

# TEXAS TEA NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO 5 | APRIL - 2022 | VOLUME 1



## OUR GOAL

With each issue of the Texas Tea Newsletter, we are determined to provide news articles and information for those currently held in Civil Commitment in Texas and other states across the country. We hope to bring awareness to the differences between

what lawmakers portray Civil Commitment to be and the harsh reality that is kept from the public. Through the efforts of the released, loved ones, and those still kept behind razor wire fences, we will shed light upon the unjust situations within these "treatment facilities".

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Hear what the editor has to say about this month's issue, encouraging words, and updates on future releases.

## ADVOCATE PHOTOS

Check out an array of photographs obtained from the Public Awareness Event on April 9<sup>th</sup> in this month's edition.

## A TELLING OF EVENTS

Read below to get an account of the recent Public Awareness Event held April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings, everyone! Earlier this month on April 9<sup>th</sup>, a group of family members and advocates gathered together for a Public Awareness Event at the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, Texas. To see with my own eyes the turnout and the support was absolutely awesome!

I wanted to first thank every man that talked about, told family members, and spread the word about the event. Nothing can be accomplished successfully without the participation of the ones inside the razorwire.

Texas Civil Commitment Center is a "pit of negativity", but there are still some that are positive for a movement to happen. We know that everyone is not with us, but for all that are, we are going to keep moving forward. I hope you enjoy this month's tea!



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We must accept finite  
disappointment, but never  
lose infinite hope.

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Martin Luther King JR.

# ADVOCATE PHOTOGRAPHS



Family members and friends of the Texas Civil Commitment Center residents gathered together to spread awareness for the atrocities within the facility. Many of the attendees created posters with undeniable facts that the TCCC tries to hide from the public eye.

Photo Credit: Texas Tea Newsletter



Mello Scott continues to devote more time and energy to getting things changed at the Texas Civil Commitment Center. She is most concerned with the lack of medical care and negligence that plagues that "hellhole". Her positive energy brings so much to every conversation.



Photo Credit: Texas Tea Newsletter

## ADVOCATE PHOTOGRAPHS CONT.

Lonnell Hanks (pictured to the right) is probably one of the kindest and sweetest women I know. She is able to look things up and give accurate answers. She puts in hours of work daily on her son's cases and is still able to find the time to help with putting together a protest against civil commitment. Hearing her say her son, Lonnie Welsh, has been in civil commitment longer than prison really does tell you something is wrong with the "program".



Photo Credit: Texas Tea Newsletter



Photo Credit: Texas Tea Newsletter

Mandi Harner-Brady decided awhile back to do whatever she could to make a difference. Seeing firsthand accounts of the unconstitutional and immoral acts within the Texas Civil Commitment Center has had a profound effect on her life, and she now speaks out against the facility that used to pay her bills and support her family.



## ADVOCATE PHOTOGRAPHS CONT.



Texans Against Civil Commitment (TACC) attended the Public Awareness Event and shared this poster with the blatantly neglectful acts that are made by the current overseer and executive director of the Texas Civil Commitment Center, Marsha McClane.

Photo Credit: Texas Tea Newsletter

The very facility in question is nearly impossible to see within this photo, which just feet away from the protesters. Management and Training Corporation refused to allow the attendees near the property, threatening legal action if anyone drew near.



Photo Credit: Texas Tea Newsletter

# ADVOCATE PHOTOGRAPHS CONT.



Photo Credit: Alan Pogue

Jennifer Williams (pictured in the middle) has always been vocal about wanting her son home. Justin Sanchez is one of the youngest men to be civilly committed in Littlefield. In the last year, she has become one of the biggest advocates for changes to the program. Not one to back down, she calls out Senator Whitmire on TV "to shut it down". Her idea of a protest very quickly was supported by those she ran it by.



Photo Credit: Alan Pogue

## ADVOCATE PHOTOGRAPHS CONT.

Edward George (pictured to the left) is an Elder and a member at Covenant Presbyterian Church, in Lubbock. He lead a prayer during the Public Awareness Event to bring hope to the families, friends, and others who attended.



Photo Credit: Alan Pogue



Photo Credit: Alan Pogue

## A TELLING OF EVENTS

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, family, friends, and advocates came together to bring awareness and to educate others about the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, Texas. What started as just an idea shared between a few friends quickly spread and gained momentum. This “protest” was dreamed and planned by women with loved ones inside the facility. Meeting up at the Best Western Hotel in Littlefield, strangers embraced each other and began talking like long lost friends. Over the past few months, connections have been made; many not being able to converse with anyone who understood what TCCO is. T-shirts were passed out and we were given instructions by Lamb County Sheriff, Gary Maddox. He instructed us as where to park and what we could and couldn't do.

Driving to the facility, there was an area sectioned off toward the back, just for us; but it was tucked away out of sight. Hidden, just like the men in Littlefield. None of us drove all this way to be out of sight and out of mind. We wanted to be heard. We wanted to be seen. The members of the event moved signs, chairs, and cars all towards the highway out front. An award winning photographer from Austin, Texas, Alan Pogue, was there to take pictures and video the event. KLBK news from Lubbock captured the story and interviewed family members. Amarillo attorney, Ryan Brown, graciously offered his representation that day if anything were to happen. Although we did not need it, his presence was greatly appreciated. Local attorney, Daniel Hurley, was present and kindly listened to each of us tell stories about our loved ones. Several members of Lubbock's Covenant Presbyterian Church were in attendance, with Elder Edward George leading us in prayer. A moment of silence and balloon release was conducted for all the men who have passed away since the facility opened in 2015. Despite TCCO's claims, we have an accurate count of all these deaths.

The wind of course picked up, per West Texas weather, but it didn't stop us from getting the word out. The turnout was good, really good, for the first time getting together. The whole purpose was to spread awareness, reach more family members, and to let the men inside know that they have not been forgotten. We are working hard and we will keep working until they come home.

Many thanks to all who attended or participated in some form. We could not have done this without you! Keep sippin' that sweet Texas Tea!

