



ISSUE 2 ■ FALL ■ 2008

VIABLE OPTIONS IN COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS

# VOICE



## A Bright Future for the VOICE Family of the Year

STEPPING FORWARD TO MOVE A FAMILY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION CAN OFTEN BE A DIFFICULT, CHALLENGING, AND A ROAD FILLED WITH OBSTACLES.

The Contreras family is no stranger to difficult and challenging situations. But through trials and triumphs this family has stuck together and shown through difficult times with a positive outlook and a giving spirit.

VOICE was honored this year to name the Contreras family as the 2008 VOICE Family of the Year at the Family Celebration Dinner in July. The family is headed by Araceli Contreras since the unexpected death of her husband Salvador Contreras last December. Araceli, 10 years old, and Brisa, 7 years old complete the family. Both girls are students at Bowie Elementary School in Corsicana.

The Family of the Year Award is presented each year at the Family Celebration Dinner which marks the finale of Corsicana Summer Freedom School. Many things are taken into consideration in determining this important award. Considerations include: recommendations by VOICE staff and fellow families, volunteer time to programs, participation, positive attitude, and a determination and commitment to family.

"I am so impressed by the support system that is in place with the Contreras family," said Valorie Horn, Family & Youth Education Specialist "It seems that there is a family commitment to everything they are involved in." "This family takes their responsibilities to the next level by ensuring that 100% is given to each activity."



### What's Inside:

**FREEDOM SCHOOL MARKS 6TH YEAR**

PAGE 2

**KERENS YEE HAW SUMMER FUNDRAISER**

PAGE 3

**VOICE PROGRAMS GROWING**

PAGE 3

**TEXAS YOUTH TOBACCO AWARENESS PROGRAM**

PAGE 4

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

PAGE 4



*Strong Families, Bright Futures*

100 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 308  
CORSCIANA, TX 75110

PHONE: (903) 872-0180

FAX: (903) 872-5886

EMAIL: INFO@VOICEINC.ORG

The Contreras family has been a part of VOICE programs for the last 6 years. Both girls have benefited from VOICE Drug Prevention Programs since starting school. In addition, the family is very active in La Voz para la Familia (the voice of the family), Corsicana Summer Freedom School, and Spring Training. Both Contreras parents have been involved in volunteering, attending classes for parents, and overall brightening the room with their positive attitudes and outlooks. The family took part last year in volunteering during the VOICE Family Fall Festival on Halloween helping with games and activities. With the untimely passing of Mr. Contreras, Mrs. Contreras continues to stand behind her commitment to her children to remain involved in their activities. **Continued Page 2**

## Family of the Year Continued From Page 1

Mrs. Contreras is quick to point out that she feels that the programs offered by VOICE are very helpful to her family. She emphasizes that she has learned how to be involved in her children's school, how to discipline in a positive way, and how to become a better parent. "I believe that kids should stay busy and have fun at the same time, with the VOICE programs they are learning while having fun and I am learning with them," stated Mrs. Contreras.

Maybeth Mendez, Prevention Specialist who works very closely with the La Voz para la Familia Program is very proud of the Contreras Family, "I have watched this family endure many things and yet they have remained a close family with a positive outlook."

When asked how she felt about receiving the honor of Family of the Year Mrs. Contreras said she felt very honored and happy. She is anxious to continue her involvement in her daughter's lives and with VOICE. She describes the programs offered as "excellent" and highly encourages other parents and families to become involved. Mrs. Contreras has a goal for each of her daughters to finish high school, go to college and to become excellent citizens.

For more information about VOICE visit the website at [www.voiceinc.org](http://www.voiceinc.org).



# CORSICANA SUMMER FREEDOM SCHOOL MARKS 6TH YEAR

**CORSICANA SUMMER FREEDOM SCHOOL CELEBRATED THE 6TH SUCCESSFUL YEAR ON JULY 24, 2008. SUMMER FREEDOM SCHOOL HAS BEEN FILLED WITH MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST 6 YEARS. "WE ARE THRILLED TO OFFER THIS UNIQUE AND POWERFUL PROGRAM TO THE COMMUNITY," SAID LYNDA SLOAN, VOICE CEO.**

Freedom School began 6 summers ago when VOICE board members and staff recognized a need in the community for positive pro-social attitudes and behaviors in youth and their families. Corsicana Summer Freedom School addresses these issues as well as promoting academic excellence. A partnership with VOICE and Corsicana Independent School District is vital to establish the success and high standards of Summer Freedom School. Summer Freedom School was located this year at Drane Intermediate School for five weeks.

This year's Freedom School, which ran June 23 through July 24 had 71 Student Scholars enrolled. As tradition, college students were hired as Servant Leaders to work with the scholars. The Servant Leaders along with the Site Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator attended a week-long training at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Corsicana Summer Freedom School had 37 family members providing 632 volunteer hours and 19 community members committing 28 volunteer hours. A representation of students from all Corsicana Independent School Districts Elementary Schools,

Intermediate Schools, and Middle Schools attended Freedom School. There were also students from private schools and from Two Dimensions Preparatory Academy Charter School.

Staff at Corsicana Summer Freedom School this year included:

John Goodnight-VOICE Program Director  
Valorie Horn- Site Coordinator  
Kiameshea Brown- Assistant Site Coordinator  
Jayme Jones- Servant Leader Intern  
Michael Davis- Servant Leader Intern  
Aaron Williams- Servant Leader Intern  
Martelle Robinson – Servant Leader Intern  
Amina Hardaway – Servant Leader Intern  
Jovan Thompson – Servant Leader Intern  
Latoya Brown- Servant Leader Intern  
Lucia Alba – Servant Leader Intern  
Tauren Kitchen- Junior Servant Leader  
Latisha Stewart-Junior Servant Leader

Next year's Corsicana Summer Freedom School is tentatively set to begin on June 22, 2009.



Ciggy Buttz, a life-sized character, will be visiting area Elementary Schools with VOICE Staff to help to warn of the dangers of smoking. Ciggy Buttz is new to VOICE this year and will be keeping very busy during Red Ribbon Week October 18-26.

# Kerens YEE HAW



## SUMMER FUNdraiser

A great time was had by all at the 2nd Annual VOICE Kerens FUNdraiser. This summer the fundraiser, with a focus on FUN, was Yee Haw...at tribute to local talent.

A local cast of Kerens Characters were on hand on June 27 for the 2nd Annual VOICE Summer FUNdraiser YEE HAW..a tribute to local talent. The evening was complete with a BBQ Meal and a show that featured a Kerens Version of the old TV Variety Program HEE HAW. The cast included: H.M. Davenport, David Ross, James Lagomarsino, Gina Dieterichs, Tim Nicholson, Leland Vernon, Tommy Gorman, Kenny Berry, Margie Holton, Steve Pace, Rita West, The Cossey Sisters, George Scott Sr., Buddy Moore, Paula Jennings, and Mike

Jennings. There was also a special appearance by Minnie Pearl Impersonator Eva Bobalik. The Yee Haw Band was featured with Jimmy D. Coker.

A live auction was held during intermission by auctioneer Kirby Hill. This fun event raised over \$3,000.00 for VOICE programs. VOICE works very closely with KISD and will work with the Kerens Public Library during the 2008-09 school year.

VOICE is so grateful to all of those who volunteered, attended, placed auction bids, and helped to make this event fun and successful. Plans are already in the works for the Summer 2009 FUNdraiser.

# VOICE Programs Growing

THE VOICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF MEMBERS ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE EXPANSION AND ADDITION OF SEVERAL PROGRAMS.

The coming year will see VOICE Staff continuing to have a presence in all of the Navarro County Public Schools along with Agape Christian Academy, Two Dimension Charter School, and James L. Collins Catholic School.

VOICE also has plans to extend programs and services to Trinidad ISD, Malakoff ISD, Fairfield ISD, Wortham ISD, Mexia ISD, and Hillsboro ISD. Kerens Public Library and VOICE will also partner to provide La Voz para la Familia in the fall and spring at the Kerens Library. This is a very exciting change with the 20th year anniversary of VOICE approaching in 2009.

VOICE will be working in all schools with the Too Good for Drugs Curriculum. Too Good for Drugs is a school-based prevention program designed to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use among students. Too Good for Drugs has a separate, developmentally-appropriate curriculum for each grade level for Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Each curriculum builds on earlier grade levels. An instructional design enables students to learn important skills sequentially and retain them year after year. Too Good for Drugs builds five

essential life skills: goal setting, decision making, bonding with pro-social others, identifying and managing emotions, and communicating effectively.

**Kid's Connection** is a support group curriculum for children ages 4-12. The goal of Kids Connection is to provide a safe place for youth to learn vital life skills that will help them make healthy choices, overcome adversity, and stay drug-free while gaining a greater understanding of themselves and others. Kid's Connection will be taught at Navarro, Bowie, Carroll, and Rice Elementary.

**Project Toward No Drug Abuse** will be taught again this year at Navarro County DAEP COOP and Corsicana High School AEP. Project TND is an effective, interactive classroom-based substance abuse prevention program that is based on more than two decades of successful research. Project TND focuses on three factors that predict tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use, violence-related behaviors, and other problem behaviors among youth, including motivation factors, skills, and decision-making.

Students will continue to gain knowledge through tobacco prevention activities. October 18-26 will

mark Red Ribbon Week the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Other tobacco prevention activities this year will include Tar Wars and Tobacco Free Kids Day. Tar Wars is a tobacco-free education program for 4th and 5th grade students. The program is designed to teach students about the short-term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, the cost associated with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market their products to youth. A follow-up poster contest is conducted at the school, state, and national level.

There will be a continuation of the La Voz para la Familia, Corsicana Summer Freedom School, Spring Training, after school programs, and Training Our Own Leaders (T.O.O.L.).

The VOICE Staff and Board of Directors are very optimistic about the endeavors for the fiscal year 2009. "There are a lot of big changes for the upcoming year. Along with the changes there are a lot of great opportunities to serve the local community as well as surrounding communities. I believe the staff, including myself, is excited about what VOICE is doing and will be doing in the future," said John Goodnight, Program Director.

# Texas Youth Tobacco Awareness Program

October 21, 23, 28, 29 4PM to 6 PM  
November 11, 13, 18, 20 4 PM to 6 PM  
December 9, 11, 16, 18 4 PM to 6 PM

The cost for the class is \$100 (CASH ONLY).

For more information or to sign up, please visit the VOICE offices at 100 N Main St., Suite 308, Corsicana or call John Goodnight at 903-872-0180

## La Voz Para La Familia

(The Voice of the Family)

Thursday, October 23, 2008 - 4pm - 6pm

Kerens Public Library, downtown Kerens. Snacks, Drinks, Information, Door Prizes! Enter to win prizes including Six Flags Tickets, Wal-Mart Gift Cards! Classes in English & Parenting Skills, Tuesday & Thursday Evening Classes (one hour), First Class Oct. 28, Families WELCOME...NO COST!

for more information call Maybeth Mendez, 903-872-0180

## Family Fun Fall Festival

Friday, October 31, 2008 - 2pm - 5:30pm

1st Hour especially for Younger Kids! Bank of America Parking Lot, across from the Library facing 12th St, downtown Corsicana. FREE Hot Dogs, Drinks, Games, Pickles, Hair Painting, Face Painting, Prozes, Bounce House, Obstacle Course, Trick or Treat Bags, FUN, FUN, FUN! Donate Blood at the festival- American Red Cross Bus 2pm-6pm.

For more info call VOICE 903-872-0180 or www.voiceinc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



KYLE MONTGOMERY AND TY RITTERBACH, BOTH T.O.O.L. (TRAINING OUR OWN LEADERS) PARTICIPANTS ASSIST THE KERENS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SERVING LUNCH AT THEIR BBQ LUNCHEON. STUDENTS PARTICIPING IN T.O.O.L. WERE SELECTED IN MAY, UPON SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE PROGRAM THEY WILL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP ALONG WITH VAULABLE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE.

## DONATE!

Please help us make a difference in the lives of children and families!

\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ Other

### Thank You...

for supporting the many programs and services of VOICE! VOICE recognizes our donors in publications. Please complete this section indicating how you wish your name to be listed:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to VOICE, Inc. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law and is truly appreciated.

Please clip and mail to  
VOICE, Inc., P.O. Box 687  
Corsicana, Texas 75151

## VOICE Staff

LYNDA SLOAN- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JOHN GOODNIGHT- PROGRAM DIRECTOR

GINA DIETERICHS- DIRECTOR OF MARKETING/  
DEVELOPMENT

LUAN LAMB- CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

VALORIE HORN- FAMILY & YOUTH  
EDUCATION SPECIALIST

JEFF BOTKIN- PREVENTION SPECIALIST

KIAMESHEA BROWN- PREVENTION SPECIALIST

DELIA DELAROSA- PROGRAM ASSISTANT

AMANDA MELTON- PREVENTION SPECIALIST

MAYBETH MENDEZ- PREVENTION SPECIALIST

TIM NICHOLSON- PREVENTION SPECIALIST

STRONG FAMILIES. BRIGHT FUTURES.