Congratulations to the following summer students that graduated August 2011. From Region 7, Austin, BSW students (pictured below from L to R) Opeyemi Akeredolu, Meghan Pessetto, and Albert Rubio. From Region 8, San Antonio, MSW student Katia Papillon. (Not pictured).

Two current CPS employees began working on their Master’s Degrees part-time this summer, Nicole Travis from Region 7 and Leslie Hernandez from Region 8. (Not pictured).

Starting this fall there are four current CPS employees working on their Master’s Degrees part-time. These students are pictured in the middle from L to R with Michele Bauman (CCF), Tom Molnar, Ana Garcia, Valeria Diaz, and Laura J. Wright (not pictured) all from Region 8 San Antonio. Good luck to all of these students on balancing the challenge of work and school. (See pg. 2 for study tips and stress management).

From the San Antonio Region, Our Lady of the Lake University has two BSW students, Ashley McKibben and Nicole Curtis (not pictured) for the fall semester.

The Center for Children and Families would like to extend a big welcome to the new student worker, Whitley Grant (pictured far right). Whitley was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. In fall 2007, Whitley attended Angelo State University where she was a student worker at the College of Graduate Studies. Whitley then attended community college in San Antonio before transferring to Texas State University-San Marcos in fall 2009. She is currently a senior working on a Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Communication with a Minor in Dance. She is part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she is the chaplain, custodian, and co-publicist for social networking. Whitely will graduate spring 2012 and would like to work in a dance studio or in media business. We are thrilled to add her to our family!
In July 2011, Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) announced that the U.S. Senate reached a unanimous agreement on passing the Senate Resolution 231, naming September 2011 as National Child Awareness Month (NCAM).

Senate Resolution 231 will help promote awareness of charities benefitting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the U.S. The Resolution will also recognize the efforts and contributions made by these charities and organizations to help expand the future of children and youth.

These charities and organizations are dedicated to enriching the lives of children in hopes of creating a better future for them. The overall purpose of the resolution is to support children and youth, increase the support for these charities and organizations, and provide youth and children with access to specific services. These services can include health care, education, social services, arts programs, sports, and many other services.

So this September, once school is in session, parents, teachers, school administrators, and community members are being encouraged to turn their attention and focus more on the children. September is also a time to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth.

The Festival of Children Foundation helped begin National Child Awareness Month. The foundation wanted to draw attention to the critical and vital issues that children and youth face. The foundation's web site (www.festivalofchildren.org) offers ten ways to celebrate during the month of September.

The aim to raise awareness is based off of four guiding principles:
- Nurture one child.
- Children are the future of philanthropy.
- Actions speak louder than words.
- Many hands make light work.

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Study Tips & Stress Management

Working and attending school can be challenging to say the least. At times your own personal well-being is thrown to the wayside in order to fulfill priorities at work or school. While that may be a quick fix, the reality is you cannot function in that capacity for the long run. Following are some great stress management tips.

First, learn how to recognize stress and how it affects you. Sometimes irritability, tiredness and disenchantment start to color our world without us being aware of it. Learn what your stress indicators are and how they affect you. Next, do something you enjoy. Those indicators of stress are signs that you need to take time for yourself. Exercise, take a little time each day to sit in silence or surround yourself with people you enjoy. Find what works for you. When it comes to school take time each week to review lecture notes and handouts. This can help prevent cramming when test time rolls around. Also, make contact with other classmates. Get a study buddy and ask questions. Lastly, remember to breathe. You can do it!
Child Welfare Terms-English to Spanish

Child Welfare Information Gateway (http://www.childwelfare.gov/) provides access on its web site to a glossary comprised of child welfare terms that can be converted from English to Spanish and vice versa. The glossary was created to ensure consistency and cultural relevance in the publications, as well as supporting other organizations that are trying to improve their communications and promote consistency through the child welfare field. The web site provides access to English to Spanish publications, general resources, child abuse and neglect, preventing child abuse and neglect, responding to child abuse and neglect, supporting and preserving families, adoption, and out-of-home care.

Providing these resources will support professionals in their work with Spanish-speaking families and members of the community. These resources can be viewed online or ordered directly from the web site.

Influencing State Policy

Influencing State Policy (www.statepolicy.org/index.html) helps social work faculty and students learn how to effectively influence the formation, implementation, and evaluation of state-level policy and legislation. The National Research Conference on Child and Family Programs and Policy (http://www.nrccfpp.org/) is one of the first research conferences to focus on policy issues concerning child and family well-being. The conference was held July 2011 in Massachusetts. The keynote speakers for the conference were Murray A. Straus, University of New Hampshire, and Paul R. Amato, Pennsylvania State University. Straus discussed his article, Research on Spanking By Parents: Implications for Public Policy. Amato discussed his article, Programs and Policies to Strengthen Marriage and Reduce Divorce: Goals, Controversies, and Evidence.

Dates of Interest

The 2011 National Association of Social Workers Texas Conference is taking place October 8-10 in Dallas. For more information: www.naswtx.org

On October 4th Dr. Marcy Guddemi will be speaking about societal pressures on children at the LBJ teaching theatre at 6pm. Dr. Guddemi is a well known advocate for children. For more information contact kf02@txstate.edu.

The Children’s Bureau will be celebrating its centennial on April 9, 2012. On this day in 1912, President William Taft signed legislation that created the Children’s Bureau. http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/