

THE ORACLE

**SUCCESS
STORY
MANIA!**

Our Service Coordinators submit the tales of various residents who have been successful in reaching their goals, whether they be some stepping stone on their path to self-sufficiency or a major milestone along the way. Lately, the stories have been piling up faster than we have been publishing them so this month we present to you the stories of several residents that we think will warm your heart. - Editor



Stephaine Carter came to the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2008 after she applied for housing at Allen Woods Homes. They referred her to the FSS Program because she showed an interest in returning to school and becoming successful. She began the program working as an audit clerk for the Austin State Hospital but soon realized that she wanted to continue her education. She began school at Austin Community College to pursue a degree in Accounting with the help of [Capital IDEA](#), a program designed to lift working adults out of poverty and into living wage careers through education. Stephaine continued

to go to school but realized she wanted to work. She worked and continued her education until she was offered a job at the Department of Health of Human Services where she works now. While at Chapultepec, she learned to deal with the challenges of maintaining a budget, saving money, paying bills on time, and improving her credit all while raising a young son and an older nephew. Stephaine was a very active member of the community and was not afraid to voice her opinions and concerns for Chapultepec. When she completed the FSS Program, we asked her if there was anything she would change about her participation in the program. She said it would be, "working with outside businesses and other non-profit organizations to come together to build a stronger relationship with the Chapultepec Resident Assembly." Food for thought for current FSS Program participants!



Benito (left) and Pedro Castillo have been actively involved in the KAD Afterschool Program for years now. They are currently attending high school and working part-time. They are both very excited about getting their first job. They continue to attend the KAD program and they participate in many different field trips and events. Benito is enthusiastic about being first chair of the trumpets in the San Marcos High School band, while Pedro is looking into construction programs that he can be involved with after graduation. The brothers recently visited the campus of Texas State University to see what the school has to offer. We see bright things in their future!

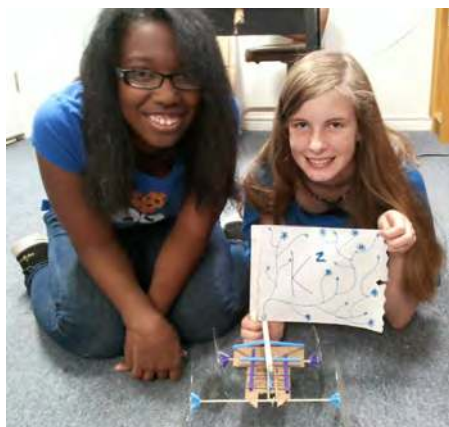
See pages 6 & 7 for more stories and important information from Housing Authority management!

ALLEN WOODS HOMES—PODER LEARNING CENTER

Enriching Teen Minds



Awesome! Cool! Fun! These were some of the words that have described the Summer Program at the PODER Learning Center! A combination of teens from the Chapultepec Homes and the Allen Woods Homes has made the teen program both engaging and interactive. The teens experienced appreciation for their community with volunteerism, were encouraged to use their creativity with art and science projects, and learned to be self-sustaining with gardening projects sponsored by Matt Barnes and Mario Madrigal of Sacred Roots, a San Marcos permaculture society focused on sustainability, self-reliance, and community outreach. Life skill classes were also taught by the



Hays-Caldwell Women's Center. Of course it wasn't just all work! The teens also went on field trips such as the Aquarena Center, Café Monet, parks, movies, and other local places. What a great summer!

Keeping Our Summers Cool

Our Kids' Summer Program has come to an end, but we've had great fun with the kids! We've taken field trips to the Glass Bottom Boat Tours, San Marcos Public Library, Cabela's, Movies, and Children's Park. During our time at the center we've spent time doing activities of all



sorts. The activities cater to each child, helping them develop their spelling, writing, and math skills. We've also created quick and healthy snacks in the kitchen. One of the big hits in the kitchen was the Fourth of July fruit-kabob which included blueberries, strawberries, and bananas. Another big hit in the kitchen was a fruit parfait. The kids were a little skeptical at first but they enjoyed every last bite of their parfait. Each day presented opportunities to learn and grow and we used every minute of it to have a fulfilling summer!



¡CHISTES!

En el colegio:

- Señorita profesora, ¿Verdad que no se debe castigar a un niño por una cosa que no haya hecho?
- No, claro que no.
- Estupendo, ¡No he hecho los deberes!



Springtown Villa



Maria Elena, Deborah, and Ramona

Ladies from Springtown Villa are serious when it comes to saving money! Service Coordinator Gracie Campos held a class on the do's and don'ts of couponing. Our ladies got together to clip coupons. Once they were done clipping they exchanged the coupons. They are excited about saving money. They plan a day trip to HEB to actually use the coupons they clipped to see how much they save.



Gracie



Couponing Workshop



Residents were told about the new CARTS schedule during their Resident Council meeting. They said they are happy about the two new locations at which they will now be able to shop.

Monthly CARTS Schedule for Springtown Villa



WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1	1:30 HEB	1:30 WAL-MART
2	1:30 HEB	1:30 WAL-MART
3	1:30 <i>DOLLAR TREE</i> <i>third Tuesday</i>	1:30 <i>TARGET</i> <i>third Tuesday</i>
4	1:30 HEB	1:30 WAL-MART