

WHO has busy, productive April

CASA, The Caring Place, and BiG receive donations

WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

Anne Marshall

Women Helping Others celebrated the month of April with several wonderful events.

As a result of the March Pot of Gold fundraiser for BiG, the organization was able to purchase a special refrigerator to hold and display the wonderful pies that are made and sold at the BiG restaurant in Georgetown.

WHO's Vice President Maria Tolleson, together with three other ladies from WHO, also met with the executive director of The Caring Place, Ginna O'Connor and presented her with a donation of \$1,000. The ladies were taken on a tour of The Caring Place and were amazed to learn about the incredible services that are provided to the community in Williamson County. It is a great place to shop for many items from clothing to household goods.

At their monthly meeting, the members were given a presentation by Wendy Prindle, community engagement coordinator of CASA of Williamson County. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.



WHO Vice President Maria Tolleson (left) meets with Wendy Prindle of CASA.

The idea of CASA began in 1977, when Judge David Soukup in Seattle decided he needed to know more about the children whose lives were in his hands. His solution was to ask community volunteers to act as a "voice in court" for abused and neglected children.

These Court Appointed Special Advocates provided him with the detailed information he needed to safeguard the children's best interests and ensure that they were placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The program was so successful that it was duplicated around the nation.

CASA has continued to serve abused and neglected children in Texas for almost 40 years, providing trained community volunteers

for every child who was assigned to the program through the court.

CASA of Williamson County became its own nonprofit organization, self-governed by a volunteer board of directors, in May 2009.

The mission of CASA of Williamson County exists to empower community volunteers to advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect to find loving, safe and permanent homes. And their vision is that all children in Williamson County will have loving, safe and permanent homes.

Imagine the experience of children who are removed from their homes because the people responsible for protecting them

have not. These children find themselves in a world filled with social workers, lawyers, judges, and courtrooms where life-altering decisions are made on their behalf. Last year, CASA helped children from 2 days old to 18 years old.

During the meeting, a donation from WHO of \$500 was presented to Wendy Prindle for CASA.

Donations to CASA may be made online at www.williamsoncountycasa.org/giving

Anne Marshall is a member of Woman Helping Others, a Georgetown-based club that works to help area nonprofit organizations. Each month, the group meets to assist and spotlight the efforts of a local nonprofit.