



Happy Easter!



| STORY & PAGE | | <i>Lisa Stokley: Paving the Path for Others</i> | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| <i>My Spring Break!</i> | 2 | <p>Lisa Stokley enrolled in the Resident Self-Sufficiency program last May. She is currently working, attending Austin Community College, and raising her three sons. During the holiday season, Lisa collected blankets and clothing for the homeless and worked with an organization that provided turkey dinners for ten needy families at the Allen Woods Homes. Here is the rest of Lisa's inspirational story in her own words:</p> <p>“For many years I was afraid of pursuing opportunities that would make my</p> | <p>life better. Fear of failure and rejection held me back from setting goals and accomplishing them. However, last year I started attending church, and I developed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He helped me understand that mistakes are just learning experiences and that if we do not allow ourselves to make mistakes we will never learn from them. He has given my life purpose and guided me through my first semester of college this past fall. I am now pursuing a career in social work to help others find</p> | |
| <i>Trustworthiness</i> | 3 | | | <p>their path.”</p> <p>Lisa's story reminds us that success starts on the inside with your attitude. After that, you have to take action! We can point you in the right direction but you have to take those first steps! Call 396-3367 to get your road map!</p> |
| <i>Heart of a Champion</i> | 3 | | | |
| <i>Bobcat Build</i> | 4 | | | |
| <i>El Sol le Dijo a la Luna</i> | 5 | | | |
| <i>Veronica's Story</i> | 6 | | | |



Austin Community College Challenge

Imagine feeling the sense of pride earning a degree in 9-12 months. Imagine being able to pay for bills and still having money left over for yourself or the family. That is what Mr. Albert Sierra, along with other advocates, suggest would be one of the benefits of an Austin Community College Campus in San Marcos. He believes many housing residents would benefit from the reduced in-district fee of \$39 per semester hour, accessibility to those with limited transportation, and allowing parents more time at home with their children. **Advocates are circulating a petition to get a proposition on the November ballot** so voters can decide whether or not we should be a part of the ACC District. Petitions are available at the resident services center at your site. **You must be a registered voter** in the San Marcos school district, which includes some areas outside of San Marcos city limits. **Sign only one time.** Signers do not have to include their voter registration number if they don't have it with them but if they do, the verification process will be easier.





ALTERNATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM—ALLEN WOODS

Their thoughts on the Talent Show performed at Springtown Villa

"It was good because we got to do a lot of fun stuff like dance and do moves"
-Stephanie Reyes, age 7

"Go up there, have fun, don't get stage fright" -Gabby Lasiter, age 9

Call 396-3367 to get your child started!

KIDS AGAINST DRUGS—CM ALLEN

Their thoughts on their trip to Explore UT

"The first thing we did was build a paper rocket...to see who would go the farthest and I won!"-Pedro Castillo, age 14

"I thought it was very fun. My favorite part was taking apart the toys and seeing how it works. I'm so glad Bonnie took us there"-Benito Castillo, age 13

Call 392-6273 to get your child started!

CHAPULTEPEC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM--CHAPULTEPEC

Their thoughts on the Nature Center and the Library

"I liked the Nature Center because we got to hold a snake—an anaconda!" -
Elijah Davis, age 8

"I like to go here after school because it's real fun and I can hang out with my friends"-Christian Sanchez, age 9

Call 396-3364 to get your child started!

*My Spring
Break! By Kids
of the After
School Program*



Our Generation

Trustworthiness

Trustworthy means to be honest
 And to always keep your promise
 Always have loyalty
 And the last is integrity
 Look at me
 I'm so Trustworthy
 Your life is like a journey
 Choose your own path
 And stay on task
 Treat others the way you want to be treated
 If you don't get it then let me repeat it

Trust you must no matter what
 So get off your feet
 And keep your promise
 And become a star like Kurt Thomas
 So be honest like me
 I get trusted so much I got nice Nikes

Take my advice you get treated so nice
 Treat people kind and stop whining
 And just start trying
 And you be findin' respect.
 Was' Up!

by Jonathan Ledesma and Bennie Cherry
(from the Chapultepec After School Program)



Heart of a Champion

Kara Marin, fourth grader is a true champion. She received a first place trophy in the city's basketball league. Kara made the winning shot when the game was tied 14 to 14. She launched a 2-pointer just before the buzzer, winning the game. The folks at the PODER Learning Cerner are very proud of Kara.



April Birthdays

Allen Woods

- Richard Reyes—18th

Chapultepec

- Jasmyn Brown—1st

C.M. Allen

- Angelica Ochoa—1st
- Desiree Rodriques—3rd
- Noah Sosa—25th





The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

Bobcat Build: A Bridge to the Community

Volunteers from Texas State University came on Saturday, March 27 to help with different projects at all four housing sites.

At C.M. Allen, students did some landscaping at the KAD



At Springtown Villa, the volunteers cleaned and replanted a flower bed. They also built a handicap-accessible "hi-rise" garden bed.



At Chapultepec, the Delta Gamma sorority and other volunteers painted benches and lattices to help brighten the complex.



Korner Store and even helped with the community garden.

At Allen Woods, volunteers planted flowers and vegetables at the PODER Learning Center and helped neighbors on outside projects.



Thanks Bobcat Build! Your community spirit has helped make our housing sites a more pleasant place to work and live.

Honor Society Inductee

Maria Jones, daughter of Delesha Jones, is a 7th grade student at Miller Junior High School who has recently been inducted into the Junior National Honor Society. She attends Kids Against Drugs on a regular basis, when she is not at her dance class practice at her school. She is a very respectful young lady and a delight to have in the group. Congratulations Maria!



El Sol le Dijo a la Luna

El sol le dijo a la luna,
quieres ser mi mujer?
La luna le contesta,
eso nunca podra ser.

Cuando tu sales de dia,
yo salgo de noche.
Ni con un milagro,
¡Del santo niño de atoché!

El sol se puso triste,
La tierra se puso a llover.

A si le pasa a un hombre,
Cuando quiere una mujer

Le digo al eterno,
Y a las estrellas tambien.
Que hacemos los hombres,
Para vivir sin ellas?

*By Merlin, a Springtown
Villa resident*



Site Announcements



FSS Participants:

- April 12 Resident Assembly 6:30 p.m.
- April 16 Support Group 6:30 p.m.

Allen Wood Residents:

- April 13 Blood Pressure and Orthotic Check 10 a.m.

- April 6 Resident Assembly 6:30 p.m.

C.M. Allen Residents:

- April 5 KAD Fundraiser at the University, all day

Springtown Residents:

- April 27 Arthritis presentation with pizza and ice cream 3:00 p.m.
- April 6 Garden Kick-off! 3:00 p.m.





SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board of Commissioners:

Rose Brooks, Chairperson
Rev. Samuel Montoya, Vice-Chairperson

Stacy Green—Resident Rep.

Ovelia Mercado

Paulette Wallington

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 Manager

396-3363

Resident Services Centers:

*Chapultepec Homes

Family Self-Sufficiency

396-3364

*KAD Korner Store

Youth Development Services

392-6273

*PODER Learning Center

Resident Self-Sufficiency

396-3367

*Springtown Villa

Elderly & Disabled Services

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—Maria Calcaben; Senior Editor—Stewart Dale Spencer; Creative Consultant—Herod King Ellison. Contact: SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666. Phone — 396-3364 * Website — www.smpha.org*

Veronica Miranda: Waves of Change



After a year of service in the Housing Choice Voucher program, where she also supported the Family Self-Sufficiency program, Veronica Miranda is now the site manager at Springtown Villa. She likes working with the residents as well as with Eva Sanchez, office clerk. She says, “My challenge is to get to know Springtown and its residents.” She is also working on her business degree at the University of Phoenix and has a 4.0 GPA as she balances school, work, and family. At 26 years old, she is recently married and likes to spend her free time with her family, including her 5-year old son, Noah. Welcome to Springtown Villa, Veronica!