

Friends For Hope

New Office Hours 10 AM to 6 PM

January-February 2009

STAR and Heroes Programs



In January, we got our STAR, and Jr. STAR programs started. We are trying to get more students involved. We have 6 great kids coming to our Jr. Stars. Our high school group is the largest group of students with 10 members. What is the STAR program? STAR stands for Students Taking Action for Respect. This program is to promote the well-being and healthy development of Big Lake youth. We envision a collaborative effort to educate young men and women about healthy relationships and communication. We hope to create an environment for youth to speak out and be heard on the issues of gender violence. In addition, we hope to empower youth to respond to sexual violence in any form, as well as negative peer pressure. The STAR program creates civic opportunities for young leaders to develop understanding and skills, as well as inform them of their rights, resources, and the potential consequences of their choices and behaviors. As a member of STAR and Jr. STAR program you can gain leadership skills, and learn to overcome the fear of speaking in front of large crowds. You also learn awareness and prevention skills in teen issues and create presentations about those issues. We give presentations over alcohol and drug abuse, teen dating violence, self-esteem, peer pressure, and bullying. We do many fun activities. We will attend the Tobacco-Free Summit, on February 20-21. We will also attend the STAR Conference which is on June 5-7. The STAR program meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM and Jr. STAR program meets on Tuesdays at 4:30 PM at the Hope Center.

Our Heroes program for Pre-K thru 5th grade will meet every Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Our first Heroes support group was January 29, and we had 7 kids join. We are very excited and pleased that we had this many kids show up. Heroes, Great & Small Inc. is a free support group for children in PreK-5th that are focused on self-esteem improvement, personal safety, abuse prevention education, assertiveness and self-protection, team and trust building skills. Our main goals for these activities are to provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere, enable the children to share, and learn in a positive way.

On January 21, we traveled to Sonora Elementary for a "Clicky" presentation about Internet Safety. We had about 368 students K-4th grade attend. A week after the presentation, we received thank you notes from the students of Sonora Elementary thanking us for making the trip to their school, and also telling us how much they enjoyed the presentation and they wanted to know when we will come back.

Please feel free to call the Friends For Hope Office for more information 884-9804 or 884-2281.

The STAR, Jr. STAR, and Heroes program all meet at Hope Center located at 1107 East 2nd Street (next door to the Hope Chest).



Board of Directors

Vicky Fisher-President	Miranda Davidson
Leslie Davidson-V.P	Jeff Garner
Debbie Baker-Secretary	Tracey Mc Phaul
Jane Gay-Treasurer	Nikita Ridgeway
Wanda Ables	Frank Sandel
LaRee Agee	Ann Schneemann
Willie Black	Arla Mae Schwertner
Jeff Bliss	Ann Walker

*We make a living by what we get, but we
make a life by what we give.*



Winston Churchill

Volunteer Today!!!

The Hope Chest

The Hope Chest continues to be a success. We are still receiving good conditioned items and the merchandise changes daily. If you have not come by to see all of the merchandise please stop and look around there are great bargains to be found. We also have new merchandise that is great for the unexpected little gift that you may need. We have hired Delfina Romero as the manager of the Hope Chest. She is always looking for good volunteers to help out at the thrift store. We are so blessed to have the continued support of the Reagan County Community.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February is designated as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teen dating violence is more common than most people think. You may see signs in young relationships that don't seem normal. Please be aware of the signs and take action to help the teen in the situation. The situation can be deadly if carried too far and can impact these teen's lives for many years to come.



We provide the following services to our community:

- 24 Hour Victim Assistance Hotline
1-888-440-HOPE (4673)
325-884-9804 or 325-884-2281
- Accompaniment for Victims to Law Enforcement Center, Hospital, Court, Child Interviews, and other appointments
- Emergency Shelter
- Counseling Services
- 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
- A.A. Meetings (call for more information)

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 at www.friendsforhope.org

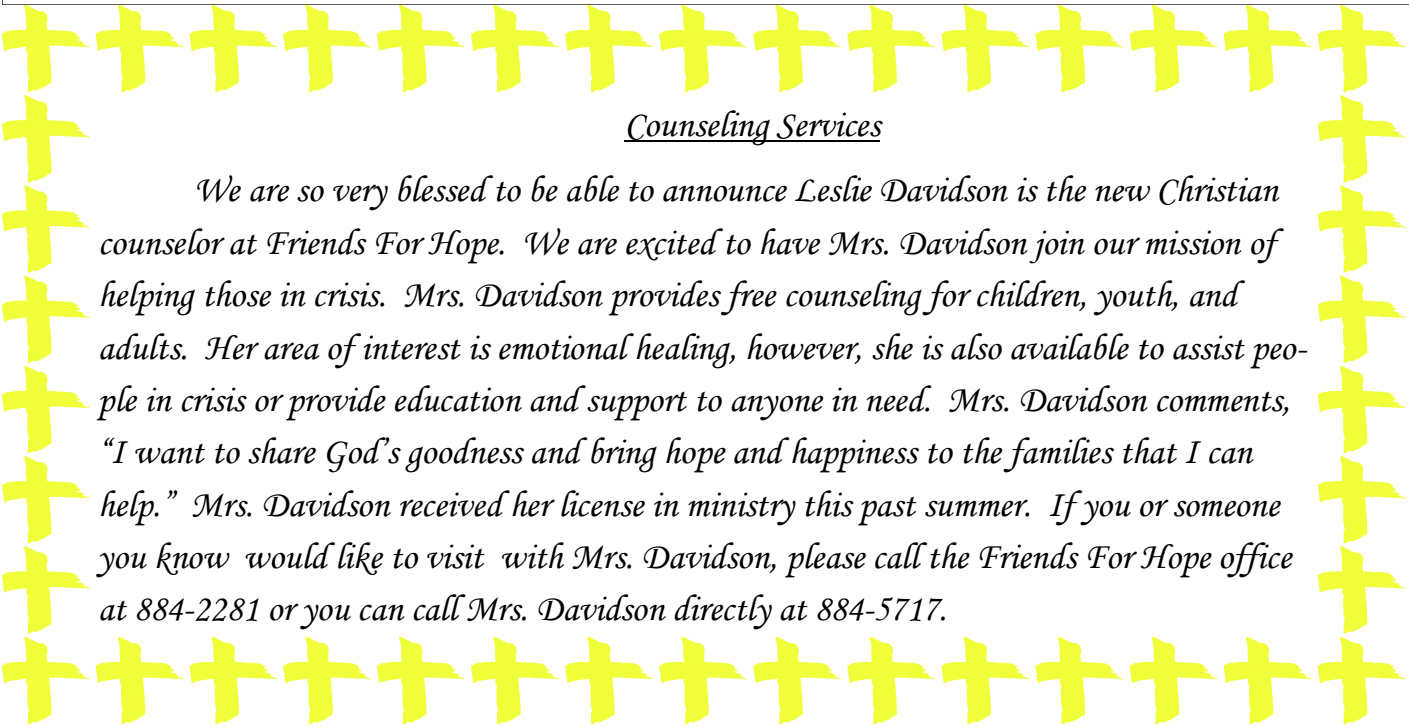
Friends For Hope Happenings

Many of you have heard by now that Nina Hallmark has resigned as Executive Director. Nina knows this is what God wants for her and she is following His will for her life. She is very committed to the success of Friends For Hope, and you will still see her involved and volunteering in the activities of the organization. The Board of Directors had to make many difficult decisions and voted to cease all government grants. This is a huge leap of faith and trust because the majority of our funding came from here.

I have enjoyed working at Friends For Hope for the past six months. And I am so excited to have been given the opportunity to serve in my new position of Executive Director. Nina and I have been busy transitioning the organization into a new direction. There have been some difficult days. It is a very busy time and a new adventure for me. The blessings received of following God's direction have been unbelievable. The organization as a whole is excited about being able to share Christianity with the people we serve and advocate for. We ask for your continued support as we carry on. If you have considered volunteering in any capacity you will be so blessed by the giving of your time. We can utilize you in so many ways.

And in closing, I have so much to learn, but I do want to say if you have any questions please feel free to call or come by. My door is always open. I just want to assure everyone that with God's blessings Friends For Hope is providing and will continue to provide the services we have always offered.

Carrie Day



Counseling Services

We are so very blessed to be able to announce Leslie Davidson is the new Christian counselor at Friends For Hope. We are excited to have Mrs. Davidson join our mission of helping those in crisis. Mrs. Davidson provides free counseling for children, youth, and adults. Her area of interest is emotional healing, however, she is also available to assist people in crisis or provide education and support to anyone in need. Mrs. Davidson comments, "I want to share God's goodness and bring hope and happiness to the families that I can help." Mrs. Davidson received her license in ministry this past summer. If you or someone you know would like to visit with Mrs. Davidson, please call the Friends For Hope office at 884-2281 or you can call Mrs. Davidson directly at 884-5717.

January Memorials

<p><u>Memorials and Honorariums</u></p> <p>Memorials and Honorariums can be made to Friends For Hope at any time throughout the year.</p>	<p><u>In Memory of:</u></p> <p>Jewel Maxie</p>	<p><u>Given By:</u></p> <p>Pee Wee & Darlene Poyner</p>
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2009

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Visit our website:
www.friendsforhope.org

New Office Hours 10 AM to 6 PM

Friends For Hope would like to say a special THANK YOU to all of the jury donations given in the month of January. We are so glad to have the continued support of the Reagan County Community.

Friends For Hope Staff

Nina Hallmark— Executive Director

Carrie Day-Executive Director in Training

Jane Gay-Financial Manager

Nilda Vaquera-Child Youth Educator

Our Mission.... Friends For Hope provides safety, security, and restoration of hope for people in crisis.