAR's meet on Monday afternoons from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

JR. STAR's meet on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Reagan Resource Center News

The Reagan Resource Center is in the initial phases with the Capital Fund Committee working to make the Center a reality for Reagan County. The input and contribution of every person in Reagan County is needed to make this project a success. We have change boxes scattered around town and we feel that every person can help make difference.

The Girl Scout Troop #109 will be doing a community project. They will be having a Garage Sale in the Friends For Hope Thrift Store on
Saturday, March 31, 2007
From 8:00 AM to 2:00PM



We would like to thank our community partners, Troop #109 for their service.



Friends For Hope will be hosting the Monthly Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection, on April 17, 2007 at 10:00AM.



Please mark your calendars and join us at the Friends For Hope Office.



Please feel free to donate to the Capital Fund Campaign.
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
Bank accounts have been set up at Big Lake Bank and Security State Bank to make it easy to make a contribution to the Capital Fund Campaign.
You can help make a difference!

We provide the following services to our community:

- 24 Hour Victim Assistance Hotline (325) 884-9804
- Accompaniment for Victims to Law Enforcement Center, Hospital, Court, Child Interviews, and other appointments
- Emergency Shelter
- Counseling Services
- Support Groups for Adults and Children
- Teen Programs - (STAR & Jr. STAR) Addressing sexual assault, violence, alcohol and drugs
- Children's Programs - (HEROES) Addressing self-esteem, safety, and life skills
- Public Awareness and Education
- Programs for Civic Organizations and Classrooms (Call to Schedule Programs)
- Referrals to Legal, Medical and Social Services
- Supervised Visitation

If you have been a victim of crime, and your offender is currently incarcerated, you may be interested in Texas VINE. For more information please log onto the Friends For Hope website

Friends For Hope Happenings

It is grant time! What does that mean? It means STRESS... and lots of it! In the next few months, I will be working on a minimum of 6 grants and probably more. There will be deadline after deadline. The grants are critical to our ability to provide services for people in need in our community. I will be writing grants, Evelyn will be gathering the statistical information needed for the grants and Jane will be crunching numbers for budgets. And the day to day operations will carry on with other staff members pulling some extra weight. It takes us all to get it done.

My job is requiring much more travel these days. My car almost knows the way to Austin on it's own. Debbie, Coco and myself have attended the Safe & Drug Free Schools and Communities Conference where we gained some very valuable knowledge. We have also attended the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Conference which is one of our main conferences we participate in each year. I also presented a workshop there. TAASA is a great resource for Friends For Hope and helps us in so many ways. I serve as the Regional Representative for Region E on the TAASA Board. Our region is huge, but we have made some progress in communicating more within our region and recently we hosted a regional meeting here.

Our Capital Fund Campaign for the Reagan Resource Center is moving right along. I hope each of you are reading the Insights of RRC column in the Big Lake Wildcat each week. It is a collaboration of writing by different members of our Board of Directors and the Advisory Council for the Capital Fund Campaign.

For March I want to highlight Socorro Zapata better known as "Coco". Coco began working for FFH in September of 2005. She is our Education Coordinator and is in charge of community education programs and awareness projects. She would love to set up a program for your school, classroom, civic organization or any other club or group. As part of her job she also works directly with clients providing services they need. Her bilingual abilities are an asset to our organization. Coco is a lot of fun to be around and always has a smile on her face. Right now she is very busy planning and organizing our 4th annual Celebrate Our Children Day. She could really use some help in many different aspects for this project. This is a huge endeavor including a Softball tournament and BBQ. If you can offer assistance by sharing your time, talents or financial support please give her a call today!

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for 2007 are

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vicky Fisher-President | Chris Powell-Vice President |
| Debbie Baker- Secretary | Jane Gay-Treasurer |
| LaRee Agee | Tracey McPhaul |
| Barron Beacham | Kevin Rodriguez |
| Willie Black | Frank Sandel |
| Jeff Bliss | Ann Schneemann |
| Jeff Garner | Arla Mae Schwertner |
| Luis Morin | Paula Traynham |

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(325) 884-2281 Office
(325) 884-9424 Fax



We're on the Web
www.friendsforhope.org

Our Staff

Nina Hallmark—Executive Director
Jane Gay—Financial Manager
Evelyn Smith—Volunteer Coordinator
Paola Salgado—Office Assistant/Advocate
Coco Zapata —Education Coordinator
Debbie Goff—Child/ Youth Educator
Sarah Kalina— Case Manger/Advocate

We invite anyone to contact Evelyn at the Friends For Hope office if you would like to volunteer your time and help with the Celebrate Our Children's Day at the park on April 21.

* *One of the things I keep learning is that the secret* *
* *of being happy is doing things for other people.* *
* *Volunteer your time today.* *

Our Mission Statement at
Friends For Hope

1. Advocate for victims of family violence, sexual assault, and other crimes.
2. Provide training for Reagan County and surrounding area law enforcement, advocates, and others assisting survivors, so as to not re-victimize them.
3. Serve without judgment, but with compassion and knowledge, so victims may become survivors, free to live their lives without fear, and to soar as they were meant to soar.