



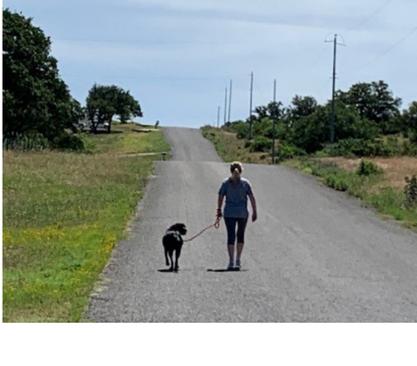
MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

"Once you choose hope, anything's possible." I recently saw this quote from Christopher Reeve and it reminded me that my perspective affects even the most challenging circumstances. The last few months have brought tough challenges for all of us. I believe every challenge is an opportunity and I've seen so many people, who are operating with a sense of hope, make positive impacts.

Where you're looking is where you're going. Here at TCSO, we're on a mission and our eyes are locked on it. We believe in what we do for Travis County and we band together every day in solidarity. We've been reminded that hope isn't an emotion - it's an action. When we partner with one another and break a daunting task into many pieces, the burden is lighter and we triumph. Time and time again, our spirits have been lifted in the process. You see...When you choose hope, you're not alone!

The other thing I've noticed about hope is that it's contagious. We've been the recipients of service and kindness from so many members of the community. Every donation, every expression of gratitude, every smile has been the very best medicine. I'm sure each of you has seen innovative acts of service and kindness in your own neighborhood. People are grocery shopping for the elderly, checking up on each other and giving generously to friends in need. From bear hunts, to sidewalk chalk, to message rocks, hope is all around us.

I encourage you to cling to family, focus on what matters most to you and share what you can. Thank you for everything you're doing to support us. It means so much to each of us and gives us hope!



ABOVE & BEYOND

As we continue to respond to the challenges COVID-19 is requiring of us, we want to introduce you to employees who are going Above and Beyond in their duties to serve and protect both TCSO and the community.



Captain Maria Velasquez's efforts have been instrumental in protecting our inmate population from a COVID-19 outbreak. She manages inmate housing, which is a daily operation that requires complex management skills. It's not just about isolation and quarantine; she must also take into account the needs of, and the risks to, our vulnerable inmates (elderly, compromised health, mental illness, possible exposure prior to arrest, etc.). She assigns housing in a manner designed to minimize movement and maximize protection. Velasquez makes sure that all revised protocols designed to combat the spread of COVID-19 are submitted to, and approved by, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards before being implemented. She's operating at the very best of her abilities, and we're so grateful for her dedication and passion to serve both our staff and our inmates.



In crisis situations like COVID-19, our emergency response team kicks into high gear. This skilled group of professionals is managed by Meg Seville. Meg is the agency point person for various types of information and manages a vast amount of complex data and critical operations with a calm, cool demeanor that promotes confidence and reassurance. Meg's work ethic and efforts are unparalleled, yet she never complains and never wavers. She's our Rock of Gibraltar!

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

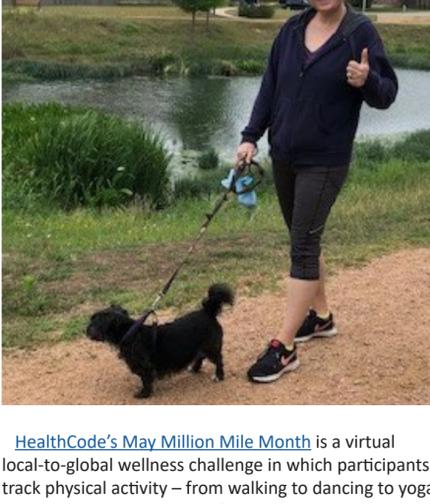


On May 2nd, Sheriff Hernandez joined children's mental health advocates, ranging from children, youth, their families, providers and other stakeholders from throughout the community to observe Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Children with mental health concerns who are given access to age-appropriate screens and assessments experience improved health and development. Awareness of and support for our children's mental health ensures they have everything they need to live a happy, healthy life!



Our jail system is like a town. Almost everything that happens in a typical town is happening within our secured perimeter: food preparation, laundry, medical care, church services, transportation, maintenance, education and more. TCSO employs over 1,000 Corrections Officers and they keep operations running smoothly and securely. May 3 - 9 was National Correctional Officers Week, and it was our pleasure to say how much we appreciate the men and women who serve Travis County in this capacity. THANK YOU!

MILLION MILE MONTH



HealthCode's May Million Mile Month is a virtual local-to-global wellness challenge in which participants track physical activity - from walking to dancing to yoga to gardening - with a goal of reaching 1 million miles collectively as a global community in a month.

TCSO joined other Travis County departments and together placed 3rd overall in top organizations. TCSO had 93 members and clocked 13,000+ miles...Way to promote the importance of staying active!



TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION



Congratulations to Lieutenant Edwardo Jackson on being elected as 3rd Vice President of the Texas Jail Association (TJA). The organization's main objective is to provide a distinct and unified voice for corrections officers working in local jails. TJA's membership is comprised of Jail Administrators, Corrections Officers, Sheriffs, Support Staff, and other interested parties of the corrections profession in Texas.



May 6 - 12 was National Nurses Week. We love our nurses! These extraordinary men and women treat patients in the Travis County Jail and the Travis County Correctional Complex. Patient care within the walls of a jail facility is a unique environment that requires skilled employees who see a person, not an inmate, when offering care. Protecting staff and inmates from exposure to COVID-19 has taken the demands of their jobs up a considerable notch. They've been employing a complex series of measures including isolation, quarantine and clinical evaluation in an effort to keep COVID-19 out of our facilities. They remain in constant contact with Austin Public Health and observe their recommendations as well as CDC guidelines. As of today, there are still no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among our inmate population of approximately 1,800.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY



May 15th was National Peace Officers Memorial Day. COVID-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of traditional commemorative activities. We hated not being able to publicly pay tribute to fallen officers; especially because, this year, another our own would have been honored among them. Please take a moment to view a memorial video honoring all TCSO deputies killed in the line of duty, including Deputy Christopher Korzilius whom we lost on March 18th.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES CLEAN-UP



On May 30th, some of our staff generously volunteered their time to help clean-up Bethany Cemetery and Williamson Creek Cemetery. Bethany is Austin's first black cemetery, the resting place of black Civil War Veterans, former slaves, and early residents. Slaves and indentured of slaves are buried in Williamson Creek. We felt immense honor contributing to the preservation of our community's heritage. We look back on their lives with great respect and hope what we learn from them helps us build a better tomorrow.



BPOC CLASS #22 GRADUATION



Class # 22 graduated from the Basic Peace Officer Course on May 29th. Congratulations to the following employees on this well-deserved recognition: Ugochukwuk Anenye, Michael Baltierra, David Cass, Thomas Cowan, Brent Davinger, Horn, Ryan Kruger, Woodrow Lemcke, Anjelica Martinez, Megan M'lear, Codie Mims, Brandon Poole, Ryan Montez-Sanchez, Antonio Serna, Todd Terbay, Tracy Westbrook, and Adam Willis.



This month we continued to receive much needed mask donations. We make use of surgical and N95 masks. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who sewed masks and brought them to us. The First Presbyterian Church of Elgin made hundreds of masks for us. The "Piecemakers" from Crestview Baptist Church of Georgetown not only made masks, but also gave us a sewing machine, 30 yards of fabric, needles, thread and scissors! AXON Aid and Gymwrap provided fabric masks to our Corrections Tactical Unit and dispatchers.

We appreciate the Texas Police Association and Nano Global Corporation for giving us 1,200 squirt bottles of sanitizer.

The Reguladores Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club Lost Pines Chapter treated our Medical, Finance, Warehouse, Laundry, Kitchen, and Commissary staff to a burger event; it was a great lunch! The Raindrop Foundation brought 20 boxed lunches as well as surgical masks to our Central Command. We usually enjoy dinner with them during Ramadan; this year, they brought the steppage to help.

Thank you so much to all of you for stepping up to help us!

