

THE BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OPENS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC AS THE CENTER TURNS FIVE

Event: Fifth Year Anniversary and Open House

When: October 22, 2010 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Where: Bexar County Family Justice Center located in University Health System Downtown (Old Brady Green) at 527 N. Leona St., 2nd Floor in Building C.

Why: To Raise Domestic Violence Awareness and Showcase New Programs

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In the spirit of **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, the Bexar County Family Justice Center is opening its doors in celebration of its Fifth Anniversary. Through its forty partner collaborative, the Center will showcase the many new and innovative programs operating for victims of domestic violence and their children in the San Antonio community.

Opening in 2005 under the President's Family Justice Center Initiative Office of Violence Against Women Grant and the efforts of Criminal District Attorney Susan D. Reed, the Family Justice Center began as a Center focused on victims in crisis. Now, the Center not only helps victims in life-threatening emergencies, but also addresses long-term mental and physical health and well-being, sustainability services to rebuild and maintain a violence-free life and therapy for child witnesses of domestic violence to break the cycle of violence in every family.

Programs showcased at the Open House include but are not limited to the Victim's Empowerment Counseling Program that mentally stabilizes clients then teaches empowerment courses that build the foundation for self-sufficiency; Project Dove that teaches financial literacy through one-on-one courses with a financial literacy coach so victims do not have to return to a violent relationship to economically stay afloat; the Dream Center which begins with the question, "What do you dream to be?" and supports victims with the help of a social worker and life coach to build short and long term plans to reach their goals and stop the cycle of violence; and VOICES, a group of survivors who utilized services at the Center and will share their stories and masks of anger with the public as they present, "Ask me why I stayed."

Susan D. Reed will provide an overview at 10:00 a.m. on how, under one roof, the Center provides protective orders, law enforcement, counseling, childcare, chaplaincy, military liaison services, crisis intervention, child therapy, housing, civil legal services, food and clothing, child protective services, medical needs, dentistry, professional job skills, financial literacy and other necessary wrap around services to 20,000 families plagued with domestic violence and conducted educational outreach to over 30,000 people



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