



# Protective Services

*in Harris County*

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## Breaking Ground for New Youth Center

The silence of the early morning dawn is suddenly broken by the turning of liquid cement inside mixing trucks, the ignition of multiple pieces of earth moving equipment, and the clanging of hammers pounding on metal. These sights and sounds are enjoyed daily by employees and visitors at Chimney Rock Center as progress continues on the new Youth Services Center (YSC) to be located at 6300 Chimney Rock Road!

The 72,000 square foot building will accommodate all of the programs currently located at Chimney Rock Center, (Emergency Shelter, Aftercare Preparation for Adult Living, TRIAD Intake, Community Youth Services Administration and DePelchin Children's Center), while also providing a new home for the Harris County Protective Services (HCPS) Medical/Dental Clinic and Pharmacy, an expanded 24-hour Department of Family and Protective Services Point of Entry program and a Juvenile Probation Community Unit Probation Services (CUPS) program. HCPS Executive Director George Ford

describes the future YSC as the "Ben Taub (one stop) social services center, which will provide services to children and youth arriving in handcuffs and in bassinets."

The architectural firm that designed the YSC, promises that the YSC will contain a large number of windows throughout the building in order to provide a significant amount of soothing natural light. The architects also vow that the natural beauty of the landscaping surrounding the YSC will flow throughout the building with the deliberate use of complementary colors, wall textures, and furnishings in order to provide a peaceful and serene environment in which social service transactions can take place. In essence, the YSC will be able to provide all visitors with a sense of a temporary oasis from their problems, worries and conflicts.

The projected completion date of the YSC is September 30, 2005. ♥

Pictured above from left:

### LIFE STORIES WITH HCPS

Jack is a 13 year-old male referred to Alliance (Community Resource Coordination Group) for a staffing by his TRIAD Family Preservation Therapist. Upon initial assignment and assessment, the family preservation therapist had a serious concern for the safety of the youth and others in the household including a younger brother, his mother and her fiancé. This concern was due to Jack's aggressive and dangerous behaviors including fire-setting, assaulting his younger brother, threatening his mother with a hammer, and Jack's close association with a drug dealer and gang member. On the recommendation of the Family Preservation Therapist, Jack was hospitalized for a second time. Prior to that intervention, he lived with other family members. He has expressed suicidal thoughts since the age of four. Law enforcement was called out frequently, but they refused to arrest Jack, due to his mental illness. At school, he was labeled emotionally disturbed and attended an alternative school for his behavior. The mother supported by the therapist was asking for short-term residential treatment in order to help stabilize him in a structured therapeutic environment.

At the TRIAD-CRCG/Alliance staffing his needs were identified and various ideas were developed to form a plan for Jack and his family. A referral for residential treatment was agreed upon. In order for his case to be referred to a treatment facility program, a current psychiatric evaluation was needed. To expedite the process, his Family Preservation therapist obtained a copy of the evaluation from the hospital. The residential referral was accepted at a local CRCG contracted treatment facility and he was admitted. Funding was provided by Harris County TRIAD residential dollars for 60 days. The Community

Life Stories continued on page 3