

network news



volume two, issue one

Learning To Earn A Living

Devereux residents receive valuable work experience through Adult Vocational Program at Devereux-Victoria

Many adult residents at the Devereux-Victoria campus feel a great sense of satisfaction thanks to the extremely successful Day Habilitation/Vocational Program in Adult Services. Established nearly six years ago, the program has matured impressively from a modest, single greenhouse to an expansive horticulture program operating six greenhouses and producing more than 500,000 plants each year. Additionally, Devereux-Victoria has successfully launched programs allowing residents to work in a variety of industries, including food, retail and packaging.

With a mission to provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to develop meaningful work skills and build self-esteem, the Vocational Program provides adult residents with real work experience while stressing the development of basic work habits like reporting to work on time, appropriate dress and preparation for the workplace. Receiving bi-weekly pay for their work, participants learn the general concept of business and the steps to earning a living.

“This experience benefits our residents by preparing them to meet the challenges of the workplace in the community”

“This experience benefits our residents by preparing them to meet the challenges of the workplace in the community,” said Fred Williams, campus administrator for Devereux-Victoria. “Participants also learn to respond properly to supervisory authority as well as the benefits of enthusiasm and initiative in the workplace.”

The Vocational Program provides training and work opportunities for Devereux clients in a variety of areas. The Horticulture Program allows individuals to gain and/or enhance skills through a variety of tasks required to successfully progress small plants to the retail stage. This system allows residents to work at a number of skill levels. With one of the largest selections of plants in the area,

the program routinely receives recognition for its vast collection of native Texas plants and hibiscus production. The greenhouse is also home to more than 30 varieties of exotic banana trees.

Another significant production area is the Bakery Program, with approximately 3,500 dozen buttermilk brownies and 18,000 dozen cookies baked and sold by



Louise Austin, horticulture coordinator for Devereux, works with clients, Andrew and Sally, in a greenhouse at Devereux Gardens in Goliad. The Adult Vocational Program at Devereux allows residents to develop meaningful work skills and build self-esteem.

residents each year. The program has developed notoriety for the delicious desserts and goods it produces, which are sold throughout the region. Through continued growth in demand each year, this program provides valuable work experience for clients who enjoy working in the food industry.

The most recent expansion in the Day Habilitation/Vocational Program is the Devereux Candle Factory. After months of research and development, this work group has the ability to produce high-quality, long-burning candles with their own unique features and scents. The final product is now in full production, and the candles will soon be sold in retail locations throughout the area.

The Dust Busters, as it is known, is a pre-vocational program that provides cleaning services on campus in the living

continued inside...

greetings from Gail



For more than thirty years, I've been part of Devereux's commitment to creating "communities of hope." People often ask, "How can you do this work? It's so sad, doesn't it depress you?"

The truth is that it is difficult, and even sometimes sad work – especially when a new child comes in or when a child who is doing well in therapy finally gets to go out to visit home – only to come back feeling rejected and abused again. Anger, at times like these, is a real emotion for me.

I could allow myself to be overwhelmed by these problems and the misery of the children we see every day, but the work is not depressing when you know you have the power to change things for a child. At Devereux, we know we can, indeed, help one child at a time.

Friends like you make the difference. While most of the clients at Devereux are placed by state officials or through juvenile courts, the funding never pays what it costs to take care of a child. In fact, last year the funding we received only paid 94 percent of our basic cost. This means that on a \$30 million dollar budget, we had a shortfall of \$1.8 million before providing a day of service. And this year, because of legislative cuts to children's services, we anticipate the gap will increase by at least \$750,000.

Without the partners in our community, and individuals like you, we would have to turn away hundreds of children each year. As it is, we make sure to serve those who have the most urgent needs – certainly those for whom safety is an issue – without regard to their ability to pay. We know if we could treat more children earlier in their lives, we could prevent some of these more urgent situations from happening.

It is our hope and our vision that we can continue to provide the much needed services to our community. If we don't – who will?

By supporting Devereux services, you can offer clients a bit of what our families gave to us, and you can know that they are going to feel what we felt when we grew up to be leaders and good community citizens.

Thank you for your continued support of Devereux Texas Treatment Network.

Gail Atkinson
Executive Director

Learning to Earn a Living, continued from front

units. Employees in the program also assemble picnic packages of plastic ware and napkins used for carry out meals. The program also provides basic work opportunities with the goal of being promoted to the Vocational Program as a process of natural progression.

The most sought-after work experience by the residents is that of Devereux Gardens. Serving as an external retail outlet in a quaint cottage in Goliad, Texas, this location sells products from all vocational programs to the general public. A certified floral shop, Devereux Gardens sells baked goods and houses a greenhouse, all in a coffeehouse-like setting. With tasty fruit smoothies and frozen coffee beverages, Devereux Gardens is one of the most unique gift shops in the area.

"Even with all the success in the variety of products produced, the greatest accomplishment of the Vocational Program is the change that's taken place in the individuals' lives invoked by the program," said Williams. "The residents at Devereux-Victoria have enjoyed personal work success that many would have never thought possible. It has definitely raised the level of self-esteem of the participants to a new height and improved society's view of the work performed by individuals with special needs."



Through the efforts of a creative and enthusiastic staff and essential participants, the Devereux-Victoria Day Habilitation/Vocational Program continues to thrive, providing a well-grounded, normalized environment for special-needs individuals to achieve success at their greatest potentials. For more information about the Vocational Program at Devereux-Victoria, please call Cathy Morrow, vocational program manager, at 361.575.8271, ext. 246.

Friends follow-up

League City

Doll Sale Fundraiser

The Friends of Devereux recently hosted an extraordinary doll sale, featuring more than 150 distinctive collectible dolls, doll clothes, doll furniture and accessories. A long-time supporter of Devereux donated the enormous collection and requested that it be used as a fundraiser to help the children treated at Devereux. Raising more than \$5,000 for various projects and events for the clients at Devereux, the doll sale served as a unique fundraiser for the clients of the League City campus.



Stocking Stuffer Event

The Friends of Devereux held an annual Stocking Stuffer event to help make Christmas a little brighter for the children at Devereux. Chaired by Texas Advisory Board and Friends of Devereux member Suesie Hardy, the event resulted in more than 200 stockings filled with fabulous holiday goodies for the adolescent residents at Devereux in League City and children at the Victoria campus.

The volunteer organization dedicated the day to filling stockings with an assortment of treats – from games, toys and stationery to books, candy, ornaments and other unique items.

On Christmas morning, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made the special delivery to the young clients, with both campuses hosting traditional Christmas celebrations on December 25.

The Friends of Devereux is a philanthropic service organization devoted to supporting the mission of Devereux by enhancing the lives of its children and adolescent clients. The organization meets the first Monday each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the gym of the League City campus. If you would like more information, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Gloria Nichole, president of the Friends of Devereux, at 281.481.6516.

Victoria

Devereux-Victoria is currently seeking new members for the Friends of Devereux. The campus has many needs and opportunities for volunteers, with a fit for every interest.

Volunteer opportunities include:

Childrens' program: Assist in the Devereux school library, developing arts and crafts projects, compiling welcome bags for visitors and organizing monthly birthday parties.

Outdoor gardening: Assist with the Adult Vocational Horticulture Program, with volunteer opportunities including planting, watering and assisting in the greenhouses.

Adult program: Lend a hand with the planning and staging of annual seasonal special events and holidays, lead an informative discussion on your favorite leisure/hobby activities or assist in the research of community events the residents might be interested in attending. Our staff and residents would be ecstatic with your involvement, as these activities are anticipated with great enthusiasm.

Office background: We are always in need of individuals with computer skills to input information, assist in mailings as well as a variety of other administrative tasks.

Fundraising: Assist in the planning, organizing, and implementation of community wide fundraising activities like barbecues and the annual Winter Wonderland event.

Whatever your interest, we will try to provide an area where your skills and talents can best be utilized. For more information about the Friends of Devereux-Victoria, please contact Shelly Underwood, public relations/development coordinator, at 361.574.7208.

FRIENDS OF DEVEREUX



Remember... one person can make a difference.



Get to Know Devereux An Introductory Tour

Join us for an introductory tour of Devereux throughout the months of February, March, April and May. To schedule a tour of the League City campus, please call 281.335.1000, ext. 2336; or the Victoria campus, please call 361.575.8271, ext. 208. Groups are welcome.



Victoria visions

The New Year brings new hope, new dreams and new ideas, and as we look forward to what 2004 holds, we reflect on 2003 and the challenges we faced.

Hurricane Claudette swept through Victoria in July 2003, bringing massive destruction to our area, including the Devereux campus. Strong winds tore off roofs to many buildings on campus, causing us to lose valuable computers and much-needed clothing for the children at Devereux.

Our greatest loss, however, was that of our dear coworker and friend, Sharon West Bauer. Sharon was fatally injured during Hurricane Claudette, and had been a valued employee of Devereux-Victoria for more than five years. Sharon dedicated endless hours to the clients at Devereux, working hand in hand with them to reach success. She had a special way of reaching out to people, and we will truly miss her.

Her legacy will live on at Devereux-Victoria through an endowment

fund in her name. One hundred percent of the funds from the endowment will be used for the residents Sharon cared for so deeply.

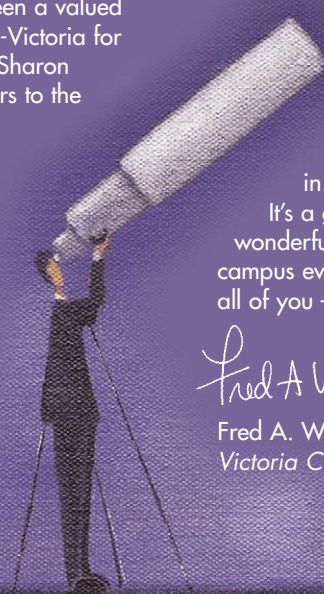
Most of the children at Devereux come from very little, if anything, and the things many of us take for granted, like family and birthday gifts, to them are rare treasures. Donations were collected to purchase a variety of gifts for the children. You can only imagine the looks of sheer happiness when the children saw all of their gifts on Christmas morning. It was truly a wonderful site.

We look forward to the New Year and the growing involvement of the community with our organization. Please feel free to contact me at 361.575.8271, ext. 202, if you or your group is interested in touring our campus.

It's a great way to see all of the wonderful things happening at our campus every day. From all of us to all of you - Happy New Year!



Fred A. Williams,
Victoria Campus Administrator



DEVEREUX TEXAS TREATMENT NETWORK

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Devereux Texas Treatment Network, through the Devereux Foundation, is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in accordance with IRS regulations. You have received no goods or services in exchange for your gift. A gift receipt will be mailed to you.



1150 Devereux Drive
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281.335.1000

120 David Wade Dr.
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Breakfast at Devereux kicks off "Legacy of Hope" Multi-year Gift Fund

One-hour fundraiser raises more than \$150,000 for those in need



Willow Morton (second from left), receives a \$2,000 scholarship check from Bob Reeves, Devereux Texas Advisory Board chair, to attend the college of her choice. On hand for the check presentation at the Legacy of Hope fund kick-off breakfast were (l-r) Reeves; Morton; Dr. Carolyn Villarrubia, medical director for Devereux; John Lowery, Texas Advisory Board vice-chair; and Gail Atkinson, executive director for Devereux.

Those in the community wanting to share in making a positive difference in the lives of children and adolescents in need now have a new charitable fund in which to donate. In a recent informative breakfast held at the League City campus, Devereux successfully launched the Legacy of Hope, a multi-year gift club, raising more than \$150,000 for the child and adolescent clients on campus.

Community attendees were presented with in-depth information to provide a broader understanding of the issues, challenges, opportunities and successes of outstanding treatment of mental illness. Guests learned about the many ways donations are used at Devereux, and were

informed about multi-year gift plans, some spanning over a period of five years.

"The Legacy of Hope fund will allow individuals to contribute on an ongoing basis, establishing new hope for those who suffer from mental illness."

*Legacy of
Hope*

"It's our hope that with greater understanding and appreciation for the positive transformations we make in the lives of our clients, members of our community will become involved and take pride in supporting our mission," said Gail Atkinson, executive director for Devereux. "The Legacy of Hope fund will allow individuals to contribute on an ongoing basis, establishing a new hope for those who suffer from mental illness."

For those who would like to know more about the Legacy of Hope, please contact the Office of Development, at 281.335.1000, ext. 2336.



Along with the celebration of the New Year, January provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our recent accomplishments and focus on the tasks ahead. The Texas Advisory Board concluded 2003 as an extremely successful

year for Devereux, including a Senior class of 14 students, hosting the Second Annual Divots for Devereux Golf Classic and launching the Legacy of Hope fund with an inaugural breakfast. The increasing number of volunteers and donors for these special events is most gratifying, considering the growing awareness generated by our organization. We also had the pleasure of adding several new members to the Texas Advisory Board who bring a wide range of expertise to the group.

I have the honor of being elected to another term as chairman of the Texas Advisory Board. The challenges that lie ahead are great, and the Board accepts these challenges with renewed resolve and

direction. At the annual Board retreat, plans were laid out for another successful year. We are committed to an aggressive legislative program to ensure the crucial state funding needed for the clients of Devereux. The main goal remains, as always, to continue to share the Devereux mission with as many people as possible and expand the donor base to meet the daily needs of the clients we serve.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and involvement in the coming year. With your help, we will make a difference.

Bob Reeves

Bob Reeves, TAB Chairman

Devereux Texas Treatment Network would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses that made donations between September 16, 2003 and January 13, 2004. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

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If you made a donation and your name is not present on the list, please check our next newsletter.

DEVEREUX FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Devereux Foundation is to provide high-quality human services to children, adults and families with special needs that derive from behavioral, psychological, intellectual or neurological impairments. Services will be provided in a caring and humane way to foster human potential and to contribute to the person's health, social, psychological and educational well-being. The programs will be of such excellence that they may become models for this and other nations.



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