



### Who We Are

VOICE is a nonprofit organization that teaches healthy living skills, including how to avoid substance abuse. We have served children and their families since 1992 and have grown to reach over 60,000 individuals in nineteen counties each year.

### Our Mission

To empower children and their families to lead healthy and productive lives by promoting success in education, nurturing wellness in mind and body, and developing skills in tomorrow's global leaders.

### Donate and Double Your Dollars Today Only!



We need your financial support! Donate to VOICE through [North Texas Day of Giving](#) and your donation will be matched 1:1 (up to a limited amount). All money received will be applied to college scholarships, which are not funded through state and federal grants.

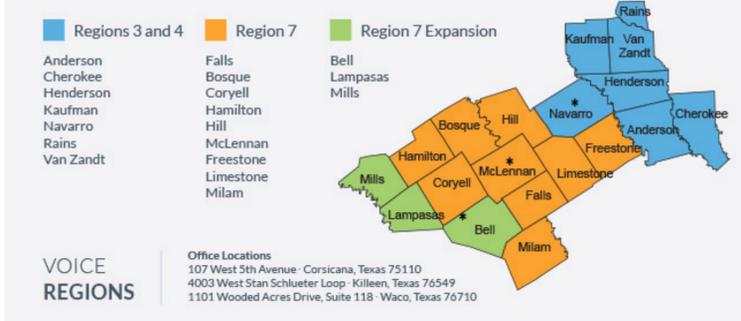
### Students and Families Benefit from Summer Programs



Waco Independent School District students Cayden White and Tyerrance Johnson increased their love of reading at Summer Freedom School.

Over three hundred kindergarten through eighth grade students and their families participated in our summer programs. Summer Breakout, held at community sites and housing authorities, helped students increase mental acuity and learn healthy behaviors. Students at Summer Freedom School expanded their knowledge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and explored cultural history. Parents volunteered at the program and will attend monthly parent training meetings throughout the year. We appreciate the schools and organizations that partnered with us to make the summer a success!

### VOICE Expanding to Bell, Lampasas, and Mills Counties



VOICE was awarded funding from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services to provide children and their families with tobacco, alcohol, and drug education in Bell, Lampasas, and Mills counties. We will receive \$454,800 per year through August 2018. This raises the amount of state and federal support we receive to 3.1 million annually, making us the largest recipient of youth prevention services funding in Texas.

### CAP (College Achievement Program) Awards College Scholarships



Kerns High School graduates Gabriela Lopez and Hailey Gilliam, Moody High School and Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy graduate Christopher Henson, and Connally High School graduate Harley Gervais each received a \$2,500 college scholarship in a drawing for students who completed CAP.

CAP is a free VOICE program that encourages students to continue their education after high school. CAP advisors meet individually with students and their families to help them access resources that aid in planning for, applying to, and paying for college. They also conduct informational presentations at high schools and community sites. High school seniors who enroll by December 15 and complete all requirements by March 16 are entered in a \$2,500 college scholarship drawing. Juniors who enroll and complete five of the requirements by August receive a \$50 gift card! Visit [navarrocountycap.org](#) and [mclennancountycap.org](#) to learn more.

### September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

## SUICIDE IN AMERICA: THE FACTS

**THE PREVALENCE**

10TH LEADING CAUSE of death in the U.S.

More than **40,000** Americans die by suicide each year.

**500,000** Americans attempt suicide annually.

**117**  
The average number of suicides per day.

[Click here to see more facts](#)

VOICE is working to change these facts by providing mental health training to adults who work with youth. [Mental Health First Aid](#) is an 8-hour course that teaches how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. Our prevention specialists receive the training, which includes how to refer an individual for appropriate treatment. We have a certified Mental Health First Aid trainer on our staff and we offer the training to other agencies and groups. To learn more or arrange for training, please [contact us](#).

### National Prescription Take-Back Day is October 22

# Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal  
Saturday, October 22nd,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)  
or call 800-882-9539  
for a collection site near you.

A majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends. To help remediate this, VASA (Voices Against Substance Abuse) encourages you to turn in expired and unwanted prescription medication on [National Drug Prevention Take-Back Day](#). If you would like to join the coalition of nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community members in addressing alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug abuse in McLennan County, please [contact us](#).

Learn more about our [Education, Health and Wellness](#), and [Leadership Development](#) programs, meet our [Leaders](#), and discover how you can [Support Us](#).

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