

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



# The Oracle

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## *Kids Café Is Open to Every Child*

The Kids Café is an after-school program that provides nutritious meals three times a week at the KAD Korner Store (C. M. Allen Homes) and at the PODER Learning Center (Allen Woods Homes). Every child that lives in public housing is encouraged to participate. We also serve children that live near public housing. These services are provided year round. Many children would go without a meal if this program did not exist. Kid's Café is a program of the Capital Area Food Bank with support from the community. Grande

Communications is a contributor to the program. We have also received support from Sac 'n Pac Stores and Chuck Nash Chevrolet. We are working to expand the Kid's Café program. Volunteers are an important part of the program. Mrs. Monseratte Fernandez is the cook and custodian at the KAD Korner Store. Ms. Beatrice Pacheco (who also oversees the local Meals on Wheels program) is the cook at the PODER Learning Center. She is assisted by custodians Pablo Gomez and Frank Hall. If you would like to

help, or make a financial contribution toward the success of this program, please call Bonnie Pecina at 392-6273.



*Mrs. Fernandez and Texas State University volunteer Victoria Hensley get ready to serve the kids.*

## *Major Improvements to our Resident Services Centers!*

We are in the middle of a major upgrade and expansion of services to residents of public housing. Last semester, we began keeping the centers at Allen Woods, C. M. Allen, and Chapultepec open until 9:00 p.m. on school nights. A qualified tutor is available to help you or your children (middle school and up) with school work. You may just need a quiet place to study or access to a computer. This semester, we are upgrading the computers to improve their speed and reliability. At each site, residents will be able to use a combination printer/scanner/fax machine. We also have a telephone in each lab. We are working with Grande Communications to provide cable television, telephone, and Internet service to the centers to help residents reach their goals of self-sufficiency. It's like having a Kinko's right on your block . . . but even better because it is free and we help you with your homework! Schedules are posted on the front doors of each center every week.



The kids at C.M. Allen are busy wrapping gifts for the "Blue Santa" Program.



## *Homemade Cookies for the Kids*



Lynz Costa, a volunteer from the Social Work program at Texas State University, got the kids involved in a cookie making project. Lynz's friends for the campus ministry at Texas State donated the items to make the cookies for the KAD program. The kids had a wonderful time rolling the cookie dough and pressing them on to the cookie sheets. They had an even better time sampling the warm, deliciously sweet treats. It was a season to remember.

## *College Preparedness Presentation*

In these tough economic times you need an education and information just to survive. Join Rebecca Espinoza, our Senior Self-Sufficiency Coordinator at the KAD Korner Store on Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. or at the PODER Learning Center on Thursday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. and get the facts regarding financing college, emotional readiness, and the additional resources that are available to help you succeed. If you have children attending Junior High or High School, you need to attend the presentation. Contact 353-5062 for information. A good education should always be part of any plan for your future.

## *All In The spirit of Giving*

Beatrice Pacheco, the "Meals on Wheels" coordinator for San Marcos, and her sons were among those ringing the bell for the Salvation Army to ensure that they have the funds they need to meet local needs in 2009.





## *The Skylights of New York Fashion*



Jodi Byrd Anderson

Jodi "Byrd" Anderson, a resident of Allen Woods, was co-coordinator of a fashion show called "Skylights of New York & Flashing Lights" at the San Marcos High School on December 12.



## *Senior Citizens Expo*

The Senior Advisory Board and the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department are hosting the 4th annual Senior Citizens EXPO on Thursday, January 29th from 10am-2pm at the San Marcos Activity Center. There will be information on goods, services, discounts, organizations, and much more! They will have snacks, door prizes, and other freebies. We encourage all senior citizens to take advantage of what the community has to offer. If you are interested in attending the EXPO and need transportation, please contact CARTS at 800-456-7433 to schedule a ride.

## *Learn the Art of Conflict Resolution*

Psychotherapist Nancy Turner returns once again to the P.O.D.E.R Learning Center to teach the art of conflict resolution and more on Saturday, January 31, from 11:00 a.m. until noon. All resident organization volunteers and other residents are urged to attend. Don't miss this opportunity! Get the skills you need to be an effective communicator and leader in your organization. Contact 396-3367 for more information.





## SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

### WHO WE ARE

#### Board of Commissioners:

Earl Moseley—Chairman  
Gloria Salazar—Vice-Chair.  
Stacy E. 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)*

## *The Keys to Her Kingdom*



Pam Brown, a recent Family Self-Sufficiency graduate, received the keys to her new home just before Christmas. Habitat for Humanity had a home dedication for Ms. Brown on Saturday, December 20th. The picture to the left is Pam's new home (with a few



volunteers). To the right, Pam poses with her daughter, Tyra, and Mayor Susan Narvaiz on dedication day. The volunteers from Habitat love Pam and say she contributed a lot to the building of her home. We congratulate Ms. Brown. Homeownership is a major accomplishment! Ms. Brown credited the FSS program for helping her reach her goals. If you are interested in becoming an FSS participant please call 353-5062 for details.