



VOL 6: ISSUE 3



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

March is Women's History Month and in light of that, I've been particularly sensitive to stories about the role of women in the workplace. I recently heard that over 60% of people who left the workforce during the pandemic were women, and over one million of them remained out of the workforce as of February 2022. The hardest hit of these women are single moms. [Source](#)

I was a single mom when I started my career in law enforcement. It was the perfect fit for me because shift work allowed me to work nights and care for my son during the day. I had no idea that night job, which took care of my needs at the time, would turn into an amazing career. In fact, most of the women I talk to in our Corrections Bureau tell me they never imagined they'd make a career out of working in corrections when they started their first jobs at TCSO either.

34% of the TCSO workforce is made up of women. They serve in many roles, from administrative positions, to deputies, to security coordinators, and many, many jobs in between. I want to focus on our corrections officers, dispatchers, and nurses because we currently have a need for people to fill these positions.

If you're like I was, you don't think you could ever handle one of those jobs. They sound stressful, physically demanding or maybe even scary. I want you to know that we provide extensive on-the-job training for the roles of dispatcher and corrections officer. Our instructors devel-

op each person's natural skills and teach new ones. Of course, nurses are expected to come in with proper certifications, but they too, receive on-the-job training. These jobs are also necessary 24 hours a day, which means various shift opportunities. I think women do well in jobs here at TCSO because what we do serves others. Women tend to naturally thrive in jobs that require empathy, relational problem solving, de-escalation and nurture.



Our hashtag is TCSOcares - it's true - we go the extra mile to protect and serve our community. Whether you're a man or woman, just starting out, or looking for a career change, I hope you'll [check us out](#). I especially hope those single moms out there who need a steady job, with health benefits and good retirement options will take what I've said to heart and give us a call.

BLOOD DRIVE



TCSO has partnered with [We Are Blood](#) to host quarterly blood drives. Central Texas, along with the rest of the country, is facing a blood supply shortage. Locally, the population boom, recent holiday travel, and COVID have led to a significant decrease in local blood donations.

We look forward to continuing our support throughout the year. If you're interested in participating in future TCSO blood drive events, please visit our [Event Calendar](#).



HONORARY SWEARING-IN



Sheriff Hernandez was glad to join Manor Police Chief Ryan Phipps, Austin Police Chief Joe Chacon, Williamson County Sheriff Mike Gleason and Hays County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Mike Davenport in swearing in Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel as an honorary deputy. DJ has been battling brain and spine cancer and made it his mission to be sworn in at 100 police agencies to raise awareness of childhood cancer, a number he has now far surpassed. It was wonderful for TCSO to play a part in his goal.

HANDBAGS FOR HOPE



DONATE BRAND NEW HANDBAGS, DIAPER BAGS, AND UNISEX TOTE BAGS TO SURVIVORS ACROSS TEXAS.

MARCH 9 - APRIL 8



TCSO is partnering with the Texas Advocacy Project (TAP) for the [2022 Handbags for Hope](#) campaign. We are collecting BRAND NEW handbags, diaper bags, and gender neutral tote bags for survivors across Texas. Each Handbag for Hope is fitted with a discreet tag that lists TAP's toll-free legal line 800-374-HOPE, safety planning information, and Allstate Foundation's Financial Empowerment Planning Guide. Our collection barrels will be located in the front lobby of the Travis County Sheriff's Office: [5555 Airport Blvd., Austin, TX 78751](#).



Congratulations to those who retired from TCSO this quarter! Thank you for your dedicated service to this agency and the citizens of Travis County. We wish you the best of luck in your new adventures.

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| Dolores Lopez – 35 yrs. of service      | Daniel Cordova – 22 yrs. of service    |
| Thomas Carpenter – 33 yrs. of service   | Sean Hast – 21 yrs. of service         |
| Anthony Hostetler – 30 yrs. of service  | Orlando Castaneda – 20 yrs. of service |
| Nelda "Sally" Pena - 30 yrs. of service | Blanca Hernandez - 20 yrs. of service  |
| Sandi Carter - 28 yrs. of service       | Heather Lehtola - 19 yrs. of service   |
| Tyrone Murray - 28 yrs. of service      | Miguel Cabral - 15 yrs. of service     |
| Anthony Aranda – 27 yrs. of service     | Steven Wilson - 15 yrs. of service     |
| Sean Harrington – 25 yrs. of service    | Noe Pruneda - 10 yrs. of service       |
| Tracy Stirman – 25 yrs. of service      | Anise West - 9 yrs. of service         |

COBRA GRADUATION # 101



The TCSO Training Academy offers a Corrections Officers Basic Recruit Academy (COBRA) for all new-hire Corrections Officers. Corrections Officers attend the COBRA course while on-duty within their first year of employment; Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provides a one year, mandatory Corrections Officer license. COBRA is 360 hours of very educational, detailed and supportive instruction that consists of the following:

- PHASE 1: Course satisfies TCOLE requirements for the Basic County Corrections course; topics include booking, identification, inmate rights, head-counts, emergency procedures, searches, classifications, health services, etc.
- PHASE 2: Course highlights those areas that are fundamental to normal and emergency operations of the Travis County Correctional system; topics include defensive tactics, firearms training, CPR, smoke-house safety, departmental policies, interpersonal communication, wellness, etc.

Congratulations to the following officers of COBRA Class #101 that graduated on March 18<sup>th</sup>: William Appell, Lorenzo Bennett, Jonathan Berry, Gerardo Esquivel, Jordan Lehtola, Marco Lopez, Robert Medina, Priscilla Mena, Johnfer Mendoza, Aaron O'Brien, Sarah Pannkuk, Jasmine Pacheco, David Rodriguez, Scott Skolaski, Logan Standiford and Mathis Wrenn.

TEEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Hernandez and the TCSO Community Outreach Unit were honored to participate in the [P.A.M. Media Outreach](#) Leadership Summit at Lyndon B. Johnson High School. The P.A.M. media Outreach nine-week Curriculum-Based Program integrates challenged high school youth with peers from different school organizations to teach them leadership and problem-solving skills. Sheriff Hernandez was the keynote speaker. She encouraged students to dream big and to turn their challenges into opportunities. Deputies and officers participated in the breakout sessions. We can't wait to see these young leaders succeed!

VANDEGRIFT H.S. HONOREES



TCSO School Resource Officers (SROs) Kim Richards and Joshua Garrison [presented Challenge Coins](#) to some very deserving recipients at Vandegrift High School this month.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, cafeteria staffers Haley Brymer and Jamie Cepeda observed their coworker, Norma Galvan, in distress, experiencing chest pain. Brymer called 911 and both comforted and supported Galvan until EMS arrived.

That same day, Claire M'Cutcheon discovered a student she didn't know in her classroom. Instead of merely asking the student to leave, she immediately notified school administration and the SROs were asked to assist with the matter. Their investigation revealed the student had with-drawn from the school and was trespassing. A Criminal Trespass Warning was issued.