



Washington



Determination and Self-Discipline Make it Happen

LOOK INSIDE!

STORY & PAGE	
Homemade Tamales	2
Getting Ready For College	2
Farewell to Jessica	2
Special Delivery	3
Good News for Freshman	3
A Visit to Texas State University	3
Check Your Blood Pressure & Have a Wii Bit of Fun!	4

Life's roads are often paved with many obstacles and in these tough times Texans can find themselves without the basic necessities for survival. It is strength, determination and self-discipline that enable us to overcome those obstacles.

Nicole Sharon Allen had been taught since she was a child that education was the only way out of poverty so she always worked hard to achieve excellence. In 2000, she earned an Associate Degree in Accounting from San Antonio College. She then worked for several

years for a temporary employment agency in San Antonio as an accounting clerk. She wanted to earn more so she returned to school in 2003, attending Our Lady of the Lake University but financial aid was scarce. Nicole transferred to Texas State University where she received enough aid to cover tuition but not her living expenses. In August of 2007 she found herself homeless, living with various friends. She applied to the San Marcos Housing Authority and by January she was in her own apartment. She continued her education, coming to the

PODER Learning Center's computer lab to complete her assignments. On December 19, 2008, Nicole was awarded a Bachelors Degree in "Academic Advising" from Texas State University. "Success" is within your reach, if you really want it. Call 396-3367 so we can start writing your success story!



Scholarships Galore!

The Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA) provide scholarships each year to deserving high school seniors whose families are Public Housing residents or Housing Choice Voucher clients. The deadline to apply for NAHRO is February 20. The deadline for PHADA is February 9. Get information and applications from the Resident Services Center at your site. Call 396-3364 if you have questions. Don't delay! Act now!



Karolyn Oldham celebrating her first Christmas with her new family in Arkansas.

Homemade Tamales for the Holidays



The "Tamalada Fiesta" sponsored by Housing Authority Resident Beatrice Pacheco, Coordinator for the Meals On Wheels program was a huge success! Residents got together on December 30th at the Allen Woods Dining Room to make delicious homemade tamales. The best part was that the residents got to keep a dozen tamales and they sold the rest to continue to provide similar activities for housing authority residents during the holiday seasons.



Blue Santa and helpers bring joy to San Marcos public housing each Holiday Season!

♥ Happy Valentines Day! ♥

College Preparedness Presentation



In these challenging economic times, get an education that allows you to provide your needs and grow your savings. Join Rebecca Espinoza, Senior Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, at the KAD Korner Store on Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. or at the PODER Learning Center on Thursday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. Get the facts regarding financing college, emotional readiness, and the additional resources that are available to help you succeed. If your kids are attending High School or Junior High you need to attend the presentations. Higher education should always be part of any plan for the future. Call 353-5062 for more information.

Jessica's Farewell Luncheon

Jessica Botello, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, accepted a position as an art teacher in the Marion school district. Jessica has an extraordinary way with children and she will make an excellent teacher. We will all miss you Jessica and we know that you will always strive for excellence.



Special Delivery from The Capital Area Food Bank



The Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) delivers food to SMHA Resident Services and we distribute it to elderly and disabled residents who are not able to get to the Hays County Area Food Bank distributions. The CAFB arrived at the PODER Learning Center on January 8. SMHA staff and volunteers from the C. M. Allen Homes and the Allen Woods Homes unpacked and sorted the food. After that, they delivered about 25 pounds of nutritious, non-perishable food to each resident approved for this program. If you are homebound and need more food or if you would like to volunteer and help us with the program, contact Melissa Davis, our Elderly & Disabled Services Coordinator, at 353-7343. A big thanks to the Dollar General store on Hunter Road! They donated their signature plastic bags.

Windfall For Fall Freshman



Beginning next Fall, Texas State University will cover tuition and mandatory fees for 15 credit hours a semester to new resident freshman from San Marcos High School whose families have an adjusted gross income \$25,000 or less. There are deadlines if you plan to attend in the fall so contact Mariko Gomez in the financial aid department at Texas State University for more information. Call 245-2315 or visit their website at www.finaid.txstate.edu/bobcatpromise for more information.

Getting Inspired to Learn



Bonnie Pecina, our Youth Services Coordinator, recently took kids from the Allen Woods Homes to visit a class in Anthropology at Texas State University. Professor John McGhee taught them a little about the field of anthropology as well as what it means to be a responsible college student. Afterwards, Josh Zuniga (not pictured here) said, "I'm amazed that they can tell so much about a person just from their bones!" Josh is thinking about attending Texas State. The best part was learning that you don't have to ask permission to go to the bathroom.



SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:

Earl Moseley—Chairman
Gloria Salazar—Vice-Chair.
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.
Rose Brooks
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:

Family Self-Sufficiency
353-5062
KAD Korner Store
392-6273
PODER Learning Center
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, 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*

Have Your Blood Pressure Checked. Play Wii to Reduce Your Blood Pressure!

Progressive Home Health from Buda and Maxmed Healthcare from San Antonio will conduct free health checks for Housing Authority residents. This includes checking your blood pressure, glucose, and oxygen levels. It is important to have these things checked on a regular basis, especially if you have high blood pressure, heart problems, or diabetes. You can find Progressive Home Health on the 2nd Friday of every month at the KAD Korner Store from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and at Springtown Villa from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Maxmed Healthcare visits on the 4th Monday of every month at the PODER Center from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Springtown Villa from 11:00 a.m. to noon. We hope you use these free services!

If you want to have a little fun and lower your blood pressure at the same time, join the student volunteers from the Long Term Care Institute from Texas State University. We call them the Wii People but they are not Leprechauns! They are dedicated students working towards a career in assisting senior citizens to age gracefully and to enjoy the journey as long as possible. Join them for Wii Bowling and other fun games at the PODER Learning Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can catch them at the KAD Korner Store on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Anyone can play the Wii. It's fun and easy. Get out, meet your neighbors, challenge them to a friendly competition, and improve your quality of life!

