



VOL 7: ISSUE 4



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

A person in custody at the Travis County Correctional Complex has lost civil liberties, but not human rights. One of those basic rights is the ability to worship as a person chooses. We have a chapel on the complex campus and a chaplaincy program that accommodates the religious needs of all inmates. Access to worship services, prayer rituals, sermons and learning materials is provided to inmates, regardless of security classification. Some may participate in person, while others may have access electronically.

Chaplain Services are operated by a team of staff chaplains, along with area pastors and citizens who volunteer their time. Our Senior Chaplain manages the jail program, but it doesn't stop there. He also ministers to the needs of our staff, to include civilian and sworn, corrections and law enforcement, and yes, even your sheriff.

For 34 years, TCSO's Senior Chaplain was Tommy McIntosh. He served so well that he became a bit of a celebrity amongst both our inmate population and our staff. Tommy retired in 2021, and we took our time seeking a replacement because this job requires someone with a special gift for connecting with people and serving their needs.



I'm so happy to announce that TCSO's new Senior Chaplain is Dale Brown. He joins us as a new chapter in a remarkable career. An Austin native who graduated from McCallum

High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, Math & Physics from the University of Texas, with a Master's Degree, and Ph.D. in Pastoral Theology from Southwestern Theological Seminary.

Dale has been employed serving people in home health services, personal care services and hospice care. He was the Executive Director of [Texas Reach Out](#), providing men and women leaving the criminal justice system with safe housing, spiritual guidance, employment assistance, social skills, and support while reintegrating into their communities. He continues to executive direct [Men's Divorce Recovery](#), an organization he founded, and to coordinate spiritual care for a hospice provider.



The COVID pandemic forced us to restrict volunteer access to our facilities for over two years. Our once thriving volunteer base dwindled, and Dale is committed to growing it back up. He has plans and dreams for vibrant ministry efforts that will engage and benefit anyone interested. We're so glad he's here and it's my honor to introduce him to you.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that April is both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM)? While they are both difficult topics to discuss, statistics show us just how important it is to have a whole month dedicated to their awareness.

According to the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#), 1 in 5 women in the U.S. have experienced rape in their lifetime and nearly 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of contact sexual violence. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of [Health and Human Services](#) reports that around 1.8 million children received prevention services in fiscal year 2021 alone.

Throughout the month, TCSO shared resources on social media in hopes of providing information to those in need, as well as to provide knowledge to those who can make a difference in impacting these unsettling statistics – people like you.

Our Child Abuse Unit, the Austin Police Department and Travis County's Center for Child Protection work all year



long to assist and bring justice to our young victims. To commemorate CAPM, this month they also joined forces for an awareness kickball tournament, having fun while building stronger bonds between these multidisciplinary unit sections at the same time.



WEST COMMAND TOWN HALL



On April 20<sup>th</sup>, TCSO hosted a community town hall in the Sandy Creek area of western Travis County. We're grateful to [Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources](#), [Travis County Attorney's Environmental Investigations Unit](#), and [Travis County Constables Precinct 2](#) for joining us in the discussion. Residents had the chance to have open, educational and productive conversations with all of us. These interactions create a space to address potential concerns and help prevent crime together.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY INTERNS



TCSO was honored to have St. Edward's University Criminal Justice interns Hunter Bihm and Alyssa DeNoia with us this semester. They gained exposure to Corrections, Administration and Support, and Law Enforcement operations throughout the spring, and were wonderful additions to the team. We are grateful to Hunter and Alyssa, as well as St. Edward's for this program, which allows undergraduates to experience the many fulfilling career pathways we have at TCSO.

CENTRAL TEXAS PUBLIC SAFETY CADET COMPETITION



On April 1<sup>st</sup>, TCSO and [Travis County Constable Precinct 2](#) co-hosted the inaugural [Central Texas Public Safety Cadet Competition](#) for Public Safety Cadet and/or Explorer programs. The one-day competition event is designed to have challenging scenarios based on current Texas law enforcement standardized training which will test Cadets/Explorers' knowledge and skills. Teams from around the state competed in scenarios such as Felony Traffic Stop, Domestic Disturbance, Crisis Intervention and Burglary in Progress, to name a few, as well as individual events to include DWI, Hiring Board and a fitness challenge. Houston Police Department's Post 3203 took the Top Overall Award.

Thank you to all the teams, staff, volunteers and sponsors ([TCSLEA](#), [Roger Beasley Mazda](#), [Guard Texas](#), [H-E-B](#), [Schlotzsky's](#), [JP's Peace, Love & Happiness Foundation](#)) for ensuring the event's great success. We've already begun planning for next year's competition to be bigger and better!



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



On April 27<sup>th</sup>, TCSO hosted its annual award ceremony, honoring employees who went above and beyond the call of duty. From officers to telecommunicators, sworn members of law enforcement to civilian staff, some of the county's best public servants were recognized. We gave thanks to employees who have spent up to 30 years serving the community, others who have spent hundreds of hours volunteering, and even more who received commendations for a job well done.

Among this year's honorees were numerous officers who earned commendations and life-saving awards, as well as a handful of TCSO employees who got top honors for meritorious conduct. These are the kind of people who would care for animals amid a historic ice storm, who would swim 200 yards to rescue a struggling swimmer, and who would stop to rescue a sleeping man who had no idea his tent was surrounded by flames.

We send our sincerest thanks to all the honorees!

JUNIOR DEPUTY SUMMER CAMP



We are looking forward to hosting our annual Junior Deputy Summer Camp June 26 - 30 for 9 - 12 yr. old Travis County youth. Campers will have a positive exposure to the daily workings of the TCSO Law Enforcement and Corrections Bureaus. 20 Camper slots are available to Travis County residents only; registration is not available to any TCSO families. Also, no repeat campers from previous years - we want to share this experience with as many new participants as we can. Registration will open [online](#) May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. For more info., please click on the icon below.

