



Give Thanks!

The Oracle



Reaching Out to KAD Kids

Giving back to the community is one of the main reasons many organizations decide to volunteer at Kids Against Drugs (KAD) at the C. M. Allen Homes. This is the goal of Kappa Delta Chi, a Texas State University sorority. The group of young ladies visits KAD regularly to give of their time and reach into the lives of the children. On one such occasion they went a little further and gave Isaiah Cordero, a surprise he'll never forget.

Isaiah comes to KAD after school with the other youth and enjoys his visits. "I've been coming here all my life," he says. One Friday afternoon while the other youth were playing games and having a good time, Isaiah was off on his own sitting outside of



my office. I asked Isaiah what sorts of things he was interested in and his answer was skating. I also learned that he had been unable to skate recently, as he had broken his skateboard and hadn't gotten a new one. The Kappa Delta Chi girls overheard this conversation and stealthily sneaked out of the building. When they returned they presented

Isaiah with a new skateboard. Needless to say Isaiah was thrilled!

Moments like this are what makes the KAD program glow with excitement and youth, like Isaiah, thankful for all the program has done for them. A special thank you to the ladies of Kappa Delta Chi for helping us to make a difference!

Becoming Self-Sufficient — An Editorial

An important part of our mission is coordinating services to the people we house and, especially, helping people to become more self-sufficient. Of course, no one is completely self-sufficient. We all need our friends, our families, the mail carrier, the electric utility, etc. However, we must be careful where we place our faith, our hopes, and our dreams. If we are counting on someone or something to be there for us when we need them, we had better make sure that trust is well-placed. We are stronger individuals when we work together as groups, respecting our differences and drawing strength from our similarities. The world is going through a transition. Economies and political systems are being restructured right before our eyes. In times like these, flexibility is critical. You should be able to count on your friends and families but assuming you will never be unemployed or that your government benefits will never stop flowing would not be wise. Just look at the lack of a cost-of-living raise for Social Security recipients for proof. Inflation is obvious to people who shop for themselves. Sometimes it is hidden — the price is the same but the package is smaller. Ask yourself what would you do if your Lone Star card was not refilled next month. Do you have enough food in your home to get by for a while? Do you know how to grow your own food? We have community gardens set up at each of our housing sites. Gardening promotes good health in many ways. Get out and build something positive. "Edible San Marcos" has a monthly meeting at the San Marcos Library. Get expert advice and learn how to provide for one of your most important needs. With financial melt-down being openly discussed in the news, don't leave your fate to chance. Get involved with others if you want to save yourself!

- Stewart Dale Spencer, Resident Services Director

Allen Woods Afterschool Program Visits Springtown Villa



The residents of Springtown hosted an arts and crafts event with some of the children from Allen Woods. The children arrived around 3:30. They joined several residents in the community room to make Halloween decorations out of salt dough. Every child brought home a decoration or two. This is just the first of several events being planned between the two housing sites. Here at Springtown, we look forward to the next visit from the children. We had a great time!

Recipe for Salt Dough

1 cup flour
1 cup salt
1/2 cup water

Directions

Combine ingredients.

Divide dough into 6 pieces and create decoration.

Microwave on a plate, one or two at a time, for 20-to 30-second intervals until the dough is firm (about 2 minutes total).

Let cool.

Decorate or paint.



Fire Safety tips

When cooking on a stovetop, always keep a lid nearby. If a fire breaks out, put the lid on the pan and turn off the heat.

DO NOT PUT IN WATER!

If no lid is handy, use baking soda to stop the fire.

If the fire starts in the oven, close the oven door and turn the heat off. This will help keep the fire contained.

October was Fire Prevention Month. At Springtown Villa we had a presentation over fire safety for the residents. Local firemen came to the facility to answer questions, discuss fire safety tips, and give general information about the fire department. The residents who attended actively participated by asking many questions, giving real-life scenarios for the fireman to respond to, and just listening. The fire department left information for all the residents to take home. Overall, the presentation was a success! Thank you San Marcos Fire Department.

ALWAYS
know
your
evacuation
route!

 **Our Generation** 

PODER Screaming with Fun

November Birthdays



On the Friday before Halloween, the kids in the after-school program at the PODER Learning Center got to enjoy a day full of treats and surprises! They first went on a field trip to Springtown Villa to interact and have fun with the elderly residents. They had a Fall Festival full of activities from pumpkin bowling to trick-or-treating. They had an activity in each floor and each group had at least one resident leader who did the activities with the kids. The kids then went back to the PODER center for a Halloween Party. They

broke a piñata, ate birthday cupcakes, and scared themselves silly with a haunted house. Thank you to all the student volunteers and parents that helped to make this Friday a magical night!

- Allen Woods**
- Edward Silva—3rd**
- Briana Salas—28th**

- Chapultepec**
- Francisco “Tres” Rios—7th**
- Jude Gomez—16th**
- Keishon McKinney—16th**

- C.M. Allen**
- Sonora Nance—6th**
- Jaelynn Guerrero—11th**
- Adrian Cretsinger—5th**



Texas Night Out at Chapultepec

Chapultepec Residents came together on October 6 for Texas Night Out. Residents and their children enjoyed sausage wraps, mini-golf, fishing for candy and a cake walk! Thank you to all the residents, volunteers, and Josh Williams for your help in making Texas Night Out a success!



SMHA After-School Programs

Parents: Have your kids in a safe and supervised environment, eat a free nutritious meal, get free tutoring services, play games and activities, and much more!

Now in three locations:

- Chapultepec 396-3364
- Allen Woods 396-3367
- C. M. Allen 392-6273



The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

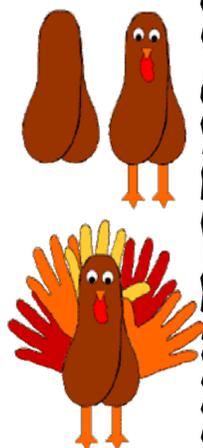
Thanksgiving Craft project

Making Your Hands-and-Feet Turkey

Step 1 - Trace the child's hands and feet

1. Trace two feet (with shoes on) on brown construction paper.
2. Trace two hands on tan construction paper.
3. Trace two hands on red construction paper.
4. Trace two hands on orange construction paper.

Trace one hand on yellow construction paper.



Step 2 - Cut out all the pieces

Cut out all the hands and feet tracings.

Step 3 - Make the Body

Put the two feet tracings together to make the turkey body and head, placing the heels together one on top of another, and spreading the bottoms apart as in the illustration. Glue.

Cut two feet out of the orange scraps, then cut a diamond shape for the beak. Draw the eyes on white paper and cut them out, or use wiggly eyes. Make the wattle out of red construction paper. Glue each piece onto the body as shown.

Step 4 - Attach the tail

Glue the red, orange, and yellow construction paper hands behind the brown body to make the tail.

Step 5 - Wings

Position the two tan hands on either side of the body to make the turkey's wings and glue them in place.

You're Done! Enjoy the special decorations.



San Marcos Community Thanksgiving Dinner
 San Marcos Activity Center
 Friday, November 19 — 6:00-8:00 PM
 For information on volunteering, call Julie at the Southside Community Center (392-6694 ext. 28).

Site Announcements



Chapultepec:
 -Nov 18th FSS Support Group 6:30 p.m.

Allen Woods:
 - Nov 17th 10am Free Hearing Test by National Hearing—Please bring Medicaid Card

C.M. Allen:
 -Nov 4th Resident Assembly 6:00pm

Springtown Villa:
 -Nov 19th Resident Council Birthday lunch at 12:30
 Nov 19th Allen Woods kids will come visit Springtown Villa at 3:30

¡Necesito historias!

¡Esta es su oportunidad para utilizar su voz! ¿Tiene una historia, receta, opinión, arte, poema, o chiste? Por favor, llame a Maria Calcaben a 396-3367 o e-mail a maria@smpha.org.

Su vida, su comunidad.



Ser Agradecido

Yo no tengo mucho, pero lo que tengo, ninguna persona puede quitarme. ¿Sin dinero? El amor de su familia es sin fin y un abrazo de su niño es gratis. ¿Sin suerte? Usted disfruta vivir bajo un techo y no en la calle. ¿Sin ayuda? Pide y se la darán, si usted utiliza los recursos de la comunidad. Aunque esto no suene perfecto, por lo menos usted tiene una vida y por eso hay que estar agradecido.



'Texas Night Out' es un éxito

Las niños de Chapultepec, Allen Woods, y C.M. Allen celebraron 'Texas Night Out' con mucha comida, juegos, y actividades. El departamento de lumbreros, la policía, y de emergencia visitaron las comunidades. ¡La gente se divierte es a noche! En la foto a la izquierda esta la policía hablan con los niños. En la foto a la derecha es una niña con la cara pintada de gato. Gracias a todos los voluntarios por su tiempo.





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 Santoya

Springtown Villa Manager
Veronica Miranda

Housing Offices:

Allen Woods Homes (Main)
353-5059

C. M. Allen Homes
353-1116

Housing Choice Voucher
353-5061

Springtown Villa
396-3363

Resident Services Centers:

*Chapultepec Homes (Program Administration)
396-3364

*C. M. Allen Homes
392-6273

*Allen Woods Homes
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, Bonnie Pecina, Megan Perez, Amanda Ramirez, & Lorene Sandwith. Contact: SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 * 512-396-3364 * www.smpaha.org*

Lee Bowman Joins the Team



Lee Bowman volunteered with the KAD afterschool program in the Spring of 2009 as a requirement for his Social Work class. Lee loved volunteering with the KAD program so much that when an opportunity became available to tutor at KAD this Fall, he did not hesitate to accept the opportunity to come make a difference in the lives of so many youth. Lee's home town is New Orleans. After high school, Lee joined the Marine Corps. After four years, Lee moved over the Army. Lee had the opportunity to live in Japan, Korea, and Germany. He was also temporarily stationed in Thailand and Bosnia. In 2004, Lee served in the Iraq War, at which time he decided to use his military benefits and continue his education at Texas State University. Lee will graduate from Texas

State in 2012. Lee is currently serving as an Assistant Service Coordinator, helping us fill gaps in our service coverage on an as-needed basis. You will find him at the Chapultepec Office in the early afternoons before he heads over to KAD to help with the kids. We're glad you're here Lee!