



# The Oracle



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## A New Focus on Youth Services



Kids Against Drugs (KAD) has been the focus of our services to the children of public housing since 1990. Drug abuse prevention was the primary goal of this program and even though we provided services to teens, a large portion of our resources were devoted to children in the 1st through 5th grades.

Earlier this year, we commissioned an outside review of the KAD program. As a result, we decided to shift our focus to teens and pre-teens. If a child is going to begin to go down the wrong path in life, it is highly likely that it will happen in early adolescence. You don't have to look very far to see evi-

dence of this. If you haven't seen it in your own family, you probably have a friend or a relative who is dealing with a wayward teen.

KAD has seen many successes, including the first 18 year-old to be elected to the SMCISD Board of Trustees. Many of the features of the KAD program will remain and will actually be expanded. However, we will devote more of our resources to innovative activities for youth in the 6th through 12th grades. We will focus on community service, science & technology, art, music, drama, agriculture, and more.

To help make this change happen, we decided to

make some changes in our personnel. Instead of two Resident Services Managers overseeing youth services, we will have one Youth Services Coordinator supported by contract employees and volunteers. Services have been temporarily suspended while we make these personnel changes and so we can make detailed plans. Please watch for flyers and other notices so you don't miss your chance to be involved in this exciting change! Thank you for your patience as we work to improve our services. *If you want to volunteer your time to help us, call Bonnie Pecina at 392-6273.*

## Good Housekeeping



The Resident Services Department has acquired a new Quick Housecleaning Video from the Public Housing Manager. The video is designed to provide public housing residents with some great ideas on cleaning and caring for their homes. Call 396-3367 to arrange for a viewing. If you have received a warning notice concerning your housekeeping, this can help!



*Irene from J.C. Penney's Hair Salon gave free back-to-school hair cuts to some of our KAD kids at C. M. Allen.*



On Friday, August 15, Allen Woods and C. M. Allen Homes were alive with loud horns, cheers, and candy rocketing throughout the neighborhood as teachers from the new Travis Elementary waved and tossed sweet treats at on-lookers in a celebration of the coming school year.

### Thought You'd Like to Know

The 2008—2009 officers of Allen Woods Resident Assembly express their appreciation to all the residents who took time from their busy schedules to vote during the recent election. They pledge to do their best to serve the Allen Woods community in the coming year.



Sandy Harris, in his yellow raincoat, is delivering meals to the elderly in Allen Woods Homes on a rainy Tuesday morning in August. Love in action.

Resident Services organized a back-to-school immunization drive for KAD kids.



October 6 is the last day to register to vote in the November Presidential election.

### Free Money for College



School is in session and you'll need money to further your education. Don't look any further. The Hispanic Scholarship Consortium (HSC) has the answer. They are dedicated to opening doors of opportunity for deserving Hispanic students in Central Texas by helping them gain access to higher education. Check out the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium website at [www.hispanicsholar.org](http://www.hispanicsholar.org) or contact HSC at 512-615-2294.

### Registro Para Las Clases de la Lengua Inglesa

Está interesada en obtener una promoción en su trabajo? La falta del ingles es una problema? El tiempo es hoy para registrarse en una clase para aprender ingles. Todo es mas facil sabiendo el idioma. Regístrese para clases de ingles en la Biblioteca Publica de San Marcos, comienza el Miercoles 3 de Septiembre a la 1:00 P.M. y a las 6:30 P.M.



## Get the Scoop on Financial Aid

Join the PODER Learning Center as we welcome Byron Kerr, Financial Aid Counselor for Texas State University on Saturday, September 6 at 11:00 a.m. The presentation will cover the basics in Federal and State financial aid. This includes the application process, common errors, and general rules. We will



also discuss the types of aid available to returning students as well as scholarship opportunities. We will discuss some of the

financial concerns that continuing an education creates. Therefore, if you are about to graduate from high school or just want a career change, you should attend this session. College may not be for everyone but it is for *anyone*. College is for anyone who has the maturity and discipline to endure a temporary inconvenience to gain a permanent reward. Call 396-3367 for more information.



## Embassy Suites Presentation at PODER

Public housing residents were dressed to impress and had plenty of questions for Ms. Paulina Palomo, Director of Human Resources for the Embassy Suites San Marcos Hotel, Spa and Conference Center. Ms. Palomo spoke at the PODER Learning Center on the do's and don'ts of working in the hospitality industry. There are over 200 job openings waiting to be filled at the Embassy Suites and public housing residents were given the opportunity to get first hand information on gaining employment with this great company.



## Bonnie Gets \$2,500 Donation

Bonnie Pecina, our Youth Services Coordinator (holding the right side of the big check), applied for a grant from *Sam's Club* a few months ago. Her dedication to our youth resulted in a check for \$2,500! That will pay for several great activities in the coming year.

Thank you *Sam's Club* and congratulations to Bonnie!





# SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

## WHO WE ARE

### Board of Commissioners:

Earl Moseley—Chairman  
Gloria Salazar—Vice-Chair.  
Stacy L. Green—Resident  
Commissioner  
Richard Cruz  
Rev. Samuel Montoya

### Administration:

Executive Director  
*Albert Sierra*  
Financial Services Manager  
*Lana Bronikowsky*  
Maintenance Director  
*Albert Hernandez*  
Public Housing Manager  
*Misty Sanchez*  
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:

Allen Woods Homes  
878-0773  
Chapultepec Homes  
353-5062  
C. M. Allen Homes  
392-6273  
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, Crime & Drug Prevention, 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](http://www.smpba.org)*

## Public Hearing on Flat Rate Rents

HUD regulations require us to set our flat rate rents (ceiling rents) at the market rate for our area. A public hearing will be held to discuss a proposed flat rate rent increase. The hearing will be held on October 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at 1201 Thorpe Lane, the Central Office of the San Marcos Housing Authority.

The current and proposed rates are:

<u>Bedroom Size</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
0 (Efficiency)	\$451	\$500
1	\$508	\$575
2	\$542	\$700
3	\$605	\$825
4	\$671	\$1,050
5	\$714	\$1,150



Any questions and concerns should be addressed to Albert Sierra, Executive Director, San Marcos Housing Authority, 1201 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos, Texas, 78666.