

The Nexus

# JOURNE



## Next with Nexus - A Program for a Family's Future



Charles and Dee Wyly, co-chairs of the Next with Nexus campaign, welcomed Nexus supporters into their beautiful home for the campaign kick-off.

Honorary co-chairs Charles and Dee Wyly hosted a kick-off event in their home May 6 to launch the "Next with Nexus" fundraising campaign. Board member Patti Flowers worked closely with the Wyllys and their staff to create a delightful evening with delicious food served amidst beautiful surroundings. In recognition of their support of Nexus, Patti presented Charles and Dee with a butterfly chrysalis, which was due to emerge from its cocoon within days of the event.

The Wyllys are generous Dallas philanthropists who support many organizations including the Salvation Army and the Center for Brain Health at the University of Texas at Dallas. Their recent donation to the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts was given to complete the multiform theater, which now will be named the Charles and Dee Wyly Theatre in their honor.

Nexus is honored by the Wyllys' generosity and leadership. The goal of the campaign is to raise

\$100,000 a year for three years, for a modest total of \$300,000. As the co-chairs, Charles and Dee are providing the \$30,000 lead gift for the campaign. The next step is to identify the steering committee, which will provide another \$120,000 towards the campaign goal.

Next with Nexus is an entirely new effort for us, created by our board of directors to reach out for new individual and corporate support in the community. The Wyllys' leadership will provide us with the ability not only to reach our monetary goals, but also to expand the name of Nexus in the community. Giving levels are available at \$1,000, \$2,500 and \$5,000. Donations support operational needs such as therapeutic nursery services for drug-exposed newborns, medical and psychiatric care for clients and safe housing and nutrition for a woman in residence with her children. To make a donation, contact the development office at 214.321.0156, ext. 2101.



Charles Wyly greets Nexus Board Member Zunoraine Holmes.

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### Our Mission

*Recovery and sustained independence from drug and alcohol abuse for disadvantaged women, including women with children, and adolescent females.*

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## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF NEXUS

### President

Caryl Madison

## From the Executive Director

We are pleased to announce the kick-off of the Next with Nexus campaign with honorary co-chairs Charles and Dee Wyly leading the way with their generous gift. They are not the only generous friends who have come forward to support Nexus. The friends of the late Wylodean Saxon came in large numbers to the Women's Auxiliary Annual Fundraising Luncheon making it one of the Auxiliary's most successful events to date. Please see the Auxiliary newsletter inserted in the middle of The Nexus Journey to read more about the success of the luncheon and the outpouring of love for Wylodean.

In addition, some more of our friends have stepped forward to form a new advisory council. Well-known community members are giving their name and counsel to enhance the Nexus reputation and increase awareness of our mission. We are very grateful to the following who are willing to serve: Beth Anderson, Dr. Ron Anderson, Kent A. Caperton, Mrs. William P. (Rita) Clements, Jr., Dr. Paul K. Conner, Judge John C. Creuzot, Mac Davis, Larry Gatlin, Caroline Rose Hunt, Chancellor Lee F. Jackson, Henry S. Miller, III, R. Clayton Mulford, Dr. Eric J. Nestler, Mrs. George A. (Nancy) Shutt and Dr. Richard L. Voet.



On behalf of the Auxiliary, the Board and the staff I would like to thank all of our friends who make this work possible. Our clients especially appreciate your support on their journey to recovery.

A. Rebecca Crowell  
Executive Director

## Nexus Named Beneficiary of Westapher Golf Tournament

Nexus was recently named the beneficiary of the 39th Annual Westapher Golf Tournament to be held October 11, 2004 at the Northwood Club. Sponsorships are available at levels ranging from \$1,250 to \$25,000. Individual playing spots are \$300 and will be available by the end of September.

Thirty-nine years ago the Reverend C.V. Westapher, former pastor of Saint Michaels and All Angels Church who recently passed away in April, suggested that he and some of the men of the church play a round of golf and get to know each other a little better. At dinner following the round, it was suggested that they pass the hat and make a donation to charity. This event started a tradition of fun, fellowship and giving that continues today.

The Preston Center Rotary Club took on the tradition in 1992 when they agreed to manage the tournament. Since that time, the Club has supported beneficiaries such as Hope Cottage, St. Philips School, Our Friend's Place and Equest. We are grateful to tournament organizers Stephen B. Smith and Kimball Ramey and members of the Preston Center Rotary Club for their decision to choose Nexus as this year's beneficiary.

The Westapher offers a great opportunity to support a worthy organization, and few avid golfers can pass up the chance to play the course at the Northwood Club! If you are interested in participating in the golf tournament, please call the Nexus development department at 214.321.0156, ext. 2101.



## Nexus Now Offers Licensed Childcare



Kim Howard, Director of Children's Services spends time with the children of Nexus while their mothers attend treatment programs.

Director of Children's Services Kimberly Howard joined Nexus in June of 2003. She was hired to bring together the clinical components of the children's programming with the educational goals for each child. Kim has always been a fervent advocate for quality childcare and education. As a result, she set a personal goal for the Nexus Child Development Center when she was hired last year: Kim would not rest until the center met the requirements for state licensure.

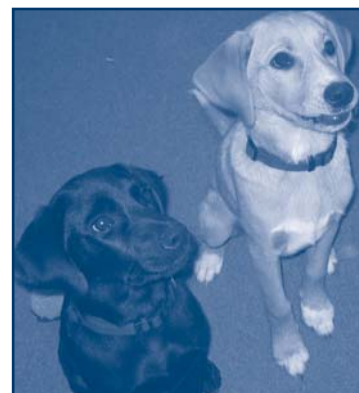
Kim's position is supported in part by a grant from Hedge Funds Care, an alliance of hedge fund industry professionals dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and treatment of those who have been victimized. Kim has an M.Ed. in Counseling and Human

Development and is currently working on becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor. Her experience with a family violence shelter in Abilene and as a Child Development Specialist with the Air Force fuels her passion for child advocacy. Kim's past experience made her eager to pursue licensure for the Nexus Child Development Center.

The Nexus child development program takes place on our campus in the Crystal Charity Children's Center, which was built in 1999 with funding from the Crystal Charity Ball. Infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers accompanying their mothers into treatment participate in various therapeutic and educational activities while their mothers attend group counseling, parenting classes and other activities related to their treatment. Older children attend a local elementary school and participate in after-school programming provided by Nexus staff at the childcare center. Although state licensing is not required for residential drug treatment programs, it provides the program with added credibility and flexibility.

In preparing for licensing and seeking additional funding, Kim worked with Facilities Manager Don Farmer to secure USDA approval under the government's Child and Adult Care Food Program. The program provides additional subsidies to support the cost of the meals we provide for our homeless clients. It also assures that our kitchen staff is providing meals according to approved nutritional guidelines.

Becoming licensed opens up the possibility of providing a continuum of care for children whose mothers have been in residential treatment. Children stay at Nexus for up to three months at a time and have usually formed a strong bond with caregivers during that time. Many clients qualify for CCMS (indigent family childcare) when they are discharged, which pays for childcare for their children. In the near future Kim would like to be able to offer daycare and after-school care to former clients so that their children can continue to benefit from the structured, therapeutic environment here at Nexus.



Puppies Teddy and Bear are the latest addition to the childcare center. Susan Dunn, a breeder of Labrador retrievers in North Carolina, donated the puppies, shots, and shipping after reading a request for the donation posted on the Web. Teddy and Bear serve a therapeutic purpose for all of Nexus' clients including the children. According to the Great Plains Dog Assistance Foundation, "you can find these (therapeutic) dogs in children's hospitals, elderly care facilities, burn centers, terminal cancer units, and with some hospice programs as well as others. As the modern world has rediscovered the value of animal interaction within our society the Therapeutic Companion Dog has become an invaluable health care tool."

## Partner Profile: Dallas Independent School District

The DISD is the 12th largest school district in the nation. The district serves a 351-square-mile area and 11 municipalities. As many as 58 different languages are spoken in the homes of the district's students and about 161,000 students were enrolled for the 2003-2004 school year. Approximately 200 of those 161,000 students were Nexus residents who were served by the Hospital/Homebound Program and Homeless Services.

Teenage girls in the residential treatment program attend school on the Nexus La Prada campus with two teachers provided by DISD. Teacher Debby Rogers has been teaching for 29 years in both traditional classroom settings and with the Hospital/Homebound program. John Chevalier has 32 years teaching experience and recently completed his second year with Nexus.

John has always worked with special populations, which have ranged from learning disabled to emotionally disturbed. Debby enjoys the smaller class sizes, which allows for more opportunities to bond with each student. For both teachers, being part of the team effort in a residential setting is very fulfilling.

Mark Pearce, DISD Homeless Education Coordinator, works closely with Kimberly Howard, Director of Children's Services, to make sure children accompanying their mothers into treatment start attending school as soon as possible. Nexus provides transportation to and from Bayles Elementary and works closely with Mark to prepare all necessary paperwork to enroll each child. Mark also visits Nexus once a month as part of our parenting education, providing the mothers with education and housing resources.

The DISD homeless services department also provides Nexus with two high school student interns from Skyline as part of the work-to-school program. Mark supervises the interns who work in the childcare center rocking babies, assisting with homework and in general providing supplemental staffing. DISD also provides spring and winter break camps along with summer activities to our school-aged children. The district even provides backpacks and school supplies to Nexus kids when our supplies are running low.

The DISD mission is to prepare all students to graduate with the knowledge and skills to become productive and responsible citizens. That mission does not stop when a student is homeless, the child of a recovering addict, or confined to a residential treatment program. Nexus is grateful to DISD for providing Debby, John and Mark, who work along side our staff, to make a difference in the lives of our clients.



The DISD program at Nexus keeps clients on track to assure that they do not fall behind in their studies while in treatment.

## Staff Trainings Provide Continuing Education Opportunities



Nexus Clinical Director  
Stacey Burns

Nexus provides many on-site opportunities for the staff to have access to additional education and training. During monthly staff meetings safety videos are provided along with "hands-on" training such as the visit from the Dallas Fire Department. Outside experts and Nexus staff members also provide on-going education and training on a regular basis.

Under the direction of Nexus Clinical Director Stacey Burns, the staff is sharing its expertise to educate each other. It is a great opportunity to highlight staff members' special areas of expertise, as well as to offer continuing education. Staff members leading the trainings since September include: Flo Barnes, Melissa Cantu, Debra Castillo, Sherry Ervin, Kimberly Howard, Rosalind Lawrence, Shirley Mikus, Ruth Randall, Kathryn Ross, Sheri Vaden, Heidi Voet, Dr. Lenae White, Randy Wiley and Twilah Winters.

A variety of topics are offered to keep the counselors and techs up to date with the latest developments in substance abuse treatment. Some subjects presented include: Motivational Interviewing, the Relationship between Domestic Violence and Addiction and Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Disorders. Our staff benefits from sharing knowledge with each other. Our clients benefit from receiving the latest in treatment modalities and protocols.



At the March All-Staff meeting Chuck Lee, Senior Fire Prevention Officer for the City of Dallas Fire Department, gave a brief lecture and demonstration on why it is important to know the proper way to use a fire extinguisher in case of an emergency. After the lecture, all employees went outside and had the opportunity to use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire.

## “My Name is Karley M. and I Am an Addict”

**I grew up feeling unwanted by my mother and hard to take care of by my father. The feeling of not being accepted by the main people in my life built a void. At 17 I began a life of destruction to fill that void with drugs and alcohol and partying. I did that for nine years.**



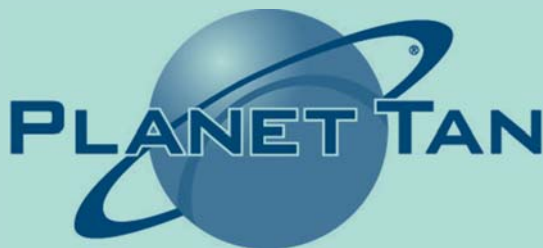
Nexus has three dorms that combined can house up to 105 adult and adolescent females and their accompanying children.

In August my son Darian who is five years old was already in temporary custody. I was pregnant and using. The partying had come to an end and I finally realized I was at a dead end in my life. Parkland told me to come to Nexus. At Nexus I learned that I had been looking all over for anything and everything to feel better except dealing with the main problem. I was taught to leave everything on the table and start new. I decided to do what was suggested: to listen and deal with the real issues.

I found a wonderful sponsor and I am currently working on the 12 steps. I have been clean since August 20, 2003 and that is because I am doing what my sponsor suggests. I go to meetings on a regular basis. CPS closed my case while I was in treatment at Nexus and now I have full custody of Darian. I decided, with much support, to give the child I was carrying up for adoption. Her name is Kaitlyn and I found a wonderful family for her.

In December I was nominated to apply for an award from Planet Tan. It's an award they give each Christmas season to a family who is struggling to succeed and overcome hardship. I was so excited to win a Christmas for my son that I didn't think he was going to have. They even had me come to their employee banquet to present me with the award.

I believe in life we are all dealt a different stack of cards. I also know by staying in the Outpatient Program and with the support that I now have in my life that I don't ever have to use again.



**Planet Tan founder Tony Hartl knows what it means to pull yourself up by the bootstraps. In 1995, at age 26, he stepped out on an entrepreneurial limb and started Planet Tan. He founded a company whose purpose is to "provide an affordable luxury where everybody can feel better about themselves." This philosophy is not only true for customers, but it can be true for a chosen few each holiday season.**

Several years ago Hartl decided to forego the usual employee Christmas gifts in favor of a program that rewards success in the face of extreme challenges. Planet Tan executives give the annual "Bootstrap Award" to an individual or family they identify who embodies the spirit of the award. This past Christmas they interviewed five candidates and chose Karley, a Nexus graduate.

Planet Tan employees provided Karley and her son Darian with a Christmas beyond their expectations. Darian got a bicycle, toys and clothing. Karley received gift certificates for clothing and bedding to help her get started in her new life. Planet Tan President Nick Galanos was so impressed with Karley after the interview that he took her to Walgreen's for an "interview prize" shopping spree. He already knew that Karley's determination to overcome and pull herself up by the bootstraps was the winning entry. The "interview prize" was just the beginning of a great Christmas for Karley and Darian.

## Thanks to our Donors

### United Way

This year marks the beginning of a new funding model for the United Way. The United Way has designed this new competitive system to "direct the money where it's most effective--to charities with proven results." (Dallas Morning News, 5/26/04) Gary Godsey, president and CEO of United Way says in the DMN article, "The agencies had to make a case for the dollars they receive." And Nexus did! Nexus received \$157,072 from the Priority Needs Grants Funds and \$82,479 from Safety Net Funds, which represents a significant increase in funding. The Priority Needs Grant Funds were awarded to the Adult Women's Program for the Client Care Fund and to our Children's Services for Enhanced Therapeutic Services. Safety Net Funds were allocated to United Way partner agencies as a means to transition into the new funding model. Many thanks to United Way staff and volunteers for acknowledging the important work Nexus does and for providing a smooth transition to the new funding model.

### Dignity U Wear Teams with Stein Mart to Donate New Clothes

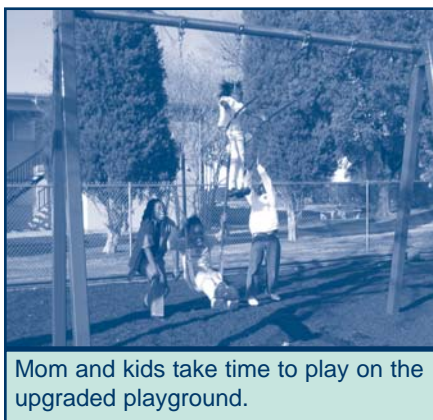
During a recent shopping trip to Stein Mart, Women's Auxiliary member Linda Huffhines struck up a conversation with store manager Robert Henry. He was looking for a local non-profit to be his store's beneficiary of their partnership with the Dignity U Wear Foundation. Linda knew immediately what organization to recommend, and since December Nexus has received more than 2,000 items of brand new clothes from the foundation.

Dignity U Wear was founded in April of 2000 in Jacksonville, Florida, by philanthropist and Holocaust survivor, Henri Landwirth. "I know what it means not to have clothes - to be stripped of dignity and to give up all hope," says Henri. "And when I see children suffering indignities, I know we have to help." Mr. Landwirth founded Dignity U Wear to create real change in the lives of children and adults in need.

To accomplish this change, Dignity U Wear "wed its heart" with that of Stein Mart's, whose 287 stores have the opportunity to fundraise for Dignity U Wear. In exchange, each Stein Mart may pick an agency in its community that can order new clothing three times a year for its clients. This partnership, coupled with donations from key manufacturers and retailers, enables Dignity U Wear to collect and warehouse new garments to distribute, at no cost, to eligible non-profits such as Nexus.

The best way to say thanks to Linda Huffhines, Robert Henry and Henri Landwirth is to quote one of our clients: "Thank you for the donations to Nexus Recovery Center! I have no one to help me as I have burned all of my bridges in my active addiction. Your donations have put me at ease that I will have something to wear. Thank you!"

### Other Generous Donors



Thanks to the more than 132 donors who contributed over \$42,000 to the annual campaign.

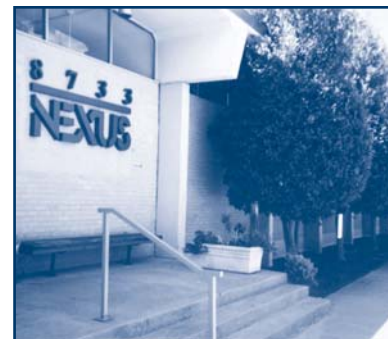
A grant in the amount of **\$26,090 from the Hoblitzelle Foundation** to implement the new technology plan allows Nexus to increase the efficiency, accessibility and accuracy of the flow of information throughout the agency, as well as to funding sources. Nexus received 10 IBM laptops from the Dallas office of the international law firm **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher**. The firm collaborated with **Microsoft's Southern California District** team to increase the functionality of the laptops. Microsoft also donated the most current release of Microsoft Windows XP Pro and Office.

**Paymentech** provided funding to replace the fall zone material in both playgrounds on the La Prada campus. **Green Edge** helped us stretch the value of

Paymentech's donation with a \$6,500 in-kind donation of rubberific mulch, which is made of recycled tires that won't biodegrade like most fall zone material.

The **Harold Simmons Foundation** responded to our plea for funding for a new roof for the adolescent dorm with a \$10,000 donation. **Allied Roofing** generously donated the remainder of the budget, \$2,956.00.

**Mr. and Mrs. John McStay** recently provided partial funding for purchase and repair of air conditioning units for the administrative building. We still have \$6,570 to raise in order to complete the repairs and would appreciate your donations as the summer months heat up.



Robin Stevens coordinates a "present raising" Christmas party every year for the children at Nexus.

Nexus clients had a very merry Christmas this year because of the many donations from people like **Robin Stevens**. Robin hosts a party every year to solicit cash donations and presents for clients and their children. **Elizabeth Newbury** dropped off a bag full of Christmas presents for clients -- thanks to her working relationship with **Virginia Cook Realtors Intown Office**. **Cyndi and John Esch** have been hosting an annual wine tasting party for 17 years. Each year they ask that guests bring a new unwrapped toy to give to a charity. This year, at the urging of their good friend **Caryl Madison**, they chose Nexus. **Christina Duke** and other employees of **Kiddie Kandids** (in the Mesquite Babies R Us store) solicited donations of clothing and toys. They provided a party for the Nexus kids and their Moms to distribute the gifts. **Chad Lipscomb** provided a gift certificate to Wal Mart so that all of the

kids could receive winter coats. And finally, the **Women's Auxiliary** held their annual **Christmas Tea and Bazaar** at the home of **Charles and Dee Wily**. Auxiliary members brought more than 900 gifts to be distributed to clients and their children on Christmas morning.



Santa visits the children at Nexus.

A donation of 250 pieces of past season Spring and Summer garments has been made to the clients of Nexus by **The Worth Collection**, a line of custom designed ready-to-wear clothing. The gift was made possible by Women's Auxiliary board member and Worth Associate, **Donna Boyter**.

Gifts made in memory of Wylodean Saxon are being used to create the **Wylodean Saxon Memorial Fund**. The establishment of the fund represents the lead gift in the creation of a permanent endowment. It is a fitting tribute to one of the key founders of the Women's Auxiliary.

We would also like to acknowledge the following donors for on-going support of Nexus. The **Kimberly-Clark Foundation** has supported Nexus for five years. The **Women of St. Michael and All Angels Church**, who have been donors to Nexus since 1990, recently donated \$7,500 to the **Client Care Fund**. The **CitiGroup Foundation** again provided funding for operating costs as did the **Garland D. Rhoads Foundation**, a donor designated fund managed by William P. Anthony of Bank of America. Thanks to Nexus Board member Misty Smathers for helping secure funding from the **Junior League of Dallas** to purchase a new refrigerator. The **Lakewood Service League** recently granted \$1,500.00 to fund medications for clients without insurance. Employees of **Freddie Mac** continue to support Nexus with annual cash contributions. Qualifying donations are matched by the **Freddie Mac Foundation**.

**Are you a Tom Thumb shopper? When you check out, use your Reward Card and ask the clerk to link your purchases to #415. That's it! Nexus will automatically receive a percentage of your total grocery bill every time you shop. Thanks for making a difference!**

#### Send Us Your Email Address!

In the next few months Nexus will launch a new web site along with an e-newsletter. If you'd like to receive the notice announcing the new web site and the new e-newsletter, let us know via email. Email [klucas@nexusrecovery.org](mailto:klucas@nexusrecovery.org) and Kathy Lucas will add you to the list.

## Wish List

Nexus is in need of the following items for our clients.

Board Games for School-age Children

Personal Hygiene Products

Shampoo/Hair Accessories

Sleepwear

Socks

Swimsuits for Boys and Girls

Talcum Powder/Deodorant

Undergarments

\_\_\_\_ I want to help! Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ I want to volunteer, please contact me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and contribution to:

Nexus Recovery Center, Inc.

Development Department

8733 La Prada Drive

Dallas, TX 75228

The **Nexus Journey** is published by Nexus Recovery Center, Inc.

For comments, suggestions, or more information, please call (214) 321-0156 x2101.

Editor: Lora Brandis Layout and Design/Photography: Kathy Lucas

*"My life will never be the same...it will be better forever!"  
- Nexus Client*

Nexus Recovery Center, Inc.  
8733 La Prada Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75228  
(214) 321-0156  
Fax (214) 321-3096  
www.nexusrecovery.org