

EPIPHANY TIDINGS

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August 2021

Epiphany Ministries of Texas, Inc.
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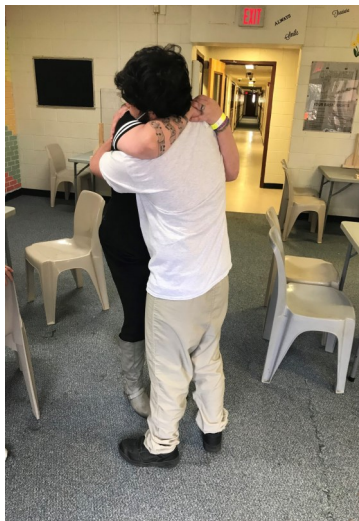
Roy's Ramblings...

Unfortunately there haven't been any Epiphanies for a while. What that really means is we haven't had any face to face time with our Stars for too long. One of the things we stress to our Stars is, that they will see us again, and they will. I know different teams have prayed together. I know some teams have had prayer walks. We have all prayed individually for our Stars. We all know God can open doors we cannot. I challenge everyone to join me in praying everyday for the Stars and the units to open up again. Since we can't be there in person let's make them feel our presence with prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Roy

TJJD resumed in-person visitation mid-March, this image of a mother and son at Gainesville State School is both heartwarming and hope-filled.



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Epiphany Events

- State Board Quarterly Meeting:
Nov. 2021



REFLECTING THE
LOVE OF CHRIST
TO YOUTHFUL
OFFENDERS.

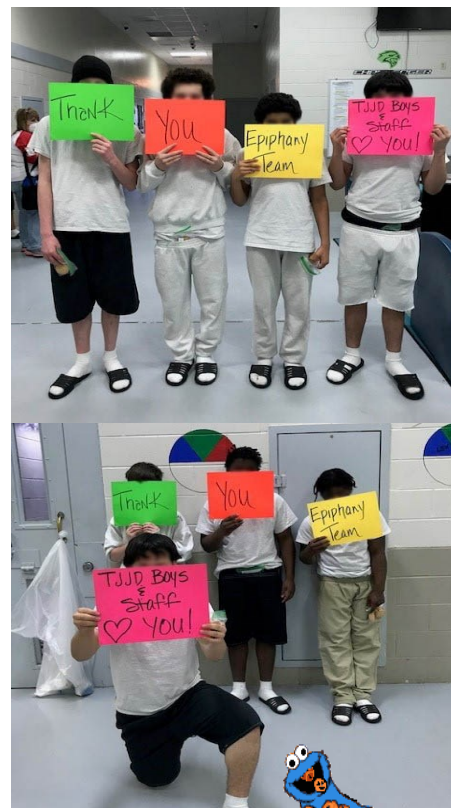
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MART EPIPHANY SENT COOKIES TO THE YOUTH AND STAFF... THEY RECEIVED A BIG THANK YOU!

What do you say after your local Epiphany group sends over dozens of delicious cookies -- enough that everyone gets at least two?

Simple. Thank you!

Pictures from TJJD's Mart campus, which has an active group of Epiphany volunteers who help look after the spiritual and overall wellbeing of youth and staff.



SEND MORE COOKIES!



MART EPIPHANY REMEMBERS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER...

The Epiphany team serving the McLennan County campus at Mart made 200 prayer cards and sent them to youth for the National Day of Prayer May 6.

Some of the team sent prayers for individuals and all of the cards contained words of encouragement. The group also gave each youth "God Is Big Enough" bracelets and cookies.

The Epiphany team, which has remained active during the pandemic, albeit through remote activities, also sponsored a St. Patrick's Day barbecue luncheon for the Mart campus earlier this spring.

The boys and staff let Epiphany volunteers know they appreciated these gestures by sending a photo "Thank You" message.



Post Prayer Walk and Goodie Bags...

July 2nd

Post UAC delivered Goodie Bags filled with snack cakes, candy, puzzle books and holiday word searches. Cards of encouragement and scripture notes were also in the bags. We wrapped up the delivery with a group prayer and a stroll around the facility.



S.A. KRIER PUBLISHES NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS...

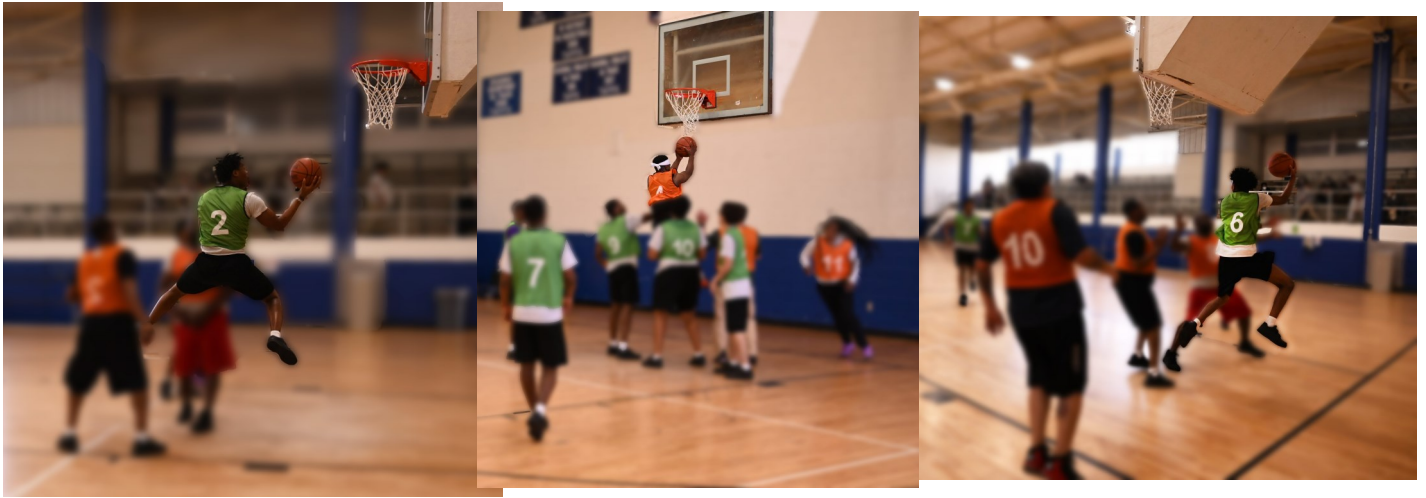
March 18, 2021

Good morning Epiphany family & friends!! We have some exciting news...our first newsletter is being delivered to the residents at Krier! We are not allowing Covid to stop us from spreading God's love to these young men and women. Sister Kathleen Eggering is holding a copy and taking it to the facility! Praise God for the opportunity!

What a clever idea! Hopefully, others UAC's will choose to do likewise.



What's been happening at TJJD campuses?



March 29th

Students and staff created their own March madness last week at Giddings State School, where youth faced off against staff in a couple friendly games of basketball.

Two dorm groups got to play in separate games against their Youth Development Coaches. Staff won each game, but

youth sank some amazing throws and played with great heart until the last buzzer.

The games help everyone feel a stronger bond with each other and build rapport between youth and coaches. This is a way to engage with one another and build those connections that are key to the Texas Model and helping kids find healing and success.



GIDDINGS



July 26th

Sixty-four students from Lone Star Southeast High School at Giddings State School enjoyed a fun "Incentive Day" last week that included kite flying, tug-of-war, sack races, basketball, water balloon toss, and a hot dog meal.

The day came off without a hitch and youth are saying they plan to make sure to qualify for the next incentive event.

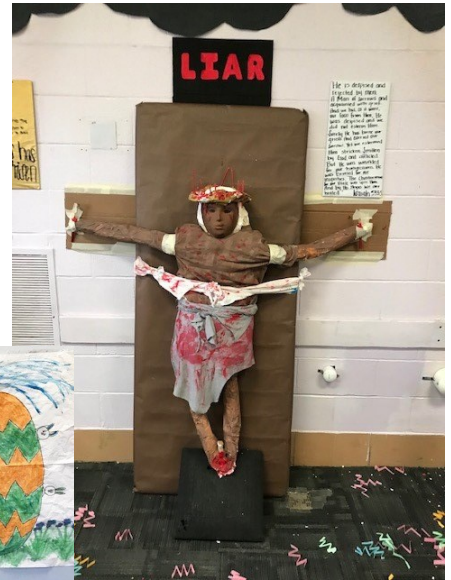


>>>> BROWNDWOOD <<<<



April 7th

Ron Jackson youth decorated for Easter by festooning doors, walls and dayrooms in a friendly competition that really set the mood for spring and renewal at the Brownwood campus.



HAPPY
Easter



June 5th

Ron Jackson youth enjoyed the return of intramural competitions over the Memorial Day weekend, with dorms competing with each other in volleyball and basketball.



FUN and GAMES

TJJD HOLDS TEXAS MODEL SUMMER CAMPS

The purpose of the Texas Model Summer Camps is to create opportunities for youth and staff to strengthen bonds and build rapport within a safe environment for everyone.

BROWNWOOD

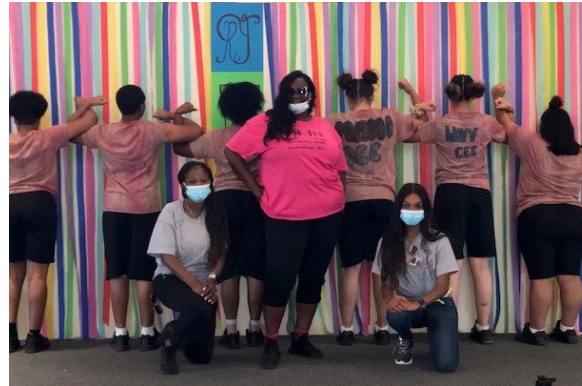
Texas Model summer camps kicked off in July starting at the Ron Jackson campus.

Youth participated in multiple activities that began with tie-dying team shirts followed by games drawn from the Texas Model Activities “black bag” of equipment and game ideas. These included activities such as “Fruit Basket” – a communication and thinking game that riffs on Musical Chairs.

There were ball games in the gym and field games, such as sack races. Staff also set up an inflatable water slide. Indoor activities included yoga and Paint-and-Pour art, giving the young people a menu of active and quieter activities.

The kids enjoyed pizza and drinks in addition to their regular meals, keeping hydrated and fueled for the two-day event. They were “up and ready to go” for Day 2 of the camp.

The refrain at the end of camp: “Please, can we do this again soon!”



GAINESVILLE



August 2nd

As the summer continues to cook its way through North Texas, nothing could stop Gainesville's State School youth and staff from expressing themselves at this year's 2021 Texas Model Camp.

The theme for the summer camp was "Stick Together -- No Hurts -- Have Fun". Camp commenced with a parade of youth and staff, including banners expressing the ideas of the Texas Model, encouraging self-regulation, looking after one another and having some fun!!

As the summer camp progressed, 100

-degree temperatures were no match for the school's youth, who were determined to live up to the camp motto. Water slides, obstacle courses, art projects, water kickball, and purposed times of self-regulation including nurture groups were observed. Nurture groups are a way of composing oneself and doing a "self-check" of emotions and feelings within a group setting.

Many times these groups begin with a simple question involving a person, place or thing. Those participating verbalize their feelings and ideas on the subject – a great way to learn about themselves and others.

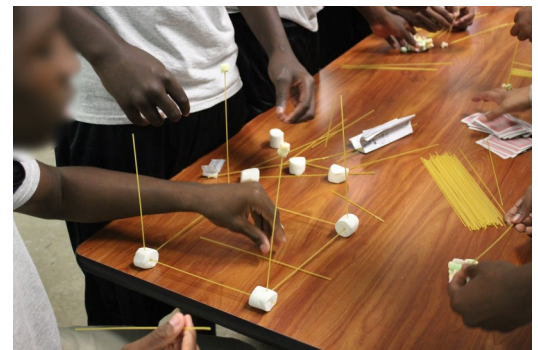


EVINS

July 30th

The Texas Model was the focus of a one-day camp this week promoting team building and networking at Evins Regional Juvenile Center, in Edinburg. Staff and youth joined together for a variety of friendly competitions and activities that included basketball, baseball, flag football, dodgeball, a water balloon challenge and a game called "Flip a Cup."

Nurture groups met as well, and for lunch the youth received a Chick-fil-A sandwich, waffle chips, brownies and Gatorade.



MART

July 28th

Texas Model Camp at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility (MCSJC) brought a bounty of activities amid gorgeous sunny summer days last week.

OK it was hot, but not baking, by Texas standards anyway. Gatorade was in demand and gallons were consumed. Indoor activities provided cool off time and nurture group sessions helped pace the sports activities. Who can complain when there's so much to do and also cupcakes?

The two-day camp delivered many special moments that involved a bounce house, a dunking tank and the debut of a new sand volleyball court that will remain in place for daily use.

"It was fantastic to see our Texas Model in action as we created an atmosphere where youth could feel safe and begin to build trusting connections, as well as celebrate their successes," said Superintendent Michelle Havranek. "A special thanks to all the staff who made this day a great success."



GIDDINGS

Texas Model Summer Camp arrived at Giddings State School with a splash – the splashiest part being the kickball game that featured tiny swimming pools serving as each base. Whoever thought that one up must have lived through some Texas summers.

There was plenty more: Squir toy games, a dunk tank, sack and tire races, volleyball, knocker/soccer and art activities.

Importantly, this Texas Model-focused camp also was a time to build relationships and cement friendships.



TJJD Response to COVID-19

As an agency focused on public safety, the highest priority of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department is to protect the youth in our care and our dedicated employees. TJJD remains in daily contact with the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Texas Department of Emergency Management to remain fully informed and respond to events as the situation changes. Additionally, the agency's leadership team has been meeting throughout each day to ensure services while maintaining safety. The 2,000 employees of TJJD are committed to doing their part to help Texas beat COVID-19.

Positive Youth Cases

Total number of TJJD youth who have tested positive: **334**
 Number of positive youth cases at secure facilities: **311**
 Number of positive youth cases at halfway houses: **23**
 Number of COVID-19 tests administered to TJJD youth: **4,182**

Positive Youth Cases by Facility:

Evins Regional Juvenile Center: **45**
 Gainesville State School: **13**
 Giddings State School: **108**
 McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility: **109**
 Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex: **36**
 Halfway Houses: **23**

Positive Staff Cases

Total number of TJJD staff members who have tested positive: **532**
 Number of positive staff cases at secure facilities: **482**
 Number of positive staff cases at halfway houses: **50**

Positive Staff Cases by Facility:

Evins Regional Juvenile Center: **107**
 Gainesville State School: **49**
 Giddings State School: **102**
 McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility: **126**
 Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex: **98**
 Halfway Houses: **50**

Totals reflect positive tests for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Upcoming Epiphany Weekends

Facility	W/E#	Date	LD	ALD	WC	SD	B. Rep
Brownwood	E 41	Feb '21	Trish Bull				Roy Bradshaw
Ellis	E 1	TBD	Neil Atkinson	Joe Lee	Dan Swanson	Steve Wilson	Roy Bradshaw
Evins	E 11	TBD	Jef Eaton	Graciano Castaneda	Raul Rodriguez	Hamilton Musser	
Gainesville	E 41	TBD	Steve Tacker	Patty Jackson	Nichole Collingsworth	Steven Miller	
Giddings	E 35	TBD	Andrew Perry	Shirley Perry	Sharon Marks	Mike Jones	Neil Atkinson
Krier	E 28	TBD	Chrissie Smith		Mary Helen Silva		
Mart	E 32	TBD	Mike Mellina	Leeann Radell			
Post	E 26	TBD	Paula Swanson	Larae Greer	Mark Wright	E.C. Harlan	