

#StoptheHurt-VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Craig Handley He Set his Goal to Serve his Community



HCWC Counselor Whitney Bliss presents Craig with the Changemaker award.

Craig's decision to volunteer was in part the result of reading "Bowling Alone", a book about the collapse of American Community. In it the author pointed out that America's "social capital" has been diminishing since the 1960s and, as a result, America's service-dependent organizations and our sense of community are vanishing.

He chose HCWC as an organization to serve because of his shock at the proliferation of sexual and domestic violence as he learned of it from close friends and girlfriends. It became clear that sexual violence silently underlies many challenging aspects of the human condition. Craig found this incredibly frustrating and, when he began searching for a service opportunity, he decided he wanted a chance to personally disrupt the cycle of violence on a greater scale.

Craig was a graduate student at Texas State working towards a MS in Biology when he began volunteering at HCWC. Since completing Advocate Training in the spring of 2011, Craig has been a regular HELpline volunteer and has also taken many shifts on HEARTeam for hospital response. In 2011 Craig was recognized with an annual Changemaker award for his weekly coverage on the HELpline. And in 2012, he was awarded with HCWC's Changemaker award for more than 400 hours logged as a HEARTeam volunteer. Craig participated in Capitol Day in 2011, lobbying for level funding at the Texas state capitol with HCWC staff and interns.

While serving in-house at HCWC, Craig tried to meet everyone and was impacted by staff, volunteers and clients' determined work towards personal goals and betterment of community. So when he was offered a job in Austin, Craig decided that he couldn't walk away from HCWC, and he still answers the HELpline on weeknights after work. 🌈

HCWC PRESENTS THE 2014 SUMMER ADVOCATE TRAINING GRADUATES

Front row, left to right:
Sarah Torres, Jackie Rinehart (from
2011 class but she stopped in for a
refresher), Sharron Sullivan,
Katrina Moore, Jacquie Telfer,
Alison Papion, Amanda Trevino
& Rosemary Szmyd
Back row, left to right:
Laura Baskin, Amanda Krafft,
Holly Cook, Alessa Smyth

