

## HOW THE TRUANCY COURT WORKS

### WHAT

The Truancy Court is a court staffed by teen-agers, some volunteers and some previous defendants who hear cases referred by judges in other courts or by the police and sheriff's departments. The offender must plead guilty or no contest in order to qualify for Truancy Court. Thus, the Truancy Court determines only the sentence. The presiding judge is the only adult member in the Court and is someone experienced in hearing juvenile cases.

### WHY

Programs of this type have proved consistently effective in reducing the rate of teen repeat offenses by causing the teens to take responsibility for their crimes and providing them with a wholesome peer group. Before Truancy Courts, juveniles suffered no punishment for, or consequences of, their antisocial activities; so, often they moved on to more serious violations as they grew older.

When an offender completes the sentence given by the Truancy Court, the violation is removed from his/her record.

### WHO

Volunteer members are teen-agers fourteen years and older who join the Truancy Court Program and Staff the Court. They act as clerks, bailiffs, attorneys, and jurors. Defendants are juveniles ages ten through seventeen who become members through referrals. Sentences include periods of duty served in the Truancy Teen Court sessions and hours spent in community service.

### BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Having fewer juvenile repeat offenders will free law enforcement agencies to give attention to more serious criminals.

By interrupting errant juvenile patterns of behavior, expense of future imprisonment will be minimized. Instead, these young people could become law abiding citizen's contribution to society.

Teen serving their sentences of hours in community service will improve operation and reduce workload in many facilities.

### BENEFITS TO TEEN-AGERS

The Truancy Teen Court provides a peer group working together for awareness and compliance with the laws of the land. A teen completing the Truancy Court process can clear his/her record of his/her offense.

## **RUTH HERRERA IS A WINNER!**

**Ruth Herrera wrote an award winning testimony about how working out at Curves has changed her life. Curves International held a Valentine Sweetheart contest and Ruth was one of five winners nation-wide. She was awarded \$1,000 and will be featured in the "Diane Magazine".**

**Sunland Park Curves will be celebrating this remarkable event all day on Valentine's Day, Monday, February 14. Gadsden Independent School District employees are welcomed to join us for fun and refreshments!**

I was born ill. In fact, when I was an infant, the doctors told my mother that she should have another child because I was not going to survive. I was born with a sickly body, but I had a good spirit. At the age of 21, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. For several years, I took steroids, along with a host of other drugs. With the arthritis came chronic pain and fatigue. The medications have made it possible for me to have a career and a family. I've never felt cheated in any way because I have rheumatoid arthritis. On the contrary, I've had a very happy life, and I've always felt loved by God. Still, I secretly prayed for a slightly better body to go along with my wonderful spirit.

Because of the pain, I shied away from physical activity. Unfortunately, the less physical I became, the more my muscles atrophied. Carrying anything or opening anything was a major task. Once, when my family was moving, I volunteered to help carry our belongings into the new house. My family had become very overprotective since they knew that lifting was difficult for me. Since I insisted on helping, my younger sister suggested that I carry the pillows from the moving truck into the house. I felt humiliated and angry at being perceived as such a weakling. I decided to prove her wrong and tried to carry in several pillows at a time. To my utter dismay, I could barely handle one at a time. Since my family was very big, I ended up carrying nine pillows into the house. By the time I was done, I was exhausted and my arms hurt. I felt defeated and humiliated.

As my response to the medications improved, I dreamed of becoming stronger. Each year would begin with a renewed resolution to exercise. Each time I tried, the pain made me give in. I joined health clubs, but only if they had a pool or a Jacuzzi. My exercise regimen consisted of walking from the pool to the Jacuzzi or the sauna. I tried lifting weights and using the exercise machines but I found that they were too complicated and I was too weak. I was afraid of getting hurt or making a fool of myself in public. In addition, most people I spoke with bragged about working out 1-2 hours and just imagining that made me feel exhausted. Finally, I decided to leave it in God's hands. I made a deal with God that if She would place an all-women's gym in the vicinity where I lived, (and I specified that it should be at the entrance to Santa Teresa), with exercise machines that I could actually use, I would join.

I didn't drive past the location I had specified in my deal very often, so I felt I was safe from ever having to live up to my end of the bargain. However, in August of 2003, our administrative offices moved less than a mile from the area I had specifically requested that the all-women's gym with the arthritis-friendly machines be located. In October, I noticed the Curves sign and phone number. By the name, I guessed that it could be a women's gym, so I took down the number, still thinking that God was too busy to bother with my little request. After speaking with Mara, I made an appointment to see the gym, confident that I would not be able to handle the machines. I was wrong. Not only had God agreed to my specifications, but She made it really easy - 30-minute work outs, three times a week.

When I first started going to Curves, I still was not sure that I could stick with it. I compared myself to the other women and realized that I was doing about a fourth of what they were doing. Still, I had to live up to my end of the deal, so I persevered. My joints became very sore and I wanted out of the deal, so I made an appointment with my rheumatologist. I was hoping she



could excuse me and create a way out for me, but all she did was side with God and tell me to keep exercising. I had to wear knee pads and ace bandages around my wrists when I worked out, and I had to sleep with Ben Gay at night. Still, I kept at it because I felt obligated to hold up my end of the deal.

After a few months, I thought about giving up, but then my mother made a comment about how I had started to look more curvaceous. Well, there's nothing like a little vanity to help me stay true to my promise to God. I looked for myself and noticed that my mother was right - I looked better in the mirror. Some curves were actually showing and some nice-looking bulges had mysteriously appeared on my arms. I noticed I was getting stronger, too, and that, without really thinking about it, I had started to carry in my groceries and open things on my own.

A few more months went by and my co-workers, who have always taken care of me, commented on how much stronger I was. I had been given a lap top at work, but my friend always carried it for me because I was afraid I would drop it accidentally. Then one day, without waiting for my friend to carry it for me, I simply lifted the computer case and threw it over my shoulder. My friend was shocked, and so was I. I was surprised but delighted with my newfound strength. I began carrying heavier things, and one day I actually lifted a 40-lb. bag of dog food into my grocery cart. I didn't look very elegant or sexy doing it, but the fact that my 105 lb., arthritic body could do such a thing was truly amazing.

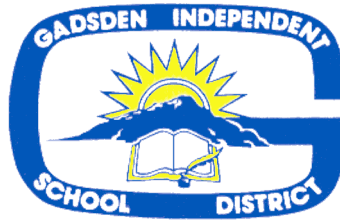
Sandra, the owner, encouraged us to work out regularly and provided incentives for us to go to Curves. At first, everyone who worked out 12 times in one month would have their name placed in a drawing for one of 50 free tee shirts. I have always felt blessed, but I had never been lucky. I worked out the required number of times but never expected to win anything. To my utter shock, I won three times! I got lucky at some of the games Sandra brought in, too. I tried to remain serious each time I won, but an involuntary happiness would take over when the other women would cheer for me. I felt lucky when I won, and I felt lucky when the other women won.

It's been over a year since I joined Curves. I haven't had to use the knee pads or ace bandages for the last month, and I haven't slept with Ben Gay for some time. Before Curves, I used to look in the mirror and see a great spirit trapped in what looked like a rubber chicken or a sack of bones held together with sticky blubber. Now, I see a nice-looking chica with a great spirit, and I say to myself, "Spirit by God; body by Curves!"


Ruth S. Herrera

**CONSTRUCTION OFFICE**

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Construction Coordinator



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TO: Ron Haugen, Superintendent  
FROM: David F. Boyd, Construction Coordinator   
DATE: February 16, 2005  
SUBJECT: Construction Department Report Update

**Projects Completed:**

*Full Day Kinder at Anthony Elementary School*

*Sunland Park Elementary School Soccer Field*

*2003/2004 Reroofing Projects*

*Santa Teresa High School Library/Classroom Addition*

*Landscaping Chaparral (Sunrise) and Santa Teresa Area Elementary Schools*

*Gadsden Middle School Mechanical Upgrade 2003*

*Asbestos Removal at La Union Elementary School and Gadsden High School*

*Bus Drop-off at San Miguel Elementary School*

**Projects Under Construction:**

*Pre-Kinder Addition to Gadsden Administration Complex*

*Santa Teresa High School Addition Phase II*

*New Northern Elementary School (Vado Elementary)*

**Projects in Design:**

*Asbestos Removal at Gadsden High School Library, La Mesa and San Miguel Elementary Schools*

*La Union Elementary School Wastewater Connection to La Union Water System*

*2005/2006 Reroofing Projects District Wide*

**Projects in Design (Cont.):**

*Gadsden High School HVAC Upgrade at Panther Hut*

*Boiler Replacement at Gadsden Middle School, La Mesa and San Miguel Elementary Schools*

*Gadsden Middle School Annex Duct Work Replacement*

*Bus Drop-off at Anthony Elementary School*

**Projects Out to Bid:**

*2004 ADA Project*

*Desert View, Riverside and Sunland Park Elementary Schools Structural Repairs*

*Riverside Elementary School Parking*

**Upcoming Projects:**

*Chaparral High School Phase II*

*New Elementary School in La Mesa/San Miguel Area*

*Pre-Kinder at Old La Mesa Elementary School Site*

*2005/2006 ADA Projects*

**Facilities Mater Plan:**

*District Wide (PSCOC Requirements)*

*New Elementary School in Anthony/Berino Area*

*Northern Middle School*

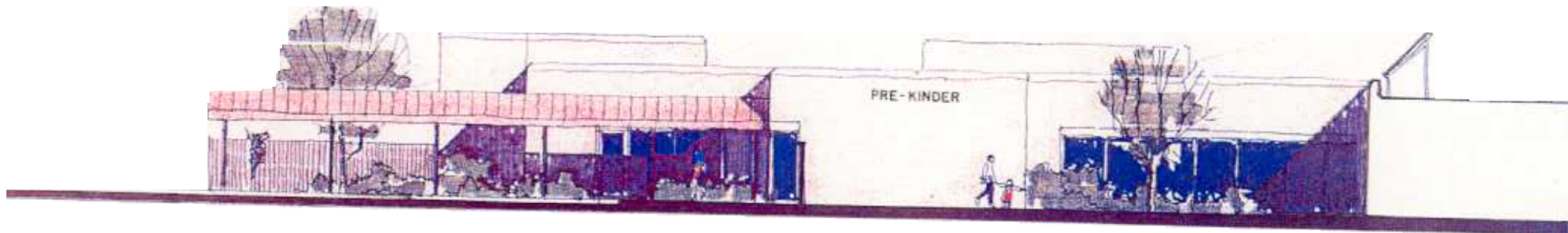
*Addition and Renovations to Anthony Elementary School*

**Projects to Santa Fe for Approval:**

*New Chaparral High School Phase I*

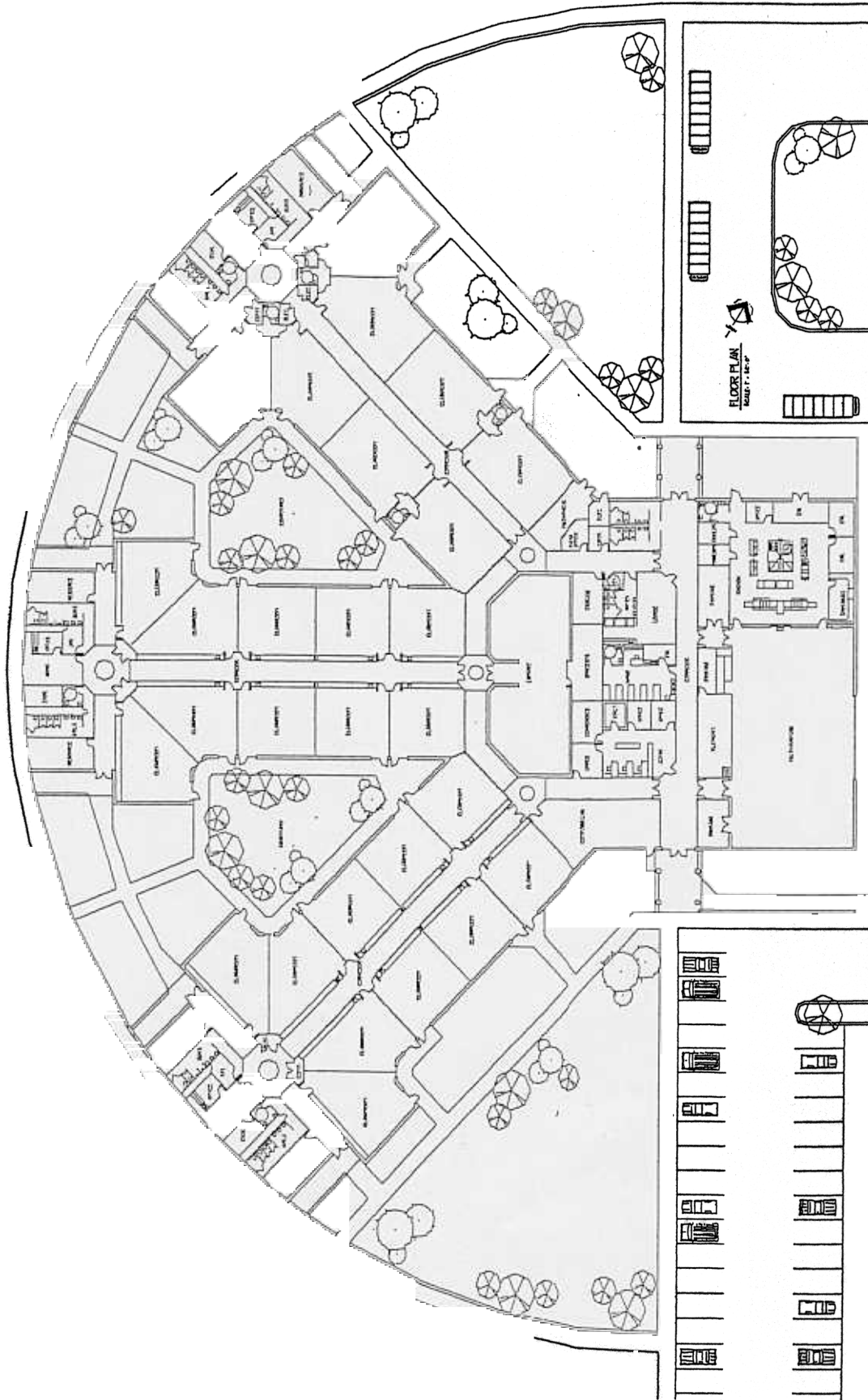
**Project Photos**

*See attached photos.*



WEST ELEVATION  
1/8"=1'-0"

**PRE-SCHOOL ADDITION TO GADSDEN ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX**



NI W NORTHERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

La Mesa/San Miguel Area

GAOSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

3-4-02







Vado Elementary School



Santa Teresa High School Addition Phase