

# THE ORACLE

## Preparing for Success by Megan Perez



Roxanne Burnett came to the San Marcos Housing Authority in need of housing in January 2012. She was referred to the Family Self-Sufficiency Program by her counselor at the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center, where she was living at the time. It was a year of trials and tribulations for her, but she was very thankful when her name came to the top of the waiting list in October 2012. Roxanne was approved for the FSS Program and later moved into an apartment at the Chapultepec Homes with her daughter, Corrie. Roxanne didn't have much when she moved in but with the help of Gabriel and Marisol Mendoza, FSS Graduates and the previous tenants of her apartment, and other residents, Roxanne's apartment turned into a home. As a participant in the FSS Program, Roxanne is required to continuously work towards self-sufficiency. Roxanne enrolled in the Community Action College Prep Academy. The Academy began in January and Roxanne

has not only improved her math, reading, and writing skills but has toured Austin Community College, applied for student financial aid, and gotten scholarship information. She also learned life skills, learned more about how to study, and acquired new note taking skills. Roxanne completed the 12 week program on April 25. She plans to attend Austin Community College in the summer, where she will begin working on her core classes towards a math or science degree. She plans to transfer to University of Texas to complete a four year degree. Roxanne has been a part of the FSS Program for only a few short months but is well on her way to success. If you know someone who has the drive to make something out of their life but could use a little help along the way, tell them to call 512-396-3364 or drop by the Chapultepec Homes at 701 South LBJ Drive. Space is limited and the waiting list is not always open but we can always help get you pointed in the right direction!



Those wacky folks in our Maintenance Department seem to be under the impression that keeping your Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system clean will make it last longer, require fewer repairs, and save you money. We don't know where they get these radical ideas but we have found that it is best to humor them. They would like to remind you that you should clean the *return air grill*. That's the thing they open when they replace the filters for you. It's your job to keep the grill

clean. By the way, make sure the system is turned off before you clean it, otherwise dust could be sucked up into the system, which would defeat the purpose of cleaning the grill in the first place.



# ALLEN WOODS HOMES—PODER LEARNING CENTER



## RAISING FUNDS FOR FUN!

There is a famous saying that “it takes a village to raise a child.” These words rang true when residents and staff of the Housing Authority and volunteers from Texas State University assisted in the success of the Kid’s Program Rummage Sale at the PODER Learning Center. There were a lot of items for sale, a raffle for 4 different Mother’s Day baskets, and food and refreshments such as breakfast tacos and baked goods. Whether people donated their time, their things, or their money, every act of kindness counted. All the profits went towards the



Housing Authority’s After-School Programs. We were able to raise almost \$400 and much of it will go towards summer activities. From set up to clean up, the fundraiser ran smoothly because of the student volunteers that help set up, bake, sell, and clean up. Italia Moreno, Elizabeth Swindle, Britany Watson, Tyler Estrada, Joshaua Robinson, and volunteers from

the Student Support Services at Texas State University all pitched in. We also appreciate Allen Woods residents Eloy Tarin, Brigitte Bell, and Pablo Gomez for their contributions of food and time, and for taking unsold items to Goodwill. Congratulations to Rose Miranda, Rosario Blanco (pictured above), Stewart Dale Spencer, and Don Thorndyke on winning the raffles! We will continue to push for a goal of raising **at least** \$500.00. If you would like to donate towards our goal, get more information about enrolling your child into the program or volunteering your time, please call Maria Calcaben at 512-396-3367.



El 5 de mayo, 1862, el general Ignacio Zaragoza y su ejército mexicano vencieron el ejército francés en la Batalla de Puebla. La victoria mexicana era una sorpresa porque el ejército francés era más grande y tenía materiales superiores. El Cinco de Mayo en un día para conmemorar el coraje de los luchadores contra la opresión.

[www.spanish.about.com](http://www.spanish.about.com)



## THANK YOU BOBCAT BUILD!

Students from Texas State helped out around the PODER Learning Center. They help reorganize the shed and clean up our garden.

## HEALTHY AND DELICIOUS

Can eating healthy really be delicious? Can children really choose healthy snacks over unhealthy snacks? Best Foods Fit, a group of Nutrition Majors from Texas State, proves that it is possible! After a lesson about healthy snacks, Best Foods Fit provided fresh fruits and vegetables to supplement the children’s meal at the PODER Learning Center. Yummy!



# Springtown Villa



Residents have been working hard making Springtown Villa a better place to live for everyone. James Wimberley shared his talent and expertise with neighbors Lino and Cynthia as they get ready to paint the community room.



Resident Cynthia worked hard on the front entrance at Springtown Villa, she donated her time and plants to beautify the front entrance.



Residents had a great time during a field trip to Wonder World. Residents were able to ride the train, feed the animals, and do a little shopping in the gift shop before they left for the day.



Residents participated in their first Easter scavenger hunt at Springtown.



Lino found the "golden egg!" Site manager Amanda helps Lino count his money.



# C. M. Allen Homes—KAD Korner Store



The Easter bunny came to visit the kids from KAD.



C. M. Allen would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for the Easter basket raffle. The winner was Rhonda Hussman.



All good things must come to an end. Students that participated in the University Starts at Home program were invited to a grand tour of Texas State. Students were also treated to a meal in one of the campus cafeterias.

## C. M. Allen Events

*Invest in the garden, Invest in your future.*

We invite all C. M. Allen residents to join Texas State University students in the preparation of the community garden. This is an on-going project to benefit the residents. Contact Bonnie at 512-392-6273 for more information.



In March, a group from the local church known as The Prodigal 's House came out on Bobcat Build Day to support the residents and the students. The students painted inside while the church volunteers provided food, games, face painting, and prizes outside.

# Thank you!

Thank you Prodigal's House and Texas State Bobcat Build volunteers!



Do you want to learn how to prepare healthy meals on a budget?

**Planning Healthy, Thrifty Meals**  
class series

This **free** series will teach you:

- Basic nutrition based on MyPlate
- How to create a budget
- How to shop wisely using food labels and unit price
- How to plan nutritious meals on a limited budget

Monday's, April 22, 29 and May 6, 13  
10:30a.m.-12:00p.m.

CM Allen Homes  
820 Sturgeon  
San Marcos, TX 78666

To pre-register,  
Contact Bonnie Pecina at 512-392-6273

**CHOICES** **CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK OF TEXAS**