

# THE ORACLE



## WHAT ARE THE KIDS UP TO?



### PODER After-School Program Rocks!

by Maria Calcaben

As Victor Hugo once said, "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." Intern Amber Nealy conducted an activity where the kids were able to create their own instruments! She led a discussion with the children about music, bands, and different types of instruments. The children used regular household products, such as boxes, tin cans, or paper towel rolls, as a body for the instrument and filled them either with beans, pasta, or rock salt for maraca-like instruments or decorated them with yarn and streamers to create guitars or drums! The children



used their imagination to either invent their own instrument, like a drum-guitar or a whistle-drum, or tried to personalize an instrument with which they were already familiar, such as maracas decorated with bugs or a guitar colored as a rainbow. After the children were finished with their creations, the sounds of music merged with the children's voices as some of the kids had a spontaneous jam session.

### KAD Has it Goin' On!

by Bonnie Pecina



Thanks to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Hays County, KAD students saw first hand how an egg becomes a chick. The "Hatching Project" was conducted by Lana Marie Franceschini, Youth Programs Assistant. In February, we had baby chicks hatch from the eggs that we had incubated. Volunteers from the Texas State Univeristy Social Work program supervised as two kids at a time held the chicks. We also had a special visitor. Ray Lee, a former KAD member, came to help. He graduated



high school last year and enlisted in the United State Air Force. He will be transferring to Alaska soon where he will serve as a dental assistant. The Circle of Life shows up everywhere!



# ALLEN WOODS HOMES—PODER LEARNING CENTER

## A STROKE OF LUCK

It was a lucky month for many of the elderly and disabled residents at the Allen Woods Homes! They enjoyed a rousing game of Valentine's Bingo. Free blood pressure checks before the game, food, and prizes made this a crowd pleaser! One of the winners is pictured on the right! Special thanks to Maria Flores' daughter, Mary, for providing the prizes.



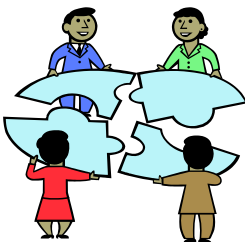
Residents got ready for Valentine's Day by buying treats and raffle tickets during the Resident Assembly Valentine's Day Bake Sale. Cakes, cupcakes, and cookies were sold as well as raffle tickets to win either a set of three pillows or a Valentine's stuffed animal. A big thanks to Resident Assembly members as well as Jessie Martinez, Italia Moreno, and all those who baked and contributed to the success of raising \$146! Congratulations to raffle winners Pablo Gomez and Irma Adame!



## Consejos

### para los Padres

"Sí, puede cambiar el comportamiento de su hijo, pero eso no significa que siempre debe. Cuando nos enfrentamos a un comportamiento no deseado, primero pregúntese: ¿Puedo dejar pasar esto? Pregúntese si el cambio de un comportamiento realmente hará una diferencia que vale la pena en la vida de su hijo y el suyo propio."



Alan Kazdin and Carlo Rotella,  
"The Messy Room Dilemma" 2009.

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT



Laughter and joy filled the PODER Learning Center as we held our first Family Fun Night! Families were invited to a barbecue chicken dinner, a game of "Healthy Land," and prizes! Four different groups of families played a life-size game of Healthy Land, which is very similar to "Candy Land." The teams were made up of the families and they were asked to answer a question

or perform an action to be able to move forward in the game board. Families showed just how fun working together as a family can be as they played the game! The Coleman family (pictured) won the grand prize of a fruit basket donated by Cuevas Produce. The families that participated were given bags filled with goodies for the whole family. Volunteers Amber Nealy, Lynn Krebbs, Pablo Gomez, Carlos Lujan, and Talicia Denasty helped make this evening run smoothly. We'd also like to recognize PODER Learning Center's intern Italia Moreno for much of the planning, creating, cooking, and success of the night!



## Springtown Villa



Resident Council President Lino Puente and Vice-President Deborah Morris congratulate **Rita Moore**, one our Valentine's Day Canister winners. **Tiffany Medrano** won the second canister. Both ladies work at Well Med.



Lu Hickey smiles as Cynthia Watts gives her a flower to brighten her day! Cynthia Watts was recognized during our Volunteer Awards luncheon for her donation of flowers to residents at Springtown Villa.



Residents at Springtown enjoy celebrating February birthdays along with Valentine's day!

In the picture Rosie, Mary and Karen are filling their plate with goodies provided by the Resident Council.



Bee First Primary Home Care recently sponsored LOTERIA at Springtown Villa.

Lino Puente thanks rep. Juanita Torres. →





# C. M. Allen Homes—KAD Korner Store



Amy Valles, the Site Manager for the C. M. Allen Homes, and Ruben Villalpando welcomed Mason Andrew to the world on December 9. Mason weighed 6 pounds 4.2 ounces and was

18 ½ inches long. Mason's older brother, Cody, and big sister, Avery, are excited to have Mason in their lives.



KAD students Aliyah (left) and Amelia would like to thank the Greater San Marcos Youth Council for

their twin costumes. They enjoy wearing these outfits to any and every occasion possible.



Snow-covered yards are a rare sight in San Marcos. Moriah and Jenika managed to gather up a bucket of snow and enjoy it while it lasted.



Residents from C. M. Allen attended a *Cooking for Your Life* class sponsored by the Capital Area Food Bank. They learned how to select wholesome ingredients for a healthier meal for their families.



Resident volunteer Annjeanette helps instructor Vivian Noriega mix healthy ingredients for baking cinnamon banana muffins. If that doesn't make you hungry, check for a pulse!

## Chapultepec Homes — Family Self-Sufficiency

Hello SMHA residents!

My name is Lynn Krebbs and I am a Social Work student from Texas State University completing an internship with the Housing Authority for the Spring semester. I am primarily working to expand the connections between Texas State and the Housing Authority. I will be trying to get various student organizations to volunteer their time and ability at the different Public Housing locations. I will also be focusing on getting donations and contributions from San Marcos businesses to benefit residents. If you have any questions, ideas for projects, or just want to stop in to see me, please come by the Chapultepec Office. I am in the office Monday through Friday and would love to get to know as many residents as possible. I am very much looking forward to meeting you and working with your Housing Authority.



Eliga Davis (right) and Jacob Coronado, show off their canteens made of bamboo sticks. They found the bamboo at Chapultepec and discovered that they could hold water if they sealed the bottom of the stick. They spent all afternoon filling their canteens with water and drinking the water while playing outside. Very resourceful boys!



**Resident Assembly is held  
on the first Tuesday  
of the month at 6 p.m.**

Thank you to Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union for talking to our participants about the best options for spending income tax refunds. Rocke Ayala, Branch Manager, discussed the differences between banks and credit unions, how to save money, the difference between saving and investing, how time affects the value of money, and the basics of having a budget and spending plan. Attendees also got some great freebies!

The next FSS Class will be March 20, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Chapultepec Adult Learning Center.





## MORE KID STUFF!



### Bridging the Generations

by Gracie Campos



Kids from the Allen Woods Homes have been coming up to visit with the residents of Springtown Villa about every other month. They performed a talent show last summer. They celebrated holidays with Easter egg hunts, Trick or Treat, and caroling. Springtown residents feel a connection with these children. When they found out the Office Depot had a sale on school supplies, they thought about how hard it was for them when they had young children. They remembered how paying for all those supplies stressed their budget. They decided to take action and after a few (walking) visits to Office Depot they

had a good amount of school supplies to donate to the children from Allen Wood Homes. They got in contact with Maria Calcaben and she made arrangements to bring the children over to pick up their bag of school supplies. Generation gap begone!



### The Cricket Kids Collective

by Mari Contreras

This school year at the Chapultepec (Aztec for "cricket") Homes we have emphasized the theme of

"teamwork." All our activities start only when homework is completed and the area is cleaned. Most of the activities we do require working together in a group. Just to name a few, we made paper mache pinatas, which required the older students helping the younger. We also did cupcake decorating that included everyone mixing frostings to make different colors for the entire group. We shared paint for picture painting. We have also done things that involved



giving to others. For Christmas, the kids made goodie bags. They were allowed to keep one and give the other one away to someone they cared about. We have many volunteers helping so we have done activities that involved teamwork outside as well as inside, including playing touch football and different games with the basketball. We will continue to do sports or crafts that require the children to work with each other, including making cards with a gift for Easter and Mother's Day. This is another way to support the goals of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. A healthy, active community helps lift everyone up!



## Please join Community Action at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraiser



**Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4-7  
at Zelicks in San Marcos**

The fun includes

- Crawfish plates for sale
- Live music performed by Ponty Bone
- One free drink with your donation of \$10 or more

Please send an e-mail to [rwolf@community.com](mailto:rwolf@community.com) with any questions or to make a donation in advance. All proceeds go directly to Community Action Inc. of Central Texas.



Mrs. Monseratte Fernandez, who cooks for all of the Kid's Café Program sites, is a part-time employee but she volunteers on top of that. In fact, she tops it so much that, once again, at the Housing Authority's annual Volunteer Awards luncheon in January, she was the Top Volunteer of C. M. Allen, with over 1,200 hours last year! In picture to the left, Bonnie Pecina, one of our Service Coordinators, presents a certificate to Mrs.

Fernandez. In the picture to the right, Gracie Campos, another Service Coordinator, presents a certificate to Bobbi Riel, a resident of the Allen Woods Homes who volunteers at Springtown Villa. She received the Top Volunteer Award with 79.5 hours of service. Both volunteers had their names added to the permanent plaques on display at the KAD Korner Store and at Springtown Villa.







PHOTO BY KAYLA SPENCER

## Event Calendar\*

- **March 8** ~ Art Squared Art Market, Downtown Square, 11 AM - 4 PM
- **March 9** ~ Daylight Savings Time begins
- **March 10 to 14** ~ Spring Break (SMCISD & TSU)
- **March 15** ~ Cruise In Night, Dick's Classic Garage Car Museum
- **March 29** ~ Wildflower Fiesta Spring Plant Sale & Market, San Marcos Nature Center, 9 AM — 4 PM
- **March 22** ~ Annual Car Show, Dick's Classic Garage Car Museum, 11 AM — 6 PM
- **April 5** ~ Youthfest, San Marcos Plaza Park
- **April 5** ~ Foodstock SMTX, Downtown Square, 1 PM - 6 PM

\*All events are free & open to the public. You do not need to purchase anything to attend.



### WHAT WE DO

The San Marcos Housing Authority has provided decent, safe, and sanitary 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 569 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  
Lorraine Burleson—Vice-Chairperson  
Vacant—Resident Representative  
Ovelia Mercado—Commissioner  
Mary Barnhart—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