PACE Youth Programs, Inc., is a community-based, 501(c)(3) organization. This organization is a leader in providing wraparound services, which encompass a core set of values and principles while redirecting the lives of adjudicated youth in Harris County, Houston, TX. PACE Youth Programs’ vision is to impact their lives by providing moral, educational and spiritual guidance, through a comprehensive 12 week life skill program designed to enhance their potential to be productive citizens.

PACE’s success in reducing the threat of youth reentering the juvenile justice system largely results from the ability to help youth and parents see and create new possibilities today, for new tomorrows. The Founder and Director, Mr. Steve Holloway, acted on a dream, and for the last 12 years has directed the development of a great network of board members, volunteers, educators, counselor and leaders with successful careers that demonstrate by example, the value of being successful and giving back to the community. As a board member, I can attest to the organization’s dedication to do whatever it takes to help change children’s lives for the better.

PACE Youth Programs, Inc. was founded in 2000 from a desire of Mr. Holloway to help youth released from juvenile detention facilities effectively reintegecrate into society. The first PACE class began on January 3, 2001 with 7 youth and 10 volunteers. Since the program’s inception in 2001, 1,100 juveniles have enrolled and 87% of those enrolled did not commit a greater offense. In 2004, a new partnership was developed with Harris County Juvenile Probation, and is still viable today, with evidence based outcomes. From the Board of Directors to its volunteers and sponsors; PACE has demonstrated to be a compassionate and dedicated team.

PACE Youth, Inc. has been recognized and presented The Unsung Heroes for Houston Children Award by Children at Risk in 2007, was named the Outstanding Group of the Year from Texas Youth Commission in 2004, received the Texas Governor’s Award in 2003 from Texas Governor Rick Perry, and in 2002 received the Education Award from the Houston/Harris County Ecumenical Council.

One of the most important factors in PACE’s wraparound concept is at every weekly meeting with the youth and parents, it begins with a meal. The belief is “if we feed your body, we will be able to feed your mind.” After becoming a GEO Group staff, I was amazed at the company’s compassion for the well-being of its staff, their families and the residential population that is served. Month after month, I was also reminded of this compassion when reading about different collaborative relationships and success stories throughout the company and its community involvement.

After being employed at Southeast Texas Transitional Center for two years, I shared my volunteer passion and it was overwhelming when The GEO Group Foundation embraced this organization with a $10,000 donation. This donation will aid in assisting PACE Youth, Inc. reach at least 200 families during 2013 and educate them on life skill enhancement, parenting workshops directed by Licensed Professional Counselors, monthly group outings and Workforce Development for eight weeks during the summer. Once again, this organization is committed to “CreatingPossibilities Today for New Tomorrows.”

Please visit our website at: www.paceyouth.org

Left to Right: Ms. Terry Garcia, Brenda Hall, The Founder and Director Mr. Steven Holloway and Tara Jones, HR at STC.