Neglected Youths Gain Voice With Child Advocacy Legal Clinic.

For an abused or neglected child, living under Child Protective Services can be a bewildering and frightening experience. After being removed from his or her parents and placed in foster care, a child may endure a year or more of uncertainty and disruption before settling into a permanent, secure home setting.

Since 2002, abused and neglected children in Dallas County have had an additional voice through the judicial process, with the establishment of the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic at the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University. A $1.2 million grant from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas allowed SMU to add family law to its offering of clinics providing law students with valuable, real-world courtroom experience.

The advocacy clinic trains students to serve as guardians ad litem, appointed by the court to represent the best interests of a child in court proceedings. Student attorneys go beyond the classroom and into hospitals, courtrooms, foster homes and social worker offices to help determine what approach is in the best interest of each child.

"The goal is to give children a voice that might otherwise go unheard and to place them in a permanent, stable home as soon as possible," said Jessica Dixon, clinic director. "When we have strong advocates for children, the cases tend to resolve more quickly and with better results for the children."

Since the program's inception, 92 law students have participated in the clinic, and by the end of the fall semester, the total number of children represented by student attorneys is estimated to reach 100.

In their roles as guardians ad litem, the students...
Old Red Museum Gives Fresh Look at Dallas History.

Dallasites are glimpsing more of the city’s rich and diverse history with the recent opening of the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture.

Located downtown in the newly restored 115-year-old Dallas County Courthouse, known as Old Red, the museum sits on the east side of Dealey Plaza and boasts artifacts ranging from Native American relics to Tom Landry’s hat. Grants from Communities Foundation of Texas totaling $1.6 million contributed toward the $14.5 million cost of the privately funded museum.

One of the museum’s four principal galleries, the Ruth Ray and H.L. Hunt Big “D” gallery, was made possible by a $1 million grant from the Ruth Ray Hunt Philanthropic Fund at CFT, recommended by Ray and Nancy Ann Hunt. The Hunt gallery focuses on Dallas life in the 1920s and 30s, years of both economic boom and bust, as well as the era of the Texas Centennial celebration and World War II.

Other support from CFT included a $500,000 grant, recommended by Richard and Mary Anne Cree, from the Rosine Foundation Fund and a $100,000 discretionary grant from the Margot W. and Ben H. Mitchell Fund. To learn more about the Old Red Museum, visit www.oldred.org.

Advocacy clinic leads to career in family law

Continued from page 1

help follow children who’ve been placed in foster care.

“It is important for children in state care to have someone who checks up on their welfare consistently and is zealous about making sure they are protected from further harm,” Ms. Dixon added.

Molly Gappelberg, a former teacher and now a third-year law student from Dallas, said the clinic was a factor in her choice of SMU, since she wants to practice family law. Last spring, she was assigned to two cases where children were removed from parents’ homes due to drug use and neglect. She is continuing to participate as the program’s chief counsel.

“I liked the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of the clinic and working with social workers, psychologists and teachers to come up with innovative, creative solutions for the children,” Ms. Gappelberg said. “The clinic gives us great practical experience, and that’s exciting for a law student.”

Matthew Thomas, an Oklahoman who graduated from the law school in 2004, had not chosen an area of specialty when he decided to join the Child Advocacy Clinic. But through his experience as a guardian ad litem representing some of the neediest children in the community, he discovered an interest that led to his current practice of family law in Dallas.

“As a guardian ad litem, you’re serving in a legal role as an attorney, but a large part is also being a counselor,” Mr. Thomas said. “Cases are fraught with issues that go beyond legal conflict, and there is a component that can be emotionally draining. But through the clinic, I found I had a natural affinity for family law.”

For more information on the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic, go to www.law.smu.edu/childad.
Prudent investors periodically review their portfolios to make sure investments are performing in line with their goals and objectives.

Likewise, the board of trustees of Communities Foundation of Texas reviews the foundation’s investments and fine-tunes its investment policy to better meet its objectives – maximizing the available funds for long-term community support and maintaining liquidity to meet current grant requirements.

A recent review focused on the foundation’s investment strategies for endowment funds. These funds are intended to maintain a core principal amount in perpetuity, from which a percentage of the value (spending policy amount) is available each year for making charitable grants.

“Endowments are important at CFT, and the board recognized that an endowment’s assets should have investments with a longer horizon than a fund that has numerous or large short-term grant commitments,” explained Steve Orr, vice president, investments.

The investment committee of the board commissioned an asset allocation study of CFT’s investments and a review of other successful endowment policies. For endowment funds, the study focused on a long-term investment horizon where the potential for appreciation of assets over time is carefully weighed against the risk of investment losses. For non-endowment funds, the committee looked at investments to provide other income and the ability to grow principal in the short term. Additional asset classes for both endowment and non-endowment funds were examined to provide more diversification and greater opportunities to meet the needs of grantees.

Under an updated investment policy adopted by the board, funds at CFT are invested as follows:

- Endowment funds are invested to grow faster than inflation and to fund an annual spending policy amount of 4 percent to 5 percent. Longer-term assets such as real estate, commodities and private equity are part of the mix, which also includes equities, fixed income and cash.

- Non-endowment funds to be distributed over a period of 12 months or more will be invested in equities, fixed income, cash and a new asset class, real estate, which can include real estate investment trusts, investments in commercial buildings and investment-grade mortgage loans.

Noteworthy

NEW STAFF – Communities Foundation of Texas has welcomed two additions to the donor relations staff. Kelly Braswell, assistant director, donor relations and events, previously worked in donor relations at Children’s Medical Center Dallas and in event management at the Dallas Arboretum. Melinda Ellis, administrative assistant, originally joined CFT last fall as an assistant for the Texas High School Project.

Matt Allen is CFT’s new manager of information technology.

HIGH SCHOOL REFORM – Leading the Texas Science Technology Engineering and Math (T-STEM) initiative of the Texas High School Project is program officer Brenda Wojnowski, Ed.D. Brenda is a recognized STEM authority who moved from Akron, Ohio, where she was president of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation’s Inventive Education, Inc.

Other new T-STEM officers are Pamela Buckley, Ed.D., who was executive director of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Indianapolis, Ind., and Dee Chambless, who served as assistant secretary of state for Mississippi in the Education and Publications Division, Jackson, Miss.

Also new to the THSP staff are Lucinda Jones-English, finance manager, and Marisa Durrin, finance assistant. Catina Grant and Sheryl Radman are administrative assistants.

THSP is a public-private alliance including the Texas Education Agency, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Communities Foundation of Texas and National Instruments.

Bringing Visionary Philanthropists and Worthy Causes Together
Giving Through an IRA.
Gift from Martin and Elizabeth Price establishes fund to feed hungry children

Last fall, Martin Price and his wife, Elizabeth, longtime donors to Communities Foundation of Texas, wanted to make a gift to benefit children, but they did not have a particular charity in mind.

The couple knew that CFT had a deep knowledge of community needs and would be able to help them find the best organization to meet their charitable goals. Soon, the North Texas Food Bank emerged as a possibility.

“Elizabeth and I attended a North Texas Food Bank function and were impressed by the number of children served through this organization,” Mr. Price said. “We wanted additional information on specific programs, so CFT arranged for us to meet with Jan Pruitt, the CEO of the food bank. Through our conversation with her, we learned more about their Food 4 Kids program, and it was exactly what we were looking for.”

Bringing visionary philanthropists and worthy causes together. The experience of the Prices illustrates the goal of CFT. Bringing the Prices together with the food bank resulted in a gift that is expanding a program to feed approximately 1,500 Dallas County schoolchildren.

These children receive basic nutrition at school, but often go hungry at home. Food 4 Kids sends youngsters home on Fridays with backpacks filled with nutritious individual servings of food for themselves and their younger siblings for the weekend.

Although the Prices have a donor-advised fund at CFT, their gift to the food bank was established through an IRA and created a new designated fund, which supports a particular charitable organization. A provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 permits individuals to make a charitable rollover from an IRA with no personal income tax consequences. Unless the law is extended by Congress, 2007 will be the final year that individuals 70-1/2 and older can distribute a maximum of $100,000 in retirement-plan assets per year to charities with the distributions not taxable as ordinary income.

“I had read about the opportunity to give through an IRA. We wanted to make a substantial gift, and this was the best option.”

Qualifying charities under the law include scholarship funds, designated funds, field-of-interest funds and unrestricted funds at CFT. The Prices’ gift established a designated fund that benefits the North Texas Food Bank and its Food 4 Kids program.

“I had read about the opportunity to give through an IRA,” Mr. Price said. “We wanted to make a substantial gift, and this was the best option. We were very happy with the way CFT handled the gift and helped us find a good place for it.”

To learn more about assisting the North Texas Food Bank through the new Feed Kids Now Fund at CFT, please contact the grants department at (214) 750-4222. For more information about how CFT can assist you in planning your charitable giving through a gift from your IRA, call Jackie Franey, director of gift planning and donor relations, or Dwight Clasby, vice president, external affairs, at (214) 750-4222, or email them at jfraney@cftexas.org or dclasby@cftexas.org.

CFT does not provide legal or tax advice and advises you to seek your own legal and tax advice in connection with all charitable and planning matters.

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<tr>
<th>APPRECIATED STOCK</th>
<th>Gifts of appreciated stock can be extremely beneficial – both to you and to the charities you support through CFT. As you evaluate your portfolio, why not consider the benefits of gifting low-basis stock that has increased in value? You receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of your stock and avoid recognition of the potential capital gain.</th>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN EARLY FOR TRANSFERS</td>
<td>Remember to plan early – transfers of stock, mutual funds and real estate can take time and must be completed before Dec. 31 in order to claim a 2007 charitable deduction. To learn more about how CFT can help you achieve your year-end goals, call Jackie Franey or Dwight Clasby. See their contact information in the column at right.</td>
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Plan Now for Year-End Giving

Martin and Elizabeth Price
An annual tradition.
CFT helps Dallas Morning News Charities review applications

Twenty-one years ago, The Dallas Morning News began a tradition with a campaign around holiday time to help the hungry and homeless in the area.

The community responded generously, and since 1986 The Dallas Morning News Charities has raised more than $17.25 million to help vital organizations like The Stewpot, The Wilkinson Center, Promise House, Austin Street Centre and The Vogel Alcove.

Last year’s drive set a record with $1.85 million to assist 22 area agencies. The newspaper pays all administrative costs of the annual three-month campaign so that 100 percent of the gifts go directly to the charities in the program.

Since 1992, Communities Foundation of Texas has assisted The Charities board in reviewing grant applications, which are filed in July. Recipients are selected based on the quality and quantity of services, the area and population served, board and volunteer involvement, and sound fiscal management. “We help to determine whether the agencies are well-managed and well-governed and that they can deliver services to those who need them,” said J. Cook, CFT vice president, grants.

“The Dallas Morning News Charities attributes a large part of the campaign’s success to the fact that donors know that CFT helps review applicant agencies,” said Monica Egert Smith, senior director of community services for The Dallas Morning News and WFAA.

“We want to make sure we’re funding agencies that are performing at an optimal level, and J. Cook and Leslie Parks at CFT provide the expertise to help us review the applications.” In addition to assistance provided by CFT staff, foundation donors have been generous in recommending grants from donor-advised funds to support The Charities. Lead gifts to last year’s campaign included grants from the Jean H. and John T. Walter Jr. Fund and the Angela Barrett Fund of CFT, as well as an anonymous grant. To date, grants from CFT to The Charities have totaled $2.25 million.

In a world growing flatter each year, surveys show that a majority of young adults in the United States cannot locate Iraq or Afghanistan on a map, nor are they aware that Indonesia is the largest Muslim nation in the world.

And in Texas, where textbooks can be used for up to 10 years, educating middle and high school students about our rapidly changing world is especially challenging. Texas schools have no state standards for studying international issues, and an estimated 50 percent of teachers know too little.

Stepping in to fill that gap is the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, a nonprofit organization promoting international awareness to the community and a frequent grantee of CFT. It was recently named the top world affairs council in the nation.

Since 2004, the local World Affairs Council’s privately funded “World in Transition” program has been “teaching the teachers” of North Texas to introduce their students to the people and issues that will affect their lives. In two-day workshops, middle and high school social studies teachers examine the major regions of the world from five perspectives: economic, political, cultural, geographic and environmental.

“Young people need to learn to compete globally,” said Loretta Garcia Williams, director of education, WAC of DFW. “We’ve found the best approach is to give teachers the tools they need to take back into their classrooms.”

Participants receive current videotapes and books that explore, for example, the three major religions in the Middle East or the effort by Turkey, a secular, Muslim society, to join the European Union.

For Kimberly Lackey, of Grapevine High School, the World in Transition textbook “is the backbone and the materials are a major part of the body of my curriculum.”

Since World in Transition began, it has benefited more than 2,000 teachers and 60,000 students. The council hopes to reach 4,000 more teachers by 2010, including 700 in the Dallas Independent School District.

For more information about the World Affairs Council, visit www.dfwworld.org.
Craig Hall Keynotes Entrepreneurs Foundation Event — “Building Philanthropy” was the theme of the 6th Annual Spirit Event hosted by the Entrepreneurs Foundation of North Texas, a fund of Communities Foundation of Texas. Keynote speaker Craig Hall, founder of Hall Financial Group, was inducted into EFNT’s Ring of Entrepreneurs by Roger Staubach, a past honoree. Pictured from left are EFNT director Pam Gerber, Mr. Hall and Mr. Staubach. PricewaterhouseCoopers and Winstead were presenting sponsors; other sponsors were Andrews Kurth LLP, VCFO and G&A Partners. EFNT promotes community involvement and philanthropy among businesses.