

Nominee Name: Tarrant Co. Juvenile Services-Community Services Restitution Program
Nominator: Craig Fox, City of Fort Worth

I would like to nominate the Community Service Restitution (CSR) Program, operated by Tarrant County Juvenile Services, for the Bronze Leaf Award. The CSR “is a program in which juveniles perform a period of community service in a non-profit community agency, educational or governmental facility. CSR may be voluntary or court-ordered. Participants typically perform between 30 to 100 hours of community service in settings such as Boys & Girls Clubs, recreation centers, YMCA/YWCA’s food banks, and area churches. Special weekend work projects include graffiti abatement and municipal cleanup. CSR constitutes a strategy to help juveniles assume responsibility for their actions and to be responsive to community and victim concerns. It also provides a positive experience in community involvement and socialization.”¹ The City of Fort Worth Forestry Section utilized the CSR districts led by Lydia Villamil, Roosevelt Collins and Michael Warren for numerous projects and workdays in 2009.

Beginning in May, CSR workers and staff participated in four monthly workdays at the Rolling Hills Tree Farm, contributing a total of 112 hours while transplanting more than 800 trees and weeding, staking, culling and organizing countless more. Thanks to their participation and solid work ethic, much needed work was completed at the tree farm, thus allowing the heavily burdened greenhouse staff to focus their time on other projects.

During the annual tree planting event coinciding with Cowtown Brush Up in October, CSR participants planted more than thirty trees over two Saturdays on the north, south and east sides of Fort Worth. While at each planting site, workers even took the time to pick up trash, lend a helping hand to painting crews, or to simply stop and talk to grateful homeowners, most of whom are elderly and disabled.

In November of 2009, a group from the CSR program assisted with the City of Fort Worth’s Neighborhood Tree Planting Program by helping to plant a total of forty-nine trees for homeowners in the Carriage Hills neighborhood, contributing fourteen hours of service.

In all, the City of Fort Worth Forestry Section benefitted from more than 200 hours of community service contributed by the CSR program. Moreover, a lasting partnership has been forged with a reliable, hard-working group that has proven to be eager for the interaction and education that forestry offers.

¹ taken from the Tarrant County website (www.tarrantcounty.com/ejuvenile/cwp/view.asp?A=737&Q=427696)