

May 2017 Newsletter

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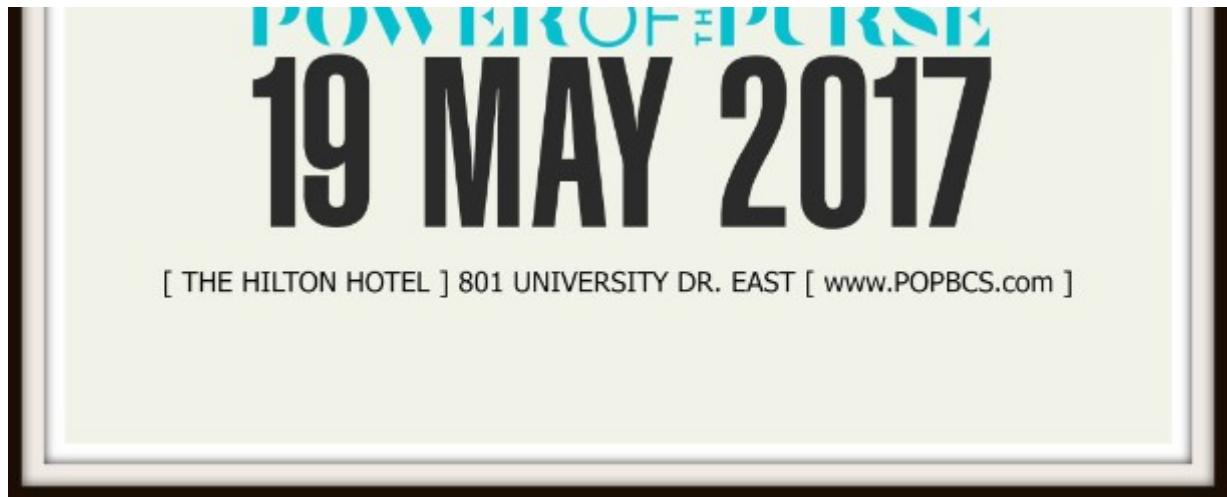
Give a smile now



Get excited!!

The 8th edition of **Power of the Purse** is right around the corner! Remind me, what is this event again? **Power of the Purse** is our signature annual fundraising event benefiting patients of **Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center**. Catered to those with a passion for fashion, **Power of the Purse** hosts a designer handbag auction; this year's entertainment will be provided by American Idol artist [Ace Young](#)! Want to ace this event (wink, wink)? Buy your ticket [here](#)!





We're just boiling to tell you something..

The **Dansby Grant Foundation** has awarded a generous gift of **\$15,000** to **Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center** towards repairing our boiler. **THANK YOU!** Wait..back-up..what boiler? Back in December 2016 and coinciding with the long-disputed Medicaid therapy cuts, our 30 year old boiler kicked the ole bucket. Now, we know it doesn't get super cold in Texas, but there is no way we could have provided therapy services in a space without heat. Anything else you need to know? Yes! This is a **matching grant**, which means [we need to fund raise an additional \\$15,000 to be eligible for this wonderful gift.](#) We think we can totally raise \$15 K by November 1st. Please remember there is no such thing as a small gift!

In other great grant news, our local **United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet** has provided us with a **\$700 mini-grant** to purchase testing materials for our busiest department, Speech Therapy! The department serves approximately 175 patients every year through 7,000 to 9,000 individual therapy sessions! So, on behalf of all of us and our patients, **THANK YOU**, [United Way of the Brazos Valley Youth Leadership Cabinet!](#)

What else have we been up to?

Glad you asked!

We've got a new kid on the block! And she is really cool! **Molly Jenkins, OTR** is the most recent addition to our awesome therapy team! Molly is a pediatric

occupational therapist and has joined our team from Austin. Her caseload is already getting full, so if you need to schedule an appointment, [give us a buzz!](#) If you just want to welcome Molly to BVRC, [here's her e-mail address!](#)

Question of the month: what's happening with ECI?

The long answer: at our March board meeting, it was decided that our agency was not going to renew its contract with the Health and Human Services for providing Early Childhood Intervention Services. What is ECI? This is a state and federally-mandated program for babies ages 0 to 3 who need a little help meeting their developmental milestones so they can be ready for school. This is a wonderful help for families because A) a dedicated team of professionals assesses and conducts interventions ranging from: case management, physical, occupational, speech therapy, nutrition services, counseling, ALL in the baby's natural environment and B) The cost to the family is highly subsidized by the State and federal government.

This all sounds great..Why are you giving it up? The program is not financially sustainable. Lack of funding adversely affected the program from two directions: Medicaid cuts and severe reduction to the ECI grant (see B) above); our grant amount was reduced by about 40% compared to 3 years ago, without a substantial decrease in the contractual number of kiddos served. Despite pleading with senators and representatives and alerting the State office that the current fiscal situation may leave us without a choice, we are proceeding with termination of the contract.

Is this going to affect the rest of the clinic? A resounding NO! While we may not be a provider of Early Childhood Intervention services starting 9/1/17, our clinic activity continues uninterrupted.

The media has covered the topic extensively; watch us talk to KBTX [here](#) and see testimonial of a family served through our ECI services [here](#).

Cool Kid of the Month (drum roll please..)

...is **Gracie Perez, our wonderful receptionist!** Gracie is the sweet, little raspy voice who answers the phone (constantly :)). She is the smile that welcomes all patients, visitors, staff into the building and makes sure everyone feels comfortable. Gracie has been with us for for over a decade now and we can't tell you how happy we are to have her on our team! Gracie also handles all of our Medicaid plan authorizations,

ensures all treatment plans are current and she'll go the extra mile every time. On behalf of all of us, thank you, Gracie! Send Gracie a high-five [here](#) or call her at 979-776-2872!



Thank you for staying involved! Your help changes lives every day!

How can you help?



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now!**



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