

THE ORACLE

Felix and Nancy Silguero joined the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2010. They were living in an expensive apartment, while trying to raise young children and go to college full-time. They were accumulating mountains of debt in student loans to be able to provide for their family. Coming to the FSS Program, they were able to concentrate on school. Felix went to Texas State to obtain his degree in architecture and Nancy went to school at University of Texas San Antonio to become a nurse. Both Felix and Nancy worked part-time while going to school, alternating their schedules in order to maintain a schedule for their children. Felix found full-time employment with the City of Kyle and Nancy completed the National Clinical Licensure Exam. She worked as a nurse part-time within the Hays school district and in December 2013, she and Felix welcomed a third child, Marco. Shortly after returning to work, Nancy began looking for full-time employment anywhere in Texas. She accepted a position as a nurse in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Edinburg. Felix, Nancy, Diego, Sofia and Marco are doing well and living in the valley.



The Silguero family left on a one-way trip to Successville!

SUCCESS AFTER SUCCESS IN FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY!

Melanie Davis entered the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2009. She worked as a cosmetologist for different hair salons before realizing she wouldn't be able to achieve success unless she owned her own shop. As a single parent to a growing son, Melanie decided it was time to go back to school. She enrolled in an online bachelor's program through the American Intercontinental University. Melanie completed her bachelor's in business in two years. Shortly after graduation, Melanie began working as an



accountant with an oil company in Seguin. She graduated our program in January and is now living in Seguin. She says that she and her son, Eliga, love their new home and they are incredibly thankful for the opportunity they had at Chapultepec.



*Housing Authority
Offices will be closed on
Good Friday, April 3.*

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER



A Spring in Our Step

Rain didn't spoil our kids from having fun in our Spring Break Program! The kids from Chapultepec joined the kids from PODER on a week of field trips, learning, and fun! The week started off with crafts and free ice-cream before heading out to play and do a scavenger hunt in the San Marcos Children's Park. On St. Patrick's Day, the kids went to the library to make crafts then played St. Patrick's Day themed bingo with the seniors at Springtown Villa. They were also treated to a movie trip to watch *Cinderella* and play games at the arcade in the Starplex Cinema. We ended the week with an educational trip to The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at the Aquarena Center. A big thanks to The Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (HCCADA) for their presentation and activities during our Spring Break Program!



Music from the Heart

During Gospel Fest, students from the Gospel Expressions Associations from around Texas colleges and universities came together at Texas State University. The San Marcos Housing Authority sites were chosen to bring outreach, a concert, and donations to each community's needs. Thank you Gospel Expressions for the beautiful songs you sang to our residents and the school supplies you collected to give to our kids!



3 Pautas para Motivar a los Niños a la Lectura

1. Leer nosotros mismos.
2. Dejar que los niños elijan sus propios libros y si los hemos leído nosotros, comentárselo.
3. Visitar librerías, bibliotecas y participar en actividades de animación a la lectura.

Source: www.kumon.es

Springtown Villa



Alfredo from Cost Plus Medical Supply came to assist residents with diabetic shoes. Our resident Alberta Gonzales is smiling after receiving her brand new pair of shoes with the help of Cost Plus Medical Supply.

Alberta
Super Saturday!



Resident Council Secretary Bill Cruz and Vice-President Arleen Machado take time to pose for a picture with a member of the Gospel Expressions Association at Texas State University.



Residents enjoyed sharing their history with students from the Gospel Expressions Association at Texas State University. After the stories, student united and sang a few songs for the residents. Everyone had a wonderful time!



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

Lindsey Brevig, one of our Texas State University Social Work student volunteers, had the opportunity to interview a former KAD participant. Cody Iverson occasionally drops in to visit. During a recent visit, he mentioned how he is now attending Austin Community College. Cody said that while attending the KAD program, he enjoyed coming to eat, getting help with his homework and doing fun activities. He said he loved every minute of it! Cody was also involved in community activities, which he enjoyed the most. The activities included helping with Meals on Wheels, serving at the Nature Center, helping residents with activities at the nursing homes, and going on college tours. Cody said, "I really enjoyed the college tours because we received a free meal on campus at an all-you-can eat buffet!" Cody knew that if he worked at it, he would complete his homework and have the chance to go on a summer trip to the Schlitterbahn water park in New Braunfels. All his dedication would pay off in the end. Cody said, "The Texas State volunteer students would mentor us, talk to us about college, and the importance of getting an education." We hope to see him in the years to come and we wish him all the success in the world so that he may accomplish all his goals and aspirations. We love to see former KAD kids!



Amanda Sladek, another former KAD member, stopped by to pay Bonnie a visit. She is now attending Sam Houston University on a scholarship she earned through hard work and perseverance. Amanda says she especially remembers modeling clothes, dancing, and the computer lab from her days at KAD. We are so proud of you Amanda!!

**WATCH FOR OUR NEW KAD
NEWSLETTER, COURTESY OF
KAPPA DELTA CHI!**



The KAD kids are excited about the new project coming in April. It's "Hatching in the Classroom" provided by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.



CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

A huge thank you to Texas State's Gospel Expressions for sharing their singing talents with our residents. Groups of singers from different gospel groups from area colleges came and sang songs from Twinkle Twinkle Little Star to This is the Day the Lord has Made. Tenants and the singers were able to get to know each other with donuts provided by Krispy Kreme. Gospel Expressions also donated a tub full of school supplies for our residents! Thanks again Gospel Expression! Life is a song, sing it!!



Gloria Olivo from Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse presented information to our tenants about how to talk to your children about drug and alcohol abuse and how to read the signs of possible abuse.



HAYS CALDWELL COUNCIL
ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

For more information, contact
Gloria at 512-396-7695.

Former FSS participant, Monica Cherry, gave back to current participant, Marleen Johnny. Marleen was in need of a bed for herself, and Monica donated a very nice and comfy, full-size air mattress to help Marleen get a good's night rest! Marleen was extremely grateful! We also saw donations from Jessica Botello a former SMHA employee. She and her husband, Joe, donated a nice table and chair for another one of our FSS participants. Janis and David Dick, of Maxwell, donated a mattress, box spring, and bedding set.



Comings and Goings at the Housing Authority

We have been doing the Personnel Shuffle here at the Housing Authority. Longtime employee Irma Adame retired a few months ago. Her position (Housing Choice Voucher Specialist) at the Section 8 office has been filled by Flo Flores, who had been the Site Clerk at the C. M. Allen Homes office. Sandy Bross, Site Clerk at the Allen Woods Homes, has taken Flo's job. Leticia Peralta, our part-time Bookkeeping Assistant at the Main Office, took over Sandy's job. At the end of the job musical chairs, there was an empty seat so brand-new employee, Beatrice Natal, has been hired to replace Leticia.

But wait! There's more! Rebecca Reyes, our part-time Administrative Assistant for the Resident Services department, left us to accept a full-time position elsewhere. That vacancy has been filled by Janet Richardson. In accordance with the mission of the Housing Authority to help raise residents out of poverty, 5 of the 7 people mentioned in this article are or were receiving housing assistance.



Executive Director Albert Sierra poses with Irma Adame at her retirement luncheon.

Friends of the Library Used Booksale! April 10, 11, & 12

Friday

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

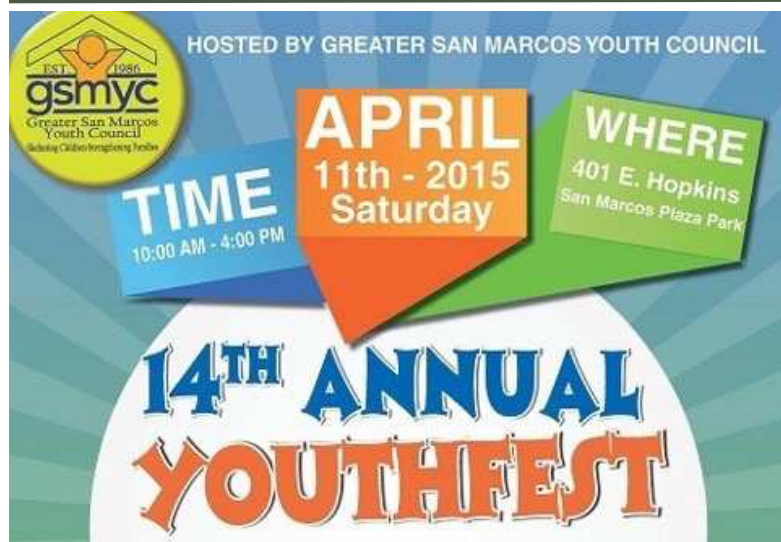
Sunday

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sign up to Volunteer at
the Information Desk!



The Friends of the Library will hold their Spring Booksale at City Park Rec Hall. On Friday paperback books are \$1.00 and hardcover books are \$2.00. Saturday prices are 50¢ for paperbacks and \$1.00 for hardbacks. On Sunday you can take a whole bag of books for just \$5.00!



We have been blessed having Erica Bell as an intern at the C. M. Allen Homes. Erica is from Tyler and has been a driving force — helpful, caring, compassionate and inspiring!



Erica is a senior at Texas State majoring in Social Work. Her plans are to work as a case worker for Child Protective Services. She has worked some at all three public housing sites but she says she really enjoys working at the KAD Korner Store. She has been eager to confront any challenge, including working with a Spanish-only family at C. M. Allen, which she aced. Way to Go Erica!

11TH ANNUAL ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER SAN MARCOS JOB FAIR

WHEN: THU, APR 23, NOON - 6:00 PM

**WHERE: SAN MARCOS ACTIVITY CENTER
501 E HOPKINS ST, NEXT TO THE LIBRARY**

WHAT: OVER 40 EMPLOYERS, 500+ JOB SEEKERS

**CONTACT: WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
KEITH MCCOLLUM, 512-392-1291, EXT 3018**

INTERNS!



Kristie Garcia is a Social Work intern who works at Springtown Villa in the mornings and in the after-school program at the Chapultepec Homes in the afternoon. She says she is very thankful to the Housing Authority for the opportunity to serve the residents at Springtown Villa and Chapultepec. Born and raised in San Antonio, Kristie has lived in San Marcos for the last four years and plans to stay here after graduation. She has two dogs that keep her company and she recently got engaged. She will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. She plans to begin work this summer on a Master's degree with a concentration on Administrative Leadership. After that, she wants to work for a few years and, unless she lands in a career just just absolutely loves, she plans to apply to the University of Hawaii at Manoa to obtain a Ph. D. in Social Welfare. *Kristie believes that it is important to do what you love.*





FREE & FUN THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

• Springs Fest, Rio Vista Park and Dam, April 4

Join us for the Texas Hill Country's largest Paddling Festival on the beautiful San Marcos River! There will be kayak & stand-up paddle demos, lessons and a Gear Swap. Try your hand at SUP Yoga, paddle in the Kayak Diva class or introduce your kids to the sport in the Kids and Kayaks class. Bring your lawn chair or plan on participating in one of the afternoon competitions.

• Texas Wild Rice Festival, Sewell Park, April 11

Attend this one-of-a-kind educational event celebrating the San Marcos River and its endangered Texas Wild Rice featuring live music, art, local vendors, and free hands-on workshops. No Dogs Allowed. Parking: Free parking at Strahan Coliseum. There will be recycling and compost at the event as well as water coolers so bring your water bottles and help reduce waste!

• Youth Fest, San Marcos Plaza Park, April 11

Family festival includes live entertainment all day, art activities, face painting and free games. Additional activities include an inflatable jump castle and train rides, the Fire Department's fire safety house, and the Animal Shelter will share their animals to hug. The event will run from 10 AM to 4 PM.

* For more Amazing April events go to: <http://www.toursanmarcos.com/events/index.html> *

WHAT WE DO

The San Marcos Housing Authority has provided decent, safe, and affordable housing for San Marcos Residents since 1950. We have three housing programs: Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, and Project-based Section 8. These programs provide housing for about 574 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.

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners

Frank Arredondo—Chairperson
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
Susan Tilatitsky—Resident Comm.
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
Richard Cruz—Commissioner

Administration

Albert Sierra
Executive Director
Lana Bronikowsky
Accountant/Programs Manager
Albert Hernandez
Maintenance Supervisor
Rose Miranda
Public Housing Manager
Gene Martin II, LBSW
Resident Services Director
Frances Garcia
Section 8 Coordinator
Amanda Ramirez
Springtown Villa Manager

HOUSING OFFICES

Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)

512-353-5059

C. M. Allen Homes

512-353-1116

Chapultepec Homes

512-396-3364

Housing Choice Voucher

512-353-5061

Springtown Villa

512-396-3363

RESIDENT SERVICES CENTERS

Chapultepec Adult Learning Center &

Family Self-Sufficiency

512-396-3364

KAD Korner Store

512-392-6273

PODER Learning Center

512-396-3367

Springtown Villa

512-353-7343