

FROM APRIL 19, 2008 TO THE BEGINNING, JULY/AUGUST, 2004

April 19, 2008, Healing Helpers attended an event hosted by the Blanchard, Louisiana Masonic Lodge. Dr. Goeders, a member of the lodge was the invited speaker. The audience included community members, lodge members and Masonic dignitaries from across the state of Louisiana. Tom Owens attended and was asked to speak about the roots of Healing Helpers. Everywhere we look, more and more communities are banding themselves together to fight the meth problem.

March 8, 2008, Dr. Nicholas Goeders, in conjunction with Healing Helpers and Border Lodge 672, presented a training session on youth and meth addiction to area Boy Scouts and Judges. This event as well as the March 7th event was highly successful.

March 7 2008, Healing Helpers presented a in-service training to judges and other court personnel concerning methamphetamine use and sexual deviance. Our presenting experts were Dr. Sharon Walker from Generations Center and Dr. Tom Tiefenwerth of NSU in Louisiana.

In **October, 2007,** Healing Helpers was extremely busy. Dr. Schrott, from LSU and Dr. Smith, from Generations Center, talked to students about the dangers of "cheese heroin." Near the end of October, an event in Greenville, Texas, was held on methamphetamine. Healing Helpers and People Against Drugs collaborated on this event. As a direct result of this intervention, a number of addicts sought treatment.

July 15, 2007 Healing Helpers celebrated a family event promoting a drug free life style at Heritage Baptist Church where over 500 people, including children participated. Judge Ralph Burgess talked to the adults about drug use and DeKalb Chief of Police, DeWayne Cannon spoke on methamphetamine abuse. Afterwards, a picnic ensued complete with watermelon provided by businesses throughout the Texarkana and Cass county areas. Children played on inflatable playground equipment until dark and the family event was truly one that the kids are sure to remember.

May 11, 2007 Tom Owens and Sharon Walker, PHD, presented an in-service training for probation officers and drug counselors at the Institute of Chemical Dependency Studies.

May 1, 2007 saw the celebration of Healing Helpers second birthday. DeKalb High School Cafeteria was the scene for the celebration. On hand was Dr. Nicholas Goeders, who explained to a group of about 50 people about meth addiction and a new appearance of "candy meth."

On February 20, 21, and 22 of 2007 Healing Helpers along with Generations Center and a host of other sponsors held a conference in Nacogdoches.

October 7, 2006, was the October Fest Celebration for DeKalb, Texas. Healing Helpers joined in the celebration and entered a float for the town parade. The title of the float was "Meth is Death." Students from the DeKalb High School helped build the float and rode on it throwing candy to the crowd. Three area students were given first, second and third prize ribbons and U.S. Savings Bonds for their

essays on the impact drugs have on lives. Every student who entered received at least an honorable mention ribbon.

On September 22, 2006, Tom Owens and Dru Driver gave a presentation to the Counselor's Network at Texas A & M on drug use and the links to infectious disease and how these problems impact the public school systems.

On August 1, 2006, Healing Helpers, Inc., The Coalition attended the National Night Out in Nash, Texas.

June 17, 2006, Healing Helpers of Deep East Texas with the cooperation of other area agencies conducted a round table discussion on meth. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. Speakers included Dr. Donald Smith, Dr. Sharon Walker, Stephanie Stephens, the District Attorney for Nacogdoches County, Dru Driver, President of Healing Helpers, Bowie County, DeWayne Cannon, Chief of Police for DeKalb, Texas.

March 24-25 the first Coalition Conference was held at Texarkana College. It went off with a hitch. More attended than was expected, which is always a good thing! The community truly pulled together to bring this event to Bowie County, which is what a coalition is all about.

At the beginning of March, a board meeting was held to discuss the finalization of the conference.

In October, 2005, a planning committee convened to discuss the conference.

On August 19, 2005, Healing Helpers held a town hall meeting in Wake Village, Texas where crimes against women and children and the relationship to drug abuse was discussed. The panel consisted of the Chief of Police of Wake Village, health care practitioners, the Bowie County Sheriff, and local agencies concerned with domestic abuse.

In July, Healing Helpers conducted a community briefing in New Boston, Texas in conjunction with the New Boston Police Department. The topic was "Gateway Drugs and Juvenile Substance Abuse."

In May of 2005, a community briefing was held in DeKalb, Texas in conjunction with Chief of Police, Dewayne Cannon. A panel presented information on meth and the impact it has on all realms of life.

April of 2005, Healing Helpers was among one of the dozens of organizations asked to participate in "Closing the Health Gap," a neighborhood health fair. Also, in April, Healing Helpers was a presenter for a forum held at the Texarkana/Bowie County Family Health Center (a coalition partner).

Healing Helpers' inception began in **July and August of 2004**. A group of concerned citizens assembled and with the help of Betty Hines, Director of the Mabel Bryan Morriss Center and Tom Owens, LVN, the Coalition was born.