

THE ORACLE

PERSEVERANCE PAY\$

by Megan Spiller

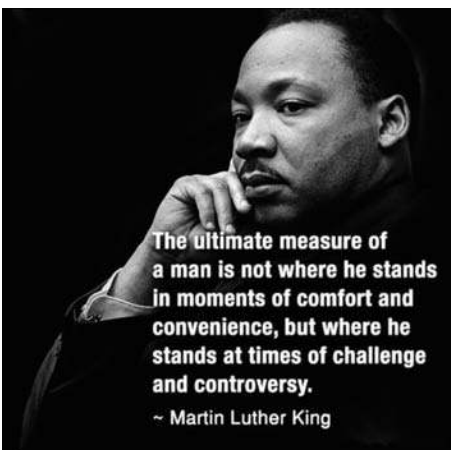
Teresa Escobar came to the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in December 2010. Teresa was a single mother with two growing teenage boys, Aaron (pictured) and Martin. She lived with her mother and was working full-time for the HEB Warehouse. While Teresa worked and raised her boys, she also attended Austin Community College. She went to school for ten years before she finished her prerequisite classes for the Registered Nurses



Program at ACC. When Teresa met with Megan, her FSS Coordinator, prior to being approved, Teresa had just found out she had been accepted to the Nursing program and she was thrilled!

As soon as Teresa was accepted to the FSS Program and was all settled in, she started the nursing program. She took a leave of absence from HEB so she could focus 100% of her efforts to school. Within two years, she completed the program and graduated. Soon after she graduated with an Associate degree in Applied Science, Teresa took the National Council Licensure Examination. She didn't pass the first time but she didn't give up. She studied more and focused harder and when she took it again, she passed! Almost as soon as she passed, she was hired on at a nursing and rehabilitation facility in Austin.

Teresa graduated from the FSS Program shortly after starting her new job as a registered nurse. When Teresa was asked how we could help make the FSS program better she stated she couldn't think of anything, because we helped her out as much as we could. She enjoyed learning how to build assets and what resources were available to her from the community.



SMHA offices will close at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31 and will be closed on Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2.

SMHA offices will also be closed on Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.



Please remove your Christmas decorations by January 6. If Santa looks like this, you waited too long.

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

¡CHISTES!

¿Por qué está triste el cuaderno de matemáticas?

– Porque tiene muchos problemas.

Si tengo cuatro pesos en el bolsillo y se me caen dos, ¿qué tengo ahora en el bolsillo?

– ¡Un agujero!

– Papá, hoy no puedo ir a la escuela.

– ¿Por qué no, hijo?

– No me siento bien.

– ¿Por qué no te sientes bien?

– Porque tengo que ir a la escuela.



Christmas Cheer for All to Hear!



games and arts & crafts, the kids nestled up to hot cocoa and cookies and the movie *Elf*. Each child left with a stocking and a gift.

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas as the semester came to a close at the PODER After-School Program with a Christmas Party! A small group of carolers went to sing to the elderly and disabled residents of Springtown Villa. Back at PODER they played group games including "Dress Up a Snowman" (pictured left) and Photo Booth. After

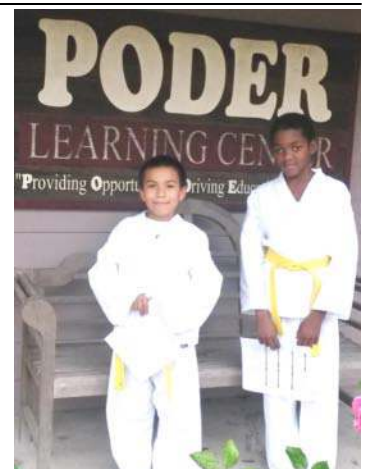


Hard Work Pays Off

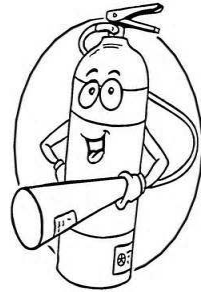
We are so proud of our first Karate Class at the PODER After-School Program! Most of them attended a tournament in November in which their coach, Rana Zeidan, was able to get them and their families in free! They won medals and ranked top in the tournament. They also



had the opportunity to earn their yellow belt! Although Rana graduated in December, she plans to return in the spring. Spread the word because we have room for a few more kids! *(This is an update of a story that appeared in October 2014 issue of The Oracle).*



Springtown Villa



Residents attended a Kitchen Safety/Exit Strategy Meeting presented by the San Marcos Fire Department.

Firefighters gave residents a pamphlet called "Home Fire Prevention Checklist and Exit Drills in the Home," also known as EDITH. Residents in attendance were also given a fireman's hat. Some kids never grow up!



Residents were served a Thanksgiving meal provided by the Resident Council and cooked by volunteers Lisa and Nick Garza and family. Volunteer Bobbi Reil helped serve desserts donated by Bee First Primary Home Care.



Resident Services Director Gene Martin II and Stewart Dale Spencer deliver turkey boxes to Springtown Villa residents. SMHA employee Cliff Frias lends a helping hand.



Resident Council President Lino Puente poses for a picture with our volunteers.



Amanda Ramirez, Springtown Villa Manager, is overwhelmed with the number of turkey boxes. Thanks to volunteer Chenitha Ellis for recruiting volunteers from Texas State University to help us out this year.

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Texas State University social work volunteer student Miranda Brugger stops by the free cell phone table to gather information for residents at C. M. Allen. Miranda asked about the requirements and process for a free cell phone. Thanks to Life Wireless residents who could not afford a phone can now keep in contact with family members.



Students Jasmine Martinez and Zoey Sanchez with the KAD program lend a helping hand by wrapping gifts for the Blue Santa Program. The girls had a great time wrapping gifts. They plan to do it again next year.



Jeneen Martinez was having fun at the Family Science Night, learning how to make homemade ice cream. She was ready to go home and make ice cream for her family. It was yummy!

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

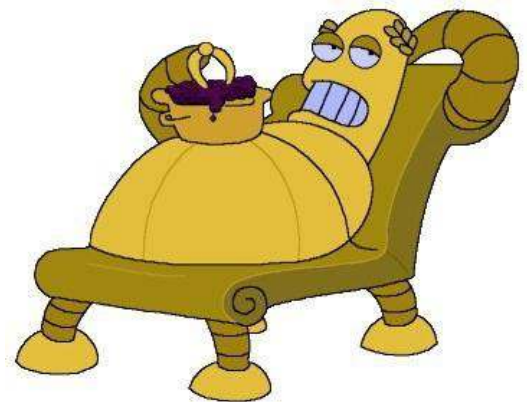
Kathryn Catlett from Health Training Services did an outstanding presentation on the classes that HTS provides. In addition to Certified Nursing Assistant classes, they offer Med Aide classes and help their graduates seek suitable employment! If you are interested, give them a call at 512-754-9647 or go to myhealthtrainingservices.com.



Housing Authority employees Megan Spiller, Maria Calcaben, and Rose Miranda were joined by FSS participant Roxanne Burnett (#46) and her daughter Corrie at the Sights-n-Sounds of Christmas Jingle Bell Run 5K! Although it was chilly, they finished within an hour!

The new year means nothing if you're still in love with your comfort zone.

Rachel Wolchin





Mon, Jan 5, 9am to 3pm

Tue, Jan 6, 9am to 3pm

Wed, Jan 7, 9am to 3pm

Thu, Jan 8, 9am to 3pm

Mon, Jan 12, 9am to 3pm

Tue, Jan 13, 1pm to 3:30 pm

College Book Store Workers Needed!

**COME TO WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
202 S CM ALLEN PARKWAY, SAN MARCOS**



JOB # 6989905

**Bring two legal forms of identification.
KEY STAFF is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

**Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TTY users call Relay Texas @ 1-800-837-8030**

SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

From January 5 - 26, the Edwards Aquifer Authority will have an **interactive mobile cave display**. As you walk through the display, you are transported into a dim environment complete with a motion-triggered audio presentation about the Edwards Aquifer. Exploring the outside of the cave display, you can see detailed images of the different regions along with the threatened and endangered species that live in the Edwards Aquifer.

Call 512-393-8200 or go to sanmarcostx.gov/library to find out about more awesome library events!

Spring 2015 College Prep Academy info session at the San Marcos Public Library

Thursday, January 8th 6 — 7:30 PM

Friday, January 9th 1 — 3 PM

CONTACT THE RESIDENT SERVICES OFFICE AT YOUR SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Hays Caldwell Council Hosted their first Girl Talk Teen Group in December. It is a group held every month at the C. M. Allen Homes for girls ages 12-18 and is coordinated by Prevention Specialist Leticia Marin. The purpose of the group is to promote a safe environment for teens to learn about making healthy choices. At the first event, hairstylist and Texas State Students Maria Hernandez and Arizbeth Ramirez from Great Clips in Austin were invited to speak to the girls. They talked about self-esteem, goal-setting, and career options. More specifically they talked about a day out on the job and information on how to pursue cosmetology school.



STREAM Fest

"Exploring the Art in Everything"

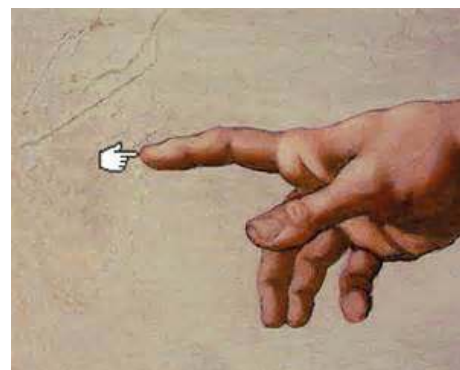


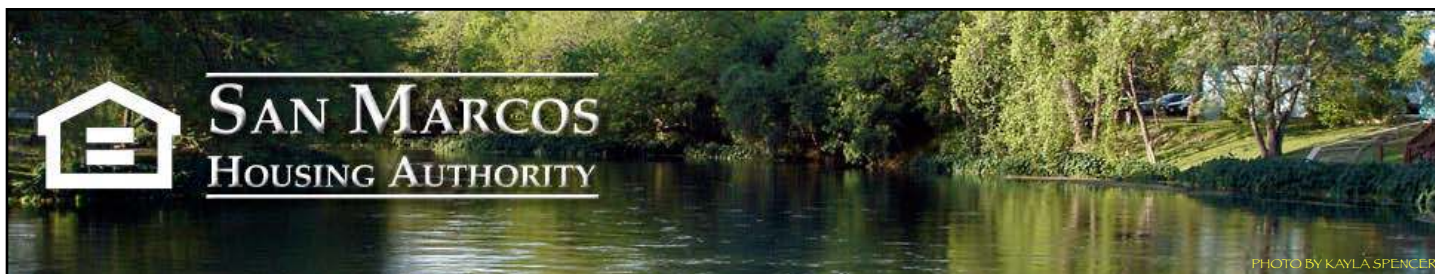
Science • Technology • Reading • Engineering • Art • Mathematics

January 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at the San Marcos Public Library & the San Marcos Activity Center

STREAM Fest will showcase the arts and creative pursuits that exist within Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Mathematics. Fun activities, performances, and crafts for kids of all ages! Sponsored by the MAKE Lab, City of San Marcos, Walkers Gallery, San Marcos Area Arts Council, and San Marcos Arts Commission. Activities will take place at both the activity center and the public library.





FREE & FUN THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

• Tigerlily Mental Training ~ Cephas House, Monday & Wednesday Evenings, 7:15 - 8:15 PM

Take advantage of the opportunity to experience Tigerlily Mental Training regardless of age, condition or ability. This training is ideal for individuals interested in the benefits of traditional Moo Doe (martial arts) and learning how the movements can be utilized as part of a long-term strategy for overall well-being. Tigerlily Mental Training develops the mind and body in a unique manner by offering Tai Chi Chung, a Chinese martial art of fluid, graceful movements that harmoniously set the entire body into motion. Register online at RecConnect.SanMarcosTX.gov or call Parks and Recreation at 512-393-8400.

• 50+ Bingo & 50+ Game Day ~ San Marcos Activity Center

Experience the thrill of winning and the joy of getting together with others! Each month, we provide Bingo with great prizes and light refreshments! Get a Hobby Bingo is on January 8 from 2 to 3 PM. Game Day is every Monday (except City Holidays), 12:30 to 4 PM. We provide light refreshments and game materials for Bridge, Mexican Train Dominoes, 42, and Hand & Foot. Bring a potluck lunch item or snack to share if you'd like.

*For more Jumpin' January 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

Rose Brooks—Chairperson
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
Susan Tilatitsky—Resident Representative
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
Frank Arredondo—Commissioner

Administration

Albert Sierra
Executive Director
Lana Bronikowsky
Accountant/Programs Manager
Albert Hernandez
Maintenance Supervisor
Rose Miranda
Public Housing Manager
Gene Martin, II
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