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Overcoming Adversity

Marisol Mendoza, from Carrizo Springs, enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) in September 2007. While working on her GED in Carrizo Spring, she struggled with dyscalculia, a learning disability for mathematical or arithmetic concepts. When she moved to San Marcos and joined the FSS Program, Marisol was connected with the resources she needed to complete her GED.

In January 2008, Marisol enrolled in the Lockhart Adult Learning Center's GED program and utilized tutoring services offered through the San Marcos

Housing Authority to prepare herself for the next GED exam. By May 2008, she took the math portion of the GED exam again, failing to pass the exam by only a few points. Marisol continued to study on her own with the help of Melissa Davis, our Elderly & Disabled Services Coordinator who doubles as a tutor. In August 2008, she re-enrolled in GED classes and continued to attend weekly tutoring sessions with Melissa to prepare for another shot at the GED exam.

This past April,

Marisol took the GED exam again and within a few weeks, she received her official State of Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency. Congratulations Marisol!

For more information on GED education classes, post secondary education or our self-sufficiency programs, contact our Resident Services Department.



Flu Precautions Urged as School Year Ends

Austin, 5/27/09 — Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner David Lakey, M.D., today urged students and their parents to continue to take precautions to reduce the risk of spreading H1N1 flu despite the end of the school year. "The virus continues to circulate," Lakey said. "We need to continue to take those personal steps to keep from getting or spreading H1N1 flu." Lakey said everyone should: 1) Stay home if you have influenza-like symptoms or other symptoms of respiratory illness. 2) Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow or into a tissue and properly dispose of the tissue. 3) Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. 4) Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth to reduce the risk that germs on your fingers enter your body.

Symptoms of H1N1 flu usually include high fever with a cough, sore throat or both. Some with H1N1 flu also have reported extreme tiredness, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Lakey also said staff in child-care centers, which will be taking in additional children during the summer, should make sure children follow precautions to reduce the risk of spreading the flu. "We're dealing with a newly discovered form of the flu virus. There is little or no natural immunity among the population, and at this point we have no H1N1 vaccine to protect us," he said. "That makes following the personal precautions extremely important." DSHS is reporting 1,404 H1N1 flu cases in people from 65 of the 254 Texas counties.

How Does Your Garden Grow?



Gardening in public housing is all the rage these days and kids of all ages can't wait to get their hands in the dirt, as demonstrated by the photos. Here you see residents of the C. M. Allen Homes tilling the soil and planting their gardens. They are looking forward to reaping the first fruits of their hard work.

Everyone's A Fan Of The Summer Fan Drive!

With over 70 fans donated to SMHA residents last summer, Family Eldercare is at it again with their 2009 Fan Drive. If you are elderly or disabled and in need of a fan, please contact the Elderly and Disabled Services Program at 353-7343 to be added to the list. Residents who did not receive a fan during last year's drive will be top priority for receiving a fan this year. If you received a fan last year, it is still possible that fans will be available to you as well. Remember to stay cool as summertime approaches and drink plenty of water!

Women's Support Group Begins at the PODER Learning Center



The first women's support group, D.I.V.A.'s, which stands for Divinely lovely, Intelligent and Virtuous women, Accepted and loved by God, begins at the PODER Center the second week in June. D.I.V.A.'s will address issues of self esteem, budgeting/financial issues, sexuality, having babies, responsibility, and more. The program starts Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the PODER Learning Center and will continue on the second Tuesday of each month following. Call Nicole at 665-8126 for details.

ACC MOBILE GO CENTER!



June is the month to plan for your educational future. Join Ben Mathey of Austin Community College at the PODER Learning Center on June 17th at 5:00 p.m. He will give you information on the enrollment and registration process. He will also be at the KAD Korner Store on June 18th at 5:00 p.m. Then, on June 24th, check out the "ACC Mobile Go Center" at Allen Woods at 4:30 p.m. and at C. M. Allen at 5:30 p.m. They will be doing on-the-spot registration for classes. They will also have lots of great information and freebies. Call 396-3367 for details.



Breakfast Tacos for \$1 and Hot Coffee for 50 cents at the PODER Learning Center every Friday morning! Starts at 7:00 a.m.

Catch The Derailers and Others At "Summer In The Park" for Free!



Get your picnic baskets, blankets, and lawn chairs ready! San Marcos Performing Arts Association and the Parks and Recreation Department are preparing for the "Summer in the Park" outdoor concert series on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., beginning June 4 and going through August 13. The season will kick off with a performance by the Derailers. Other guests, in order, are Mariachi Nueva Generacion, O'Malarkey and Joel Schwartz Band, Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle, Hill Country Community Band, Terri Hendrix Band, Hill Country Brass, Mission City Hot Rhythm Cats, Salsa Del Rio, Heart of Texas Chorus, and Two Tons of Steel.

Habitat For Humanity Builds Homes for Low Income Families



There's no place like home and Habitat for Humanity of San Marcos would love to put you in your dream home. So, if you are tired of paying rent, you don't want to miss our guest speaker from Habitat for Humanity at the PODER Learning Center on Wednesday, June 10th at 5:30 p.m. and at the KAD Korner Store on Thursday, June 11th. Call Herod at 396-3367 for information.



SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:
Gloria Salazar—Chairperson
Earl Moseley—Vice-Chair.
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.
Rose Brooks
Rev. Samuel Montoya

Administration:

Executive Director
Albert Sierra
Accountant/Program Mgr.
Lana Bronikowsky
Maintenance Director
Albert Hernandez
Public Housing Manager
Rose Miranda
Resident Services Director
Stewart Dale Spencer
Section 8 Director
James Snell

Housing Offices:

Allen Woods Homes
353-5058
C. M. Allen Homes
353-1116
Housing Choice Voucher
353-5061
Springtown Villa
396-3363

Resident Services Centers:

Family Self-Sufficiency
353-5062
KAD Korner Store
392-6273
PODER Learning Center
396-3367
Springtown Villa
353-7343

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

The San Marcos Housing Authority provides decent, safe, and sanitary housing for about 555 low-income families and individuals, including the elderly and disabled. Our Resident Services Program consists of several initiatives designed to support Self-Sufficiency & Family Development, Elderly & Disabled Services, Youth Services, and Resident Organization & Community Development. All Resident Services initiatives are united in the overall goals of improving the quality of life for public housing residents, reducing dependence on the welfare system, and empowering our residents to take charge of their lives and of their environment.

*The Oracle is produced and published monthly by the Resident Services Department of the San Marcos Housing Authority. Managing Editor — Herod King Ellison; Senior Editor — Stewart Dale Spencer. Contact SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666. Phone — 396-3364 * Website — www.smpba.org*

Frank Hall Loves His Community!



Francis Boyce Hall, a.k.a. Frank Hall, was born in San Marcos on August 26, 1937. He attended San Marcos High School for a while before enlisting in the Army National Guard at the age of 16. He was ranked Staff Sergeant (E6). Frank received the marksman's badge and the sharpshooter badge with rifle bar. After he was honorably discharged from the Guard he worked for H.E.B., Wuest's Grocery Store, Southwest Texas State University, Gary Job Corps, and other jobs in Seguin and New Braunfels. Frank and his mother moved into public housing in 1958. Mrs. Hall passed away in 1998. Frank started volunteering for "Our House" in 2003 and continued when operations moved to the PODER Learning Center. He was voted the top volunteer of Allen Woods for three consecutive years. Currently, Frank is part of the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. He has received five awards for his love and dedication to his community in Allen Woods and he is loved and respected by everyone.