

Wandaliz Elder



**Wandaliz Elder 2010, B. A. Government
Development Assistant, Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County**

While completing her public affairs internship with Congressman Burgess' office in Lewisville, **Wandaliz Elder** learned about an opening for her current position at Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County (CACDC), an agency with a mission to help abused children. It was her first job in the non-profit world and a position that allowed her to draw from her previous experience in Law Enforcement and the U. S. Army as well as her desire to make a difference.

When asked by **TWU Alumni Connection** to describe her current duties as a Development Assistant, Wandaliz listed these activities.

Wandaliz - "As the Development Assistant I provide administrative support to the Development Coordinator and Executive Director in conducting all fundraising and volunteer program activities. These activities include but are not limited to donor and public relations, direct mail appeals, special events, public education on what our center offers the community and finally, attending community fairs. I also explore how our community corporate partners can fulfill their civil duties by engaging with an organization that assists in the well-being of our children."

“The CACDC has three annual major fundraising events: golf tournament, community breakfast and gala. Our Champions for Children Gala is coming up on February 26, 2011, and I am excited to be a part of such an extraordinary night filled with sports celebrities and top-notch chefs all for the sake of continuing to provide free services to abused children in Denton County.”

TWU Alumni Connection asked- Was there someone or some part of your TWU Experience that sparked your interest in non-profit work?

Wandaliz - “Although my major and career goals are more inclined to the government and political profession, I would have to say that the varied areas of study and discussion in my government and business classes really opened my mind to other fields in which my personal interests, prior experiences and studies could be used. I feel that my degree combined with the overall environment and mentorship of my professors have prepared me to be somewhat flexible and adaptable to the current employment world. I do not feel that I am tied down to one field of work. I feel as though I am prepared to engage in a multitude of varied professions.”

“If I had to pin-point one experience that I felt was very important in my transition from a student to a professional in the non-profit field, it would be my internship with Congressman Burgess which I was able to obtain because of Prof. Patricia Devereaux (Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Government). I am grateful to her and all for my government class professors, particularly Dr. Hoyer and Dr. Belfiglio who really broadened my way of thinking about not only government but of society and my obligations towards my community.”

TWU Alumni Connection - What is your favorite part of your work? Your least favorite?

Wandaliz - “My favorite part of my job is at the end of any of our fundraising events in which we are able to actually see how many people we were able to connect with and educate on the purpose and mission of the Children’s Advocacy Center for Denton County. Some would think that the end all of fundraising is the money raised; however, the money would mean nothing if those who give it do not know how important their contribution is to the children of our county. I love hearing from volunteers or people that I meet in the community that they are happy that our agency is here to help abused children and to educate the community on how to prevent, identify and report sexual abuse of children.”

“Obviously, the fact that an organization of this type is needed is the least favorite part of my work.”

TWU Alumni Connection- Do you have a favorite or special TWU memory?

Wandaliz – “As uneventful and boring as this might sound to current students, my most fond memories of my time at **TWU** were the endless hours spent reading inside or around the library. As a mother of two and a wife to a very busy husband, I very much miss the opportunity to just sit down and concentrate on a book, journal article or simply enjoy nature as I sat on a bend with only our Pioneer squirrels running around to keep me company. If only students realized how these kinds of moments on campus are the ones you miss the most after graduation.”