



KIDS OF THE FUTURE SERIES PART I: A Bright Future for our Boys

By: Maria Calcaben

We often look at our kids and wonder what they will be when they grow up. Are they prepared? Will they be successful? Did I raise them right? I talked to three young men to see their perspective on life. Although they are all different ages and have diverse family backgrounds, they have three things in common: they all live at Allen Woods, they all play a sport, and they are all involved with PODER.

Meet Chris. He is in 5th grade and is part of the free karate program at PODER. He loves to learn different techniques but his favorite part about karate is sparring with his friends. He also has two younger sisters; one of them also attends PODER. He feels it's important to be a big brother because he could take care of them if they needed help or if they were in trouble. Whether it's helping to keep the center clean or helping his sister with her homework, Chris always comes to PODER with a positive attitude. He believes

that kids should "be themselves and always try their best!" Keandre is a familiar face. He was featured in the Oracle last August.



Like Chris, Keandre is part of the free karate program at PODER but he also does boxing classes with trainer Brenda "Tiger Lady" Bell, a former world-rated professional boxer and martial artist. In his free time he likes to play football, basketball, volleyball, and swimming. He feels it is important to stay healthy and active because it makes you feel happier and helps you live longer. He enjoys coming to PODER because he can hang out with his friends, do homework, and do fun activities in a safe and encouraging environment. Keandre also has a younger brother that attends PODER and he thinks it is important to set a good example for him so his brother can make the right choices in life. He feels everyone should be treated equally, girls and boys, because we're all people. His thoughts are inspired by very strong girls in his life, like his mom! **(see more on Page 7)**

ATTENTION RESIDENTS



Effective January 1, 2017, the Housing Authority will no longer accept cash payments for rent and other fees. Payment must be made with a check, a money order, or a debit/credit card.

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Running for a Healthy Life



With sleep still in their eyes but determination in their hearts, four kids from the PODER After-School program, Executive Director Albert Sierra, and Service Coordinator Maria Calcaben ran the Hays-Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Red Ribbon 5K Run on a cool early October morning. Although most of the kids tried to get a running start, they burnt out before the

first turn, but not Josh Stevens. His steady pace earned him 3rd place in his age group and Mr. Sierra placed 1st! Two of the kids won raffle prizes, but they all had fun participating in their first 5K. It was a great way to show our support for a drug-free community!

Kickin' Up the Competition



Two karate competitions on back-to-back weekends didn't slow down the karate kids from the PODER Center! At *Clash of the Titans*, a team event, they turned up the heat with killer roundhouse kicks, powerful punches, and suave katas. Each duo fought twice. The girls team, The Knockouts, won first and then second place. The boys team, The Knights, won first place both times. In the *Hill Country Karate Invitational Tournament*, most of our kids won first place. Pictured is Josh Stevens with his first place medal next to karate coaches Rana Zeidan (on the left) and Alicia Contreras. Hearing the parents involved and cheering not only for their children but for all the kids in the program bolstered the kids' confidence to fight their hardest. We wish the best of luck to our karate kids at the next tournament on Nov. 12!

A Magical Evening



The smiles on their faces were no trick on how much these families appreciated Family Night! This month's theme involved talking about four components for a healthy family: self-care, family dinner,

communication, and love. Each family had caldrons, into which they put those "ingredients" and then talked about what type of promise they will keep together to improve their family this month. Families were treated to a nacho dinner, a few magic tricks, and a pumpkin that they were able to decorate and take home. The highlight of the evening for the kids was having the Texas State Quidditch Team teach the kids how to play the game! Quidditch is a game that was originally invented in the Harry Potter book series. Just like magic, each family has the ability to transform themselves into something better if they only put in a little effort and practice.



A Sense of Our Community

As the summer season began to fade, smiling faces filled the warm evening of Texas Night Out. You could hear kids laughing as they played games, got their face painted, or tumbled in the jump castle. Adults chattered and played bingo. Bellies were full of hot dogs, chips, and salsa from the First Annual Salsa Contest. The winner was Johnny Villanueva. Eyes were amazed as SACNAS, a science student organization from Texas State, demonstrated experiments for the families. Ears perked up when the firemen came to show their firetrucks and to pass out prizes while the sheriff's department handed out information and goodie bags. The evening could not have been a success without the generosity of our sponsors: HEB, El Milagro, Shipley's Donuts, Mamacita's Restaurant, Pennington's Cakes, SMPD, and SMFD. A great evening that brought neighbors and families together to celebrate the great community of San Marcos.



Springtown Villa



Shirlene Bishop moved here From Oklahoma to be closer to her son in 2008. Since then she has become very active with her church, with taking care of our rose bushes, and helping other resident events. She goes to bible study and church weekly and loves to research Christianity not to mention attending bingos and birthday celebrations. She loves books and reading, cooking, cross stitch, and embroidery. She is a get-up-and-go kind of person who just celebrated her 79th birthday in October. While she was living life to the fullest, she has suffered some back problems. She was struggling to do the things she loved and after many other medical options not working she had to have back surgery in August of this year. Happily, since then she is making a wonderful recovery and is going to be back to her old self very soon!

Thank you Shirlene for the hard work you put into building up our community!

Juanita with Bee First came for bingo in October. She is always willing to help out with events. They also help some of our tenants with their home health needs.



Residents riding CARTS — now known as The Bus — on Tuesdays and Thursdays to HEB and Walmart.

L-R: Mary, Tracy, Ramona, Lulu, & Jesse.



Lena (right) from United Health Care was here in October to help our residents understand their healthCare benefits. Janet was happy for the assistance.

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Shelbi, a Texas State Social Work student knows the importance of reading at KAD. She makes sure all of the kids read and do their homework before they are allowed to play. KAD kids love to read books especially when they get rewards!



Professor Gail Dickerson and students from Texas State came to KAD for Science Night. They set up scientific experiments for the kids. Their favorite activity was making ice cream. They are definitely qualified for the ice cream business now!



**WE LOVE
READING**



Jose and Juanita from Bee First Home Care always love to come and provide information for the residents. Our residents also enjoy the Senior Socials they host!



BEE FIRST
HOME HEALTH • PRIMARY HOME CARE
& HOSPICE

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



With 2016 drawing to an end, it has proven to be an awesome year for Roxanne Burnett! She welcomed a new baby, Mason, to her family, got her driver's license, purchased her very first car, and she got a full-time job as a Library Tech for the Hays CISD! This time next year, Roxanne is sure to be graduating from the FSS Program! Congrats Roxanne! We're so proud of you!



Alexander shows off his creepy crawly spider made with grapes and a tomato. Best Food FITS, a Texas State nutrition education program, comes every Wednesday to teach our kids about eating healthy and how to make fun, yet simple healthy snacks!

The reading program at Chapultepec is off to a great start. For each book report a child does they get a star by their name. At the end of each week, each student who has at least two stars by their name gets a prize! Here, the older students are reading to the younger ones so they can earn stars too! Above,



Domonique reads to Iliana. Below, Corrie reads to Isabella. At the end of the month if they have five stars, their name is put in a drawing for a bigger prize.



Every time they do a book report after those five stars, their name goes in the drawing again. The program is called Book Worms. It was developed by our awesome intern, Courtney Johnson!



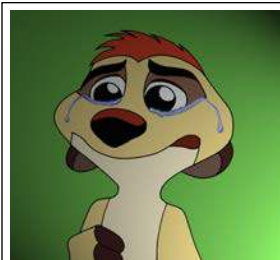
Abraham Miranda, a former KAD member, stopped by to visit KAD last month. He said that KAD is a place he will always remember for always having someone who he could talk to when he needed advice. He could always count on being able to get help with his homework and get a hot meal. He said it kept him off the street and out of trouble. According to Abraham, our Service Coordinator, Bonnie Pecina would always talk to him about the importance of staying in school, setting goals, and doing his best in all he wanted to accomplish. He said, "She believed in me and I am thankful for that support."

Bonnie recalled that one day, during a gang awareness presentation, after Bonnie had to almost drag kids in, a Sheriff's Deputy asked the kids, "Why do you think that Bonnie wants to be here working with you?" To Bonnie's surprise, a 13-year old Abraham, said, "Because she cares."

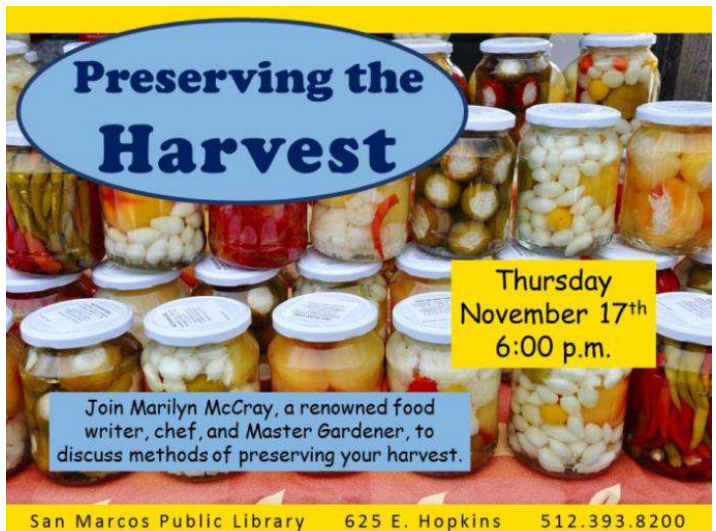
Abraham is about to graduate high school. He already has plans to join the Marines. He said KAD was what kept him focused and it taught him to be successful in school. He said that without it he might not be the young man that he is today. Abraham states he is so grateful that he had someone that believed he could do great things in life.



The Capital Area Rural Transportation System will participate along with many Texas transit providers, taxis and ride share services offering free rides to and from early voting and Election Day polls. CARTS will be offering free rides for early voters on Tuesday, November 1 and on Election Day, November 8th to voters going to the polls.



The October meeting of the Board of Commissioners was canceled so there is nothing to report.



San Marcos Public Library 625 E. Hopkins 512.393.8200

Watching a garden grow can be one of life's greatest joys. Extend the joy of your garden's produce and preserve the bounty by learning to freeze, dehydrate, and can fruits and vegetables to enjoy year round, or give as gifts! Marilyn McCray, renowned food writer, chef, and Master Gardener, discusses methods of preserving your harvest.

(Kids of the Futures Series -- Continued from Page 1)

Dade is a junior in San Marcos High School. He plays football for the JV team and believes that playing sports has made him be a better student because of grade demands, a better athlete with "tough love" approaches from his coaches, and a better kid at home because of the disciplines he learns being on the team. He enjoyed helping out at PODER during the summer and hopes to continue helping during his free time. He enjoyed engaging in all the activities and games, interacting with the kids and volunteers, and of course having fun in the field trips! He believes that to be a good role model, a person must follow the rules, act right, and show respect around all people, young or old. Being a role model gives younger kids some one to look up to and something to hope to be when they get older. After graduating high school, Dade plans to go to Texas A&M and study either engineering or law enforcement and continue to play football. His advice to other boys is to, "stay in school and keep your grades up. It's important to understand that your grades affect your home and school life."



Each of these boys are looking to make a successful future for themselves and not letting anyone or any barriers stop them. By being involved in sports and being active in their community they are less likely to get into drugs and more likely to focus on becoming good leaders for their peers. Their hope and confidence stems from great support systems. Their families, their schools, and their community, constantly encourage them to go for the gold!


NaNoWriMo!

(National Novel Writing Month)


Ready to write your own novel? National Novel Writing Month believes in the transformational power of creativity. On November 1, participants begin working towards the goal of writing a 50,000 word novel by 11:59 PM on November 30.

The San Marcos Public Library is proud to support participants with a safe environment to achieve their creative dreams. Want to share dedicated writing time with other local participants? "Come Write In" on Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 PM or meet up any time the library is open. Go to nanowrimo.org for more information.

NaNoWriMo "Write In"



Thursday,
November 17
6:30 p.m.



San Marcos Public Library 625 E. Hopkins 512.393.8200

SMHA CALENDAR - November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	5	
			SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM		ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM		
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM	VOTING AT ALLEN WOODS AND KAD KORNER STORE	CHAPULTEPEC RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 6:00 PM	SMHA OFFICES CLOSE @ 2 PM	VETERAN'S DAY SMHA OFFICES CLOSED		
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		SMHA BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM ALLEN WOODS	SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	FSS CLASS 6:00 PM CHAPULTEPEC			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
			SMHA OFFICES CLOSE @ 2 PM	THANKSGIVING SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	THANKSGIVING SMHA OFFICES CLOSED		
27	28	29	30	November is the eleventh and penultimate month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and the fourth and last month to have the length of 30 days. November was the ninth month of the ancient Roman calendar. November retained its name (from the Latin novem meaning "nine") when January and February were added to the Roman calendar. - Wikipedia			

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz—Chairperson
 Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
 Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
 New Commissioners as of Nov 15:
 Gerald Brown—Resident Comm.
 Rose Brooks—Commissioner

Executive Director

Albert Sierra

HOUSING OFFICES

Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)
 512-353-5059
 CM Allen Homes
 512-353-1116
 Chapultepec Homes
 512-396-3364
 Housing Choice Voucher
 512-353-5061
 Springtown Villa
 512-396-3363

RESIDENT SERVICES

Chapultepec Adult Learning Center/
 Family Self-Sufficiency
 512-396-3364
 CM Allen KAD Korner Store
 512-392-6273
 Allen Woods PODER
 Learning Center
 512-396-3367
 Springtown Villa
 512-353-7343