



## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: KRISTINE WILSON MOTIVATED TO EMPOWER WOMEN**

Kristine is originally from San Antonio. She and her brother and sister were raised by a single mother who worked two and three jobs to provide for them. As she grew older, Kristine came to realize she wanted to help others overcome hardships. Kristine taught her children to give back to the community by getting involved in their church, schools, nursing homes, and anywhere

that would help them appreciate their blessings without forgetting that many others have difficulties in life.

As her children grew and began their own lives Kristine found herself missing the involvement of outreach. She relocated to Kyle to work in Austin. One afternoon while reading *Community Impact*, she came across an article about HCWC. Kristine felt strongly that helping to empower women to make positive choices for their lives was exactly what she wanted to be a part of.

Kristine was drawn to childcare -- either at the shelter where a mother can take time to learn to appreciate herself or where parents attend classes to learn how to make positive choices for themselves and their children. Kristine may never know the end of the story for the families that she helps, but caring for their children gives parents peace of mind that they are safe in that moment. She also volunteers on the HEARTeam going to local hospitals to help victims of sexual assault and family violence. It may sound time consuming, but it fits perfectly into her schedule.

At HCWC's training Kristine learned that HCWC offers services not only to women, but men and children. "The knowledge that no one is immune to the effects or tragedies of abuse tore at me, but at the same time, it made my resolve to empower women, men and children even greater," Kristine stated. "The training helped me in my professional and personal life. 🌸🌸🌸"

### **Make a Difference by Volunteering for HCWC**

**HCWC welcomes caring women and men who want to make a difference in the struggle against domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.**

If you'd like to help us provide services including responding to hospital calls, answering our hotline or providing childcare, HCWC invites you to our next Advocate Training with 30

hours of classes on weekday evenings and Saturdays in mid-January 2014 followed by 10 hours of on-the-job training. This course, certified by the Texas Office of the Attorney General, prepares volunteers to respond to those in crisis.

For more information, please contact Kate Shaw at (512) 396-3404 or at [kshaw@hwc.org](mailto:kshaw@hwc.org).



**AGENCIES SIGN AGREEMENT TO BETTER HELP CHILDREN**

Heads of agencies in Caldwell County and Hays County gathered on June 25 at HCWC's Roxanne's House in San Marcos to sign or review Multidisciplinary Team Working Protocols and Inter-agency Agreements. From left to right: Caldwell County District Attorney Trey Hicks, Caldwell County Victims Advocate Carmen Hileman, Luling Police Chief Bill Sala, Child Protective Services Sharla Lawless, Buda Police Chief Bo Kidd, Hays County Sheriff Gary Cutler, Hays County District Attorney Sherri Tibbe and Melissa Rodriguez, Vanessa Paulini, Elva Gonzalez and Marla Johnson with HCWC's Roxanne's House.

This multidisciplinary team collaboration, facilitated by HCWC's Roxanne's House, ensures that the path through the workings of law enforcement, the legal system and state runs more smoothly.

Last year, the institutions affiliated with Roxanne's House worked together on hundreds of cases of child abuse, including 40 cases in which defendants were sentenced to 780 years in prison plus 2 life sentences in addition to 148 years of probation.



**HCWC PRESENTS THE 2013 FALL ADVOCATE TRAINING GRADUATES**

Front Row (left to right): Micaela Aranda, Kenzie Dunn, Tosha Draughn, Elyssa Schroeder, Ashlyn Parks, Haven Rea  
 Back Row (left to right): Megan Nelson, Lindsey Snyder, Perci Tan, Terri Eidem, Norris Alexander, Ana Palacios, Holly Cunningham-Kizer, Rebecca Swaim and Sharon Skrocki.

# HCWC Happenings



**BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE HELP LOCAL VICTIM**

Bikers Against Child Abuse help abused children feel safe while a child abuse case is being processed by law enforcement and the legal system. In early August, HCWC staff and Texas B.A.C.A. members met a child at her home in Hays County. A child who has been abused by someone bigger and stronger knows too well what it feels like to be small and vulnerable. B.A.C.A. shifts that balance by putting even bigger and stronger people — and more of them — on the child's side.

"A representative from B.A.C.A. came to Roxanne's House to share information regarding their services," noted Vanessa Paulini, Forensic Interviewer. "Shortly after, I met a mother seeking services for her teenage daughter who was still extremely fearful of her abuser and was having trouble attending school." I spoke with the mother about B.A.C.A. and the services they could offer, along with our services; she thought it would be a good fit."



**YOU CAN HELP VICTIMS HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY**

HCWC's Adopt-A-Family Program helps make a happy holiday season for needy families. HCWC's generous donors give cash or gift cards from Walmart and Target, and trained "elves" accompany adult victims to help them shop with \$75 per child. We even provide the gift wrap and special gift bags for the adults.

Last year, HCWC supported 31 mothers and 63 children. Many clients told our "elves" that they were not expecting to celebrate the holidays because of lack of funds.

If you would like to help a family this holiday season, please send in your donation by Friday December 6, 2013 to HCWC Adopt-A-Family, P.O. Box 234, San Marcos, TX 78667-0234.



P.O. Box 234  
San Marcos, TX 78667-0234

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*You are invited to HCWC's*

## 2013 ANNUAL MEETING 35 Years of Service

**Monday, November 4, 2013**  
6:30 p.m.

**City Park Recreation Hall**  
San Marcos, Texas  
(by the Lions Club Tube Rental)

### **Teens: Agents of Change**

*From sports to art to future legal careers,  
area teens present on successful projects  
promoting dating violence awareness.*

Annual State of the Center  
Volunteer Awards  
Refreshments

