

# THE ORACLE

## Teamwork Pays Off

Gabriel and Marisol Mendoza were high school sweethearts in Carrizo Springs when they were married. They moved to San Marcos to be closer to Gabriel’s family. In 2007, Gabriel and Marisol joined the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. During their time at Chapultepec, both Gabriel and Marisol took full advantage of the benefits offered to them. Marisol worked very hard with a tutor provided by the Housing Authority to build her math skills so she could obtain her GED. In 2009, Marisol passed the GED exam and went on to continue her education at Gary Job Corps. Marisol works as a receptionist for the Chamber of Commerce and enjoys her work. Gabriel obtained his Class A Commercial Driver’s License (the big rigs) and recently obtained his first job as a professional truck driver at Hernandez Transportation here in San Marcos. Gabriel and Marisol worked closely together as a couple and learned the benefits of saving money on a regular basis, living on a budget, and building good credit so they can eventually buy a home. Gabriel, Marisol, and their son, Gabriel Jr., have become a strong part of the FSS community. Gabriel said that before coming to Chapultepec, life wasn’t about being responsible but that here they learned to manage their priorities and that necessities were more important than the things they wanted. We are very proud of their efforts and their successes. We are sure they will do great things in the future.

We asked what they would say to other folks thinking about applying for the FSS Program. Marisol said, “All hard work will pay off in the end.” Gabriel said, “Never give up!” Gabriel also told us that he doesn’t expect to ever again need public assistance to house his family. That’s the ticket Gabriel! We want to provide temporary assistance to as many families as possible. It is our hope that every family that successfully completes the FSS Program will go “farther up and further in!” as Aslan said in the final Narnia book.



*L-R: Megan Perez (FSS Coordinator), Marisol, Gabriel Junior & Gabriel Senior*



**\*NEW OFFICE HOURS WENT INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1\***  
 Monday ~ Thursday -- 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Friday -- 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (offices closed on Friday afternoons)

**TIME ISN'T WHAT IT SEEMS** - You’re probably thinking that when you set the clock back one hour on Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 a.m., you are going to get an extra hour of sleep. Well, if you have little kids, you know that they aren’t fooled by our manipulations of time. If they usually get up at 6 a.m., their little body clocks will wake them up at the usual time. Go ahead . . . try to convince them that it’s only 5 a.m. and that they should go back to sleep. Good luck with that. And you seasoned citizens know that every year it gets a little harder to make the adjustment. Unless you have to keep some commitment, hide your clocks. Your body knows they are lying to you. You’ll get used to the change after a while.



# ALLEN WOODS HOMES—PODER LEARNING CENTER

## Texas Night Out



Fun. The best word to describe Texas Night Out at Allen Woods Homes! Residents young and old came out to join the celebration with games, food, special guests, and interactive activities. Numerous games and prizes were spread throughout the yard, including a jumping castle and painting jack-o-lantern mandarin oranges. Adults relaxed in the shade of the trees sampling chili from the chili contest, enjoying hotdogs and nacho chips, and



participating in a fish tank raffle. Special guests from the city included Mayor Daniel Guerrero, Constable David Peterson, police officers, and firefighters. Special thanks go out to all the sponsors, including HEB and Pennington's Cakes, for their donations. Thanks also go out to the volunteers from the Disney Store Outlet, Lambda Xi Delta, and Sigma Lambda Beta who helped make it a memorable evening!



Dia de Gracias  
Yo Estoy Agrade por mi Familia, mi casa, mi comida de cada dia, mis amigos y amigas. Tambien Estoy Agradecida Por mi salud, la Papa que me Pongo todo Los dias.

Jasmine  
Hernandez  
10/16/12



El dia de pavo es bien especial porque Comemos una deliciosa comida. Mi favorita comida es pavo y relleno y pastel. Me gusta ir a jugar en el parque de Austin. Y jugar con mis amigos. Yo estoy bien adregrecida de mi mama que nos lleva a un lugar bien caro. Gracias por toda estas cosas que me han pasado en el dia de pavo.



May family never be too far apart,  
And blessings always in your heart.  
May you be full of food and joy too,  
Today, tomorrow, and all year through.



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

# Springtown Villa



The Capital Area Food Bank CHOICES program presented a series of classes for our residents during the month of October. The classes covered diabetes, cholesterol and high blood pressure. Resident response has been very positive. They requested a class on how to better understand nutrition labels.



Residents enjoyed good music and good food during our Texas Night Out celebration. Cisco Rincon, Independent Insurance Agent, provided the music for the evening. Quality Homecare provided blood pressure checks. Estefany from Progressive Home Health, Ronda from Odyssey Hospice, and Leonor from Amerigroup RealSolutions provided the food.



Several residents enjoyed a field trip to the Sacred Springs POW WOW at Aquarena Springs. They were able to see the Gourd dancers and the Aztec dancers as they honored the Four Directions. They danced the last dance before exiting the arena.



# C. M. Allen Homes—KAD Korner Store



Residents from C. M. Allen and Allen Woods attended a class conducted by Stewart Dale Spencer. They learned the advantages and disadvantages of homeownership, the process of buying a home, how loan limits are calculated, alternative paths to home ownership, and where to get additional information.



Residents attended a Health & Nutrition class series hosted by the Capital Area Food Bank CHOICES Program. This series teaches people how to reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure.



C. M. Allen residents attended A Breast Cancer Awareness class hosted by Lydia Perez from Community Action.



At Family Science Night, sponsored by the Texas State Science Department, youth worked on engineering projects, designed parachutes, learned how physics makes work easier, and explored how sound works.

