



## The Oracle

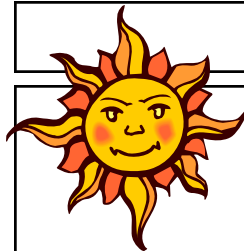
### Why Wait for Success?

Wylinda Wheeler joined the Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program in March 2008 with dreams of working in the medical field. With the support of her family, Wylinda began her journey to success. Wylinda became a Certified Nurse's Assistant in August 2009 through Comfort Connections and found herself working for the Institute for Advanced Wound Healing which specializes in wound therapy, including hyperbaric oxygen therapy. She works with patients with slow-to-heal wounds such as arterial wounds, diabetic ulcers, traumatic wounds, surgery wounds, soft tissue infections, bone infections, burn and radiation wounds.

Wylinda continued to benefit from the FSS Program by meeting with her coordinator for guidance, learning how to save money, budgeting, paying bills on time, and building positive credit until her family reached the maximum income limits for the FSS Program. Because Wylinda and Adam achieved their employment goals so quickly, she completed her FSS Contract of Participation early and received the money she had accumulated in her FSS Escrow account. We were sad to see Wylinda leave us so soon but we're happy she is achieving her dreams of working in the medical field. As a graduate of the FSS Program, Wylinda is eligible for ongoing services. She and Adam hope to buy some rural property near San Marcos with members of her extended family. "Familysteading" is a growing trend in America. Individuals are stronger when they are part of a larger family. From left to right in the picture above is Stewart Dale Spencer (Resident Services Director), Wylinda Wheeler, Adam Tracey, Ashlin Wheeler, and Megan Perez (FSS Coordinator).



### Notes from the Main Office



**Fan Drive** – Thanks to Family Eldercare and Johnson Controls in Austin, we have a supply of fans to give to residents. Priority consideration will go to elderly or disabled individuals and couples living on fixed incomes at the Allen Woods Homes, Springtown Villa, the C. M. Allen Homes, and the Porter Homes. Contact the Service Coordinator at the Resident Services Center at your site to fill out a short request form.

**Weatherization at the Allen Woods Homes** – Combined Community Action, Inc. of Giddings has joined with the Housing Authority to make improvements to 100 units. This will include additional insulation, new air conditioning compressors, Energy Star appliances, etc. The purpose of this \$500,000 program is to reduce energy usage and to lower utility bills. Assessment begins in June. Residents will be notified before any work begins.

# ALLEN WOODS HOMES—P.O.D.E.R LEARNING CENTER

## Un poema por mi madre

Mi madre es una mariposa, hermosa y fuerte.

Mi madre es el sol, para iluminar el camino para mí.

Mi madre es una libro, páginas de mi pasado.

Por mi vida, por mi mundo, gracias a mi madre.

*By Maria Calcaben*



## Fire Station 5 Gets Cool on Fire Safety

The children from the P.O.D.E.R. after-school program visited Fire Station 5 in San Marcos to learn about firefighters. They learned where they train, where they sleep, and the equipment they use. The firefighters patiently answered questions like, “If you put all the hoses together, how long will they be? What happens if all the water runs out in the fire hydrant? What does that do?” Thanks Fire Station 5 for all that you do for the community!



# GARDENERS WANTED!

Residents of Allen Woods: We have a community garden in need of care! Please volunteer your time and talent! Located next to the PODER Learning Center.









# Spring Activities at G.M. Allen

**REMINDER: GET OUT AND VOTE  
IN THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS  
MAY 14**

(top picture) On this day the kids of C.M. Allen together with some Texas State Social Work students participated in relay races. The winners received prizes that included toys, candy, and books. After the race the kids were rewarded with freeze pops, a very cool snack!

(middle picture) Texas State Service Support Group, provided kites for all the kids and had a competition on whose kite would fly the highest. A challenge enjoyed by the volunteers kids and teens alike.

(bottom picture) Kappa Delta Chi, had a cookie decorating contest, and the kids got very creative.



## *Searching for Fossils at Five-mile Dam*



*As part of the science program, Heather, a Social Work volunteer from the university took some of the kids on a fossil hunting adventure at Five-mile Dam. After finding cupfuls of fossils the children enjoyed some refreshments. They had been learning about crystals, rocks, and how fossils are formed. This field trip gave them hands on experience at being geologists and paleontologists.*

# Family Self-Sufficiency

The residents of Chapultepec celebrated Easter with a community Easter Egg Hunt



on April 21! Many thanks to all those who helped make it a success!

## REMINDER

RESIDENT ASSEMBLY IS HELD ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:30PM IN THE CHAPULTEPEC ADULT LEARNING CENTER

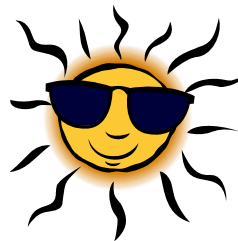


ON APRIL 20, THE SALVATION ARMY HELD THEIR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET AT THE PRICE SENIOR CENTER. THE SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY WAS PRESENTED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS DURING THE BELL RINGING CAMPAIGN IN DECEMBER 2010. THANK YOU TO ALL



OF THE EMPLOYEES AND RESIDENTS WHO MADE JC PENNY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SITE!

## SUPPORT GROUP



MAY 19, 2011

6:30pm

\*Will be held in the Chapultepec Adult Learning Center\*

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION



**SUMMER**

**ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND SAN MARCOS**

# PARTNER PAGES

## Learn to Use the Internet

Come to the San Marcos Public Library for a special two week class.

Learn to:

- ✓ Find reliable information on the internet
- ✓ Understand how the computer and internet work
- ✓ Keep your personal information safe

**. . . all in a self-paced class in a comfortable atmosphere. Best of all, the class is FREE!!!**

Class will be held at the San Marcos Public Library from 10am to noon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> through May 20<sup>th</sup>. Call Kelly Lochman at (512) 392 – 1161 ext. 319 to sign up for the class or for more information.

*Sponsored by Community Action, Inc. of Hays, Caldwell and Blanco Counties and the San Marcos Public Library.*





# PARTNER PAGES



*Presents...*

## ***27th Annual Auction***

**Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 6 p.m.**

**LBJ Student Center Ballroom**

**Texas State University– San Marcos**

***Admission \$25***

***BBQ Dinner, Cash Bar, & Free Parking***

**Silent & Live Auction to Showcase Extraordinary  
Trips, Jewelry, Antiques, Artwork, Gift Certificates  
And So Much More!!**

*All proceeds from the auction are used to provide services to local victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Hays and Caldwell counties.*

**For Advance Tickets or Information on Contributing**

**Call 512-396-3404 or visit [www.hcwc.org](http://www.hcwc.org)**



# SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Board of Commissioners:**

Rose Brooks, Chairperson  
 Rev. Samuel Montoya, Vice-Chairperson  
 Stacy Green—Resident Rep.  
 Ovelia Mercado  
 Lorraine Burleson  
 Brian Guenther

**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 Coordinator  
*Frances Garcia*

Springtown Villa Manager  
*Veronica Miranda*

**Housing Offices:**

Allen Woods Homes (Main)  
 353-5059

C. M. Allen Homes  
 353-1116

Chapultepec Homes  
 396-3364

Housing Choice Voucher  
 353-5061

Springtown Villa  
 396-3363

**Resident Services Centers:**

*\*Family Self-Sufficiency*  
 396-3364

*\*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. Concept by Herod King Ellison. Senior Editor—Stewart Dale Spencer. Contributing Editors—Maria Calcaben, Lorene Sandwith, Bonnie Pecina, & Megan Perez. Contact: SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 \* 512-396-3364 \* [www.smpaha.org](http://www.smpaha.org)*

## He's Baaack!



Eusebio Hernandez worked in our Maintenance Department from 1983 - 1997. He recently returned after several years of working for other apartment complexes, including 10 years at the River View Apartments. Eusebio was born in Buda and has lived in Kyle for many years. He has three children and one grandchild. We caught up with him at the Chapultepec office. Eusebio told us that it's nice to be back. He noted that many of the people he worked with before are still here. As for changes, he said that "There is a lot of new stuff. I get to drive a new truck and the new [maintenance] shop is bigger and better stocked than the old shop. We don't have to wait for parts." He wants to stay with the Housing Authority until he retires. We hope that won't be anytime soon. Welcome back Eusebio!