



# Texas Association of Parent Educators

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF TAPE SPONSORED BY CENTER FOR PARENT EDUCATION  
<http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape.php>

Volume 2, Issue 1

July, 2008

**TAPE Looking Ahead!**  
**Linda Ladd, President**

**2nd TAPE On-Line Workshop**

**TAPE Mission Statement**

Supporting parenting professionals is one focus in 2008 of the Texas Association of Parent Educators and our year has been super so far! In February, we applauded Kjell Kahlenberg when FAST received the TAPE Best Practices Award at the 2008 UNT Parenting Conference. Over 20 TAPE members met via internet on April 4 when Wally Goddard worked with Sharon Hirschy at Collin College to present the *Building our Strengths as Parent Educators* online workshop.

Save July 23 at noon for our second online workshop! Dr. Judith Myers-Walls, Extension Human Development Specialist from Purdue University, will focus on how parents can help their children deal with trauma and disaster in their relationships and in their community. Sharon Hirschy has resolved the “bugs” that kept our first workshop from being *perrrfect*, so please email me your registration for July 23rd!

As usual, TAPE Board members have been productive as well. Beth Thompson chaired the task force working on the 2009 Best Practices Award that included Sandy Renick, Deborah Cashen, and Lucy Long. Starrla Penick is working on a blog for TAPE members that may be launched by fall. Several TAPE members have written articles for this newsletter: Starrla Penick, Beth Thompson, WenHsing Cheng, and others. And we are all made better by the work of Debbie Klinger, our secretary and jack of all trades from UNT!

Our membership has grown to 50 members (it had to go UP) and we now can claim six students, 20 professionals, and 5 practitioner organizations (5 members each)!!

**So, what can we do for YOU?**

**Save this Date – July 23rd!**

On Thursday, July 23rd from noon to 1:00 p.m., Dr. Judith Myers-Walls will facilitate the 2<sup>nd</sup> TAPE online workshop entitled *Helping Children and Parents Deal with Disasters and Political Violence*.



Judith Myers-Walls has concentrated much of her career on the needs of children and families who have experienced trauma or violence. Her publications include the *Young Peacemakers Project Book* and *Peace Works*. She is co-editor of the *Families as Educators for Global Citizenship*.

She is one of four editors of the *National Extension Parenting Education Model*. Judith has over 40 journal articles and book chapters, over 50 Extension publications and curriculum packages, and has given over 80 national and international presentations. When disaster strikes, Judith Myers-Walls is sought after by newspapers and magazines to provide expert advice for families.

Be sure to check out her website entitled *The Purple Wagon* which is the result of her work following the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy – the site was visited 6000 times on that sad day. Since that time, Judith and her team have developed such fact sheets as *Helping Children Cope with a Disaster*, *Helping Children Cope with Stress*, and *Helping Children Overcome Fears* – to name a few of the publications available at [www.ces.purdue.edu/purplewagon](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/purplewagon).

You may simply email your registration to Linda Ladd (lladd@mail.twu.edu) or complete the registration form located on the TAPE website ([www.cpe.unt.edu/tape](http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape)) Questions? You can also call Linda at 940-391-0834.

**To build a network of professionals and opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in the fields of parent education, parent involvement, and family support in order to promote education in schools, communities, and state.**

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## Working with Parents who Home School their Adolescents

By Dr. WenHsing Cheng, Extension Educator  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

The experience of being both a parent and a teacher of an adolescent creates a unique system within the family environment. The parent is already the authority figure in the home and when the parent adds the role of teacher, this can be an overwhelming situation for the adolescent. Educators working with parents who home schooled need to help these parents understand how their combined roles can affect both their own sense of self and that of their child.

Parent educators can help the parent understand that during adolescence, the adolescent goes through a transitional period of dramatic physical change, searching for a sense of self, and developing a sense of independence. These changes are going to affect the relationship between the parent and the adolescent child as well as the parent's style of parenting and home schooling. This author investigated the experience of parents who home schooled their adolescent child and considered the number of years of home schooling as well as satisfaction and frustration of working with their adolescent.

In this study, the majority of parents who home schooled reported that they had experienced positive changes in their parenting styles with their adolescent child. The parents reported that they were willing to reinforce the independence of the children as the children matured. This proved to be a key finding in the study. The children were encouraged to make informed decisions and take increased responsibility for their work and their behavior when their parent was willing to allow more independence. The parents reported that they had become more relaxed in their parenting and had learned to let go of their control. We also learned that parents who home schooled engaged in more open communication with their adolescent child.

Parent educators can use this information with parents who are currently home schooling and parents who are thinking about home schooling. This study can help parents learn how to home school or those who are discouraged to know that many parents have found home schooling to be positive and rewarding. Also, this information can be useful in providing the general public about the positive aspects of home schooling. In summary, this study showed that when parents who home school understand the developmental stage of adolescence and adapt their parenting styles, the relationship between the parent and the child can improve.

Dr. Cheng is the Extension Educator in County located just south of Fort Worth. For more information about other family centered programs that are available through Texas AgriLife Extension Service, go to this website: [www.fcs.tamu.edu/](http://www.fcs.tamu.edu/).

## Tips for Managing Contagious Illness in Homes and Centers!

Dr. Steve Green, Child Development Specialist at Texas AgriLife, is also the editor of *Connections*, a free online newsletter that is available at the Texas AgriLife website listed above. Three issues of the 2007 newsletter were devoted to the topic of managing contagious illness in your home and in your child care center. Can you answer these two questions:

- *What is the #1 way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases?*  
Answer: hand washing?
- *What four ways are germs are transmitted?*  
Airborne/respiratory; fecal/oral; blood/body fluids; and direct contact.

**Check *Connections* out — it's free!**

## Children Diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder

By Dr. Linda Ladd  
Texas Woman's University

Since the 1970's, children and adolescents have been diagnosed more regularly with depression (unipolar) and bipolar disorder. When the diagnosis is accurate, the child receives treatment that can be useful; when the diagnosis is wrong, the child is trapped in a label and often medicated unnecessarily! . What can professionals do to help families deal with either situation?

### ***When a child is diagnosed correctly....***

- See the child as a person first and not a diagnosis.
- Consider the challenges the child faces personally, in the family, at school, and in the community.
- Read about Bipolar Disorder and those disorders that are related such as ADHD and Major Depressive Disorder, atypical.
- Adopt an attitude of understanding but maintain firm boundaries – what is and what is not acceptable and change boundaries only as needed.
- Acknowledge positive changes and be aware that behaviors can slip (temporarily) below acceptable standards as the child/adolescent grows and changes.

### ***When the diagnosis seems wrong....***

- Understand the general developmental tasks for the age of the child or adolescent and share with parents how their child or adolescent meets, exceeds, or lags behind those tasks.
- Learn about any personal issues that the child or adolescent may be experiencing and gather information on the child's baseline personality.
- Gather information on any environmental changes or the current situation that the child is experiencing at home, in the community, and at school.
- Be an advocate for the child (and parents) in educational meetings such as ARDS or disciplinary meetings.

**Best Practices — 2008 Award Winner!**  
**By Elizabeth Thompson, Vice President,**  
**TAPE**

**Announcing the**  
**2009 Best Practices Nomination**  
**Process is NOW OPEN!**

TAPE is proud to announce that the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Program of the National Training and Evaluation Center has received the 2008 BEST Practices Award for Parent/Family Involvement in Schools. FAST designs and distributes family strengthening and parent involvement programs to help children succeed in school and in life. ***Congratulations!***

FAST uses family systems theory, social ecological theory and family stress theory as the theoretical supports for the program. It uses participatory and experiential learning methods that are respectful and supportive of adult learning.

The program boasts an 80% parent retention rate. That retention rate is consistent across class and regardless of whether the classes are offered in rural, urban, suburban or inner city communities. FAST graduates report reduced family conflict. Communities with FAST programs report increased parent leadership in the community, parents pursuing further adult education and reduction of juvenile delinquency and substance abuse problems in the neighborhood.

**Books for Children**  
**Listed on the PurpleWagon website**  
**[www.ces.purdue.edu/purplewagon/](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/purplewagon/)**

**Judith Myers-Walls, PhD, CFLE**

***The Peace Book*** by Todd Parr for children ages 4-8. Author shares concepts of peace like “offering a hug to a friend”.  
<http://www.toddparr.com/books/>

***What does Peace Feel Like?*** by Vladimir Radunsky for children ages 4-8. Author shares descriptions of how peace looks, smells, tastes, and feels according to children from an international school in Rome. <http://simonsays.com/content/>

***Peace begins with You*** by Katherine Scholes for children ages 5-9. This author discusses the concept of peace and explores ways that conflict can be solved. It also includes environmental and international issues. <http://siereraclub.org/books>

**Meet Judith at the online workshop on July 23!**



Under the leadership of Beth Thompson, VP for Credentials, her committee has revised the criteria for the 2009 Best Practices award. Criteria include general information about the program and its description. Applicants will provide the research, scientific, or evidence-based basis for the program and provide evidence that the program is a best practice in the field of parenting education.

Nominate yourself or others for recognition as an outstanding parent education, parent involvement, and family support program or group. Awardees will have the opportunity to host a full-day poster/table exhibition and present at a break-out session at the conference. One or more programs will be recognized.

To stimulate your thinking about your program, the seven items below were selected from the Best Practices criteria to share in this newsletter. Please check the website for a full description of the application ([www.cpe.unt.edu/tape](http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape)).

### **Selected Criteria from the Best Practices application**

1. Provide any research or scientific basis for the program. If the program was developed according to evidence-based practices, provide that information.
2. Provide evidence that the program is a best practice. Evidence can include evaluation outcomes, local support or recognition.
3. Provide an overview or description of the program nominated for National Recognition of Best Practices
4. Describe how the need for this program was identified.
5. Program replication.
  - A) If the program is new, discuss possible applications for additional populations.
  - B) If the program is a replication, discuss its results as compared to the expected program results.
6. Describe program efforts to reach its targeted population and the actual results of those efforts.
7. Address how the program has recognized and fulfilled ethical responsibilities to the families of the target population.

**Applications are now available at this website:**  
**[www.unt.cpe.edu](http://www.unt.cpe.edu). Completed applications are**  
**due by email to Beth Thompson at**  
**[ethompson@hcde-texas.org](mailto:ethompson@hcde-texas.org) by**  
**October 31, 2008.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organizational Structure



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

International Conference on Parent Education and Parenting

The International Conference on Parent Education and Parenting is a three-day interdisciplinary conference that will bring together regional, national, and international scholars, policy makers, parent/family educators, early childhood interventionists, family support professionals, school/parent liaisons, students, and child and family advocates. The Conference on Parent Education has met annually on the campus of the University of North Texas for 16 years and is unique as an annual conference focused on educating and supporting parents. The Committee on Family Research has held seminars or conferences throughout the world since 1954. Scholars and practitioners from around the globe will present the latest in knowledge, research, educational strategies, curriculum, and parent education and support models. The keynote speakers are nationally or internationally recognized in areas of specialized knowledge relating to parenting and family support.

You are cordially invited to propose a workshop, update lecture, or paper presentation at the International Conference on Parent Education and Parenting on February 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The conference will be jointly hosted

by the University of North Texas' Center for Parent Education and the International Sociological Association's Committee on Family Research and will be held on the University of North Texas campus in Denton, Texas, USA.

The Call for Proposals with instructions on how to submit your proposal is accessible through the conference website at:

http://www.cpe.unt.edu/acall.php

Proposals must be submitted by August 1, 2008.

For more information please contact Debbie Klinger at debbie.klinger@unt.edu or Arminta Jacobson at Arminta.jacobson@unt.edu or call 940-369-7246.

Public Policy

Advocate for Families

Identify existing or proposed state or federal legislation related to family issues and your Senator or Representative at:

http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/

or http://www.congress.org/

congressorg/home/ .

Use the AAFCS Public Policy Tool Kit at www.aafcs.org for advocacy and letter-writing guidelines.

Check out these websites for issues before the 2007 Texas Legislature.

- The Center for Public Policy at http://www.cppp.org/
Texans Care for Children at http://www.texanscareforchildren.org/
Prevent Child Abuse Texas at www.preventchildabusetexas.org

MEMBERSHIP is open to all professionals, students and groups who share the same mission as TAPE. TAPE Board Members consist of the following professionals who provide governance to the organization:

- President: Linda Ladd, LLadd@mail.twu.edu
Vice President Programs: Sharon Hirschy, shirschy@ccc.edu
Vice President Credentials: Beth Thompson, ethompson@hcde-texas.org
Secretary: Debbie Klinger, Debbie.Klinger@unt.edu
Treasurer: Sandy Renick, Sandy.Renick@unt.edu
Members at Large: Starrla Penick (2008-2010) at starrla@gmail.com, Maggie Jover (2008-2010) at m-jover@tamu.edu, Sadguna Anasuri (2008-2010) at anasuris@uwstout.edu, Deborah Cashen (2008-2010) at deborah@parentingpartnerships.com, Nerissa LeBlanc Gillum (2006-2009) at NGillum@mail.twu.edu, Lucy Long (2006-2009) at llong2@pisd.edu, Arminta Jacobson (2008-2010) at arminta.jacobson@unt.edu, Mary Ellen Nudd (2006-2009) at menudd@mhatexas.org

Employment Opportunities

We NEED your job announcements NOW!



**Texas Association of Parent Educators (TAPE)**

**Annual Renewal: September 1, 2008**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008-2009**

**<http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape.php>**

**The purpose of TAPE is to promote parenting education, parent involvement, and family support in the schools, communities, and the state as well as create opportunities to increase member knowledge and skills in these fields as well.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Your Role \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Include my demographic information in the Texas Registry of Parent Educator Resources on-line data base \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Circle areas below -- if you can share some professional time with TAPE!**

TAPE Leadership	Newsletter	Membership
Training activities	Professional Development Recognition System	
Organizing a local affiliate	Other _____	

**Select the membership level that best fits your professional needs:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Student Membership: Member receives all TAPE communications and has voting rights. Must enclose a copy of their student ID.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Professional Membership: Member works in the field of parenting education, family support, or parent involvement. Receives all TAPE communications and has voting rights.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Supporting Organization Membership: Non-voting membership in TAPE. The organization receives, through a single point of contact, all TAPE communications, including newsletters.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Practitioner Organization Membership. Organizations with five or more TAPE members may purchase a Practitioner Organization Membership. Each individual member receives all TAPE communications, including newsletters and pays dues at a reduced rate. If the organization falls below five TAPE members, its participating members would become Individual members with the next membership renewal.

**Send completed form and membership dues to:**

**Dr. Arminta Jacobson  
UNT Center for Parent Education  
University of North Texas  
P. O. Box 311335  
Denton, TX. 76203-1335**