



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### RESTITUTION PROGRAM HONORED FOR ONE MILLION CANS TO NEEDY FAMILIES AND \$14 MILLION IN VOLUNTEER TIME

*Dallas County Probation Officers are praised for their program's impact on the community during County-wide awards program*

**WHAT:** Through a collaborative effort entitled “Can-Do!,” more than 600 probation officers throughout Dallas County will be thanked by executive leadership from the Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT) and the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) for what their probationers have contributed to the community. Through this initiative, court-ordered volunteers donate *cans* to the NTFB and *do* volunteer work in the community, managed by the VCNT, as a requirement for alternative sentencing.

Since the “CanDo!” program was launched in 2008, under the leadership of Dr. Michael Noyse, director of the Dallas County Community Supervision & Corrections Department, more than 1 million cans have been donated to the NTFB, which serves a network of 1,146 feeding programs in 13 North Texas counties, and more than \$14 million in volunteer hours have been given to more than 500 nonprofit organizations in Dallas County.

**WHEN:** **Thursday, August 20, 2010**  
**1:30 p.m. – Community Supervisions & Corrections Department County Awards Program**  
**2:00 p.m. – Thanks a Million Celebration**

**WHO**

- 600 Dallas County probation officers
- Julie Thomas, CEO – Volunteer Center of North Texas
- Jan Pruitt, President & CEO – North Texas Food Bank

*[The following Judges require probationers to participate in “CanDo!” and are available for interviews]*  
Judge Francis - [judgefrancis7@gmail.com](mailto:judgefrancis7@gmail.com) or 214-653-5949  
Judge Creuzot - [jcreuzot@aol.com](mailto:jcreuzot@aol.com) or 214-653-5392 (Cornelius Jennings, Coordinator)  
Judge Tracy Holmes - [tracy.holmes@dallasocunty.org](mailto:tracy.holmes@dallasocunty.org) or 214-653-5892 (Debbie Daily, Coordinator)  
Judge Mitchell - [larry.mitchell@dallascounty.org](mailto:larry.mitchell@dallascounty.org) or 214-653-5882 (Maria Waters, Coordinator)

**WHERE:** Frank Crowley Court House – Jury Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – D3)  
133 N. Riverfront Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207

**WHY:** The Dallas County Courts realize the importance of engaging probationers in restitution programming. This initiative has not only helped the court reduce costs of incarceration, but has also helped probationers repay their debt to society through their time and resources. Since 2008, Dallas County probationers have completed more than 700,000 volunteer hours, and their can donations have helped to feed thousands of families throughout North Texas.

Dallas County has worked with the VCNT since 1981, developing alternative sentencing for probationers through the organization’s Community Service Restitution Program.

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