




PO Box 1201 • Spring Branch • TX • 78070 • Phone: 210-416-2483  
Bulverde News • Spring Branch News • Canyon Lake News

Wednesday, APR 30, 2008

- LOCAL NEWS
  - Front Page
  - More News
  - Police Blotter
  - U.S. & World News
- SECTIONS
  - Opinions/Editorials
  - Business
  - Education
  - Columns
  - Obituaries
  - Proud To Serve
  - Entertainment
  - Around Town
  - Events Calendar
  - Useful Links
  - Helpful Numbers
  - Yellow Pages
  - Games
  - View Classifieds **NEW**
- SERVICES
  - Place Classifieds
  - Submit Events
  - Letter to the Editor
  - Birth Announcement
  - Wedding/Engagment
- REAL ESTATE
  - Articles
  - Property
- NEWS VIA EMAIL
  -  News via Email
- PICTURE GALLERY
- JUBILEE 2007
- CONTACT US

### Help restore important VOCA funding

Norma Castilla-Blackwell 30.APR.08

Dear Editor,

Over the past two federal fiscal years Congress has cut victim assistance funds 22% under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The Administration's 2009 budget request would cut another 20 percent from VOCA victim assistance funding. The VOCA Fund is a separate account generated by federal criminal fines, forfeitures and special assessments, not taxpayer revenues. These cuts are especially disheartening and frustrating when you consider that this fund is expected to have a balance of \$2 billion at the end of 2008.

The events of recent weeks in Eldorado have brought new attention to the need to provide appropriate services to the 47,000 Texas children in CPS care annually due to evidence of abuse and neglect. Now is not the time to decrease available federal assistance to these victims or other crime victims.

VOCA funds are distributed to states through an annual allocation and are used at the local level for such essential victim assistance programs as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for abused and neglected children, Children's Advocacy Centers, sexual assault programs, elder abuse programs, domestic violence centers, and DWI programs such as Mother's Against Drunk Driving. In Texas the Governor's Office has been the state administrative agency for these funds and has been a supportive and collaborating partner in providing these funds to victim programs across the state. They now face the thankless task of having to pass down these cuts that will significantly and negatively impact programs in serving crime victims.

VOCA funds have been a vital means of support for my program, CASA of Central Texas. It has helped us recruit and train community volunteers to serve Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe and Hays abused and neglected children in our area who have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services. Continued federal cuts will significantly impact our ability to provide

**MAJOR APPLIANCES**  
 AIR CONDITIONING  
 HEATING  
**KOOL-IT**  
 REFRIGERATION  
**885-7185**  
**899-7107**  
 TX Lic #8009400E



Contact Us

volunteer advocates for children assigned to us by the court.

We hope that you will join us in urging Congress to restore VOCA funding and appropriate \$770 million to VOCA in the FY 2009 federal budget. VOCA has been a dedicated non-taxpayer fund source for crime victims since 1984 and there are more than enough available funds to adequately appropriate the amount being requested. Our crime victims deserve more in available services not less.

Norma Castilla-Blackwell  
Executive Director  
CASA of Central Texas, Inc.

 EMAIL THIS STORY  PRINT THIS STORY

#### more . . . Opinions/Editorials

- [30.APR.08 Updatea on Water for the Bulverde Schools and Highway](#)
- [30.APR.08 Re-elect Mayor Stevick](#)
- [30.APR.08 Help restore important VOCA funding](#)
- [16.APR.08 Seniors are eligible for Stimulus Checks](#)
- [06.MAR.08 Local restaurant dismissed youth as he enlists in military](#)
- [13.FEB.08 The Home Rule 'spin' for Bulverde](#)
- [06.FEB.08 Responsibility of lifting a burn ban should be evaluated](#)
- [06.FEB.08 D.A.R.E. Program makes less difference than thought](#)
- [09.JAN.08 Watch for hidden fees on gift cards](#)
- [27.DEC.07 "Mouse" touched many lives](#)
- [19.NOV.07 PEC's DNA shows through in all they do](#)
- [14.NOV.07 BSC expresses thanks for successful Fall Style Show](#)
- [31.OCT.07 Home Rule: The public said "No"](#)
- [17.OCT.07 Hill Country Chamber thanks sponsors for successful golf tournament](#)
- [18.AUG.07 BAVFD grateful to Brumley's for donation that in turn helps community](#)
- [18.JUN.07 City needs to put Long Range Plan in place now](#)
- [06.JUN.07 Immigrations is the Hot Topic...Learn More](#)
- [27.MAY.07 Three issues of concern to voters](#)
- [27.MAY.07 A Plea for Support](#)
- [27.MAY.07 Setting the record straight](#)
- [27.MAY.07 Open Letter to the Citizens of the City of Bulverde](#)
- [27.MAY.07 Home Rule - Is this good for Bulverde?](#)