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## Press Release

### **Alamo Area Council of Governments presents 2009 Regional Awards**

**San Antonio, June 24, 2009** – On Wednesday, June 24, 2009, AACOG presented the 2009 AACOG Regional Awards during the semiannual meeting of the Area Council and Board of Directors. The semiannual meeting took place at 1 p.m., in the Al J. Notzon III Board Room, located at 8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio.

**Ms. Tracy Talley, RN**, the Director of Clinical Programs at the University Health System Family Focused AIDS Clinical Treatment Services (FFACTS) Program, received the 2009 Regional Citizen of the Year Award. Ms. Talley will be recognized for playing a champion role in coordinating the provision of services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the San Antonio Transitional Grant and Health Service Delivery Areas. Through her individual and collaborative efforts, she has helped bring in more than \$15 million in funding for the FFACTS Program. She has dedicated more than 15 years to participating in planning services for the Alamo Region, and has dedicated 24 years of her nursing career to helping the South Texas HIV Community receive the best medical care and supportive services.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas** received the Corporate Citizen of the Year Award. The organization was nominated for their mentoring program, which helps at-risk children in the Alamo Region make positive choices needed in order for them to stay in school, stay out of prison, and graduate from high school or earn their GED. The cost to support a mentoring relationship for one year averages \$1,000, compared with an average of \$30,000-40,000 per year to keep a child in Texas in a juvenile detention facility. The preventive nature of the program sets it apart from costly intervention programs that address the issues that arise once a child has already begun to engage in risk behaviors.

**Ft. Sam Houston** received the Community Project of the Year Award for their support of the annual *Christmas Along the Corridor Grand Finale and Fair* at Ft. Sam Houston for the past 10 years, which has had a significant impact on the success of the Finale and to the overall importance of regional tourism in the AACOG rural counties. In addition to the major contribution of allowing AACOG to hold this annual event at the Post, the Public Affairs staff was invaluable in helping to coordinate with all the various Army

departments to ensure the success of each event. Ft. Sam Houston and the U.S. Army are highly valued community partners in the AACOG region.

**Alamo Colleges** received the Governmental Regional Project of the Year Award for helping rural Texas communities such as New Braunfels, Floresville, Kerrville, and others to obtain a technical training facility in their counties. They have helped to elevate the educational standards of these communities beyond measure-offering current and future generations of youth with educational and vocational opportunities to improve their future and having a definitive positive and strong impact on the entire economy and quality of life of the Alamo Region.

Other individuals were recognized at AACOG's June 2009 Semiannual Event:

- Outgoing Board of Directors Chairman / City of San Antonio Councilman Louis E. Rowe (January-May 2009)
- 2006 Board of Directors Chairman / Bandera County Judge Richard A. Evans
- Outgoing Board of Directors Members:
  - Former City of San Antonio Councilwoman Lourdes Galvan (Member 2007-2009)
  - Former City of San Antonio Councilwoman Delicia Herrera (Member 2005-2009)
  - Former Mayor of Devine Steve A. Lopez (Member 2005-2009)
  - Former Mayor of Windcrest Jack H. Leonhardt (Member 2004-2009)
- Outgoing Advisory Committee Chairwomen:
  - Ms. Nancy Hunter (Planning Network Advisory Committee Chairwoman 2008-2009)
  - Ms. Ginny Funk (Alamo Senior Advisory Committee Chairwoman 2007-2008)
  - Ms. Mary Will (Bexar Senior Advisory Committee Chairwoman 2007-2008)

AACOG also presented a memorial resolution to Linda Davis, wife of the late Sid Williams III, in honor of the former Frio County Judge and AACOG Board Member's lifelong contributions to the AACOG region.

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*Established in 1967, the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) is a voluntary association of local governments and organizations that serves its members through planning, information and coordination activities. The 12 counties that comprise the Alamo Area planning region are **Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson**. For more information, visit [www.aacog.com](http://www.aacog.com).*