



Another "Success Tree" Picture!



Heather Austin joined the FSS Program in 2011 and immediately became an asset to our program. She became active with the Chapultepec Resident Assembly by attending meetings and donating time and goods to whatever our needs were. She also attended FSS Classes which helped her on her journey to self-sufficiency. If anyone around the complex needed some help or guidance, Heather was there to lend a hand. She attended Texas State University full-time and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Shortly after graduation, she started working with Community Action of Central Texas as a GED instructor on a part-time basis but within a year she was promoted to a full-time position as their Outreach and Distance Learning Coordinator. Heather is achieving her dreams! She once said in an email "Today, I finally realized I made it 'there.' I sat in the HR office

and I signed up for health insurance for myself . . . something I have not had in seven years! I also signed up for retirement benefits. I just sat in this office and cried in front of this lady who I hardly know. I never thought this would happen. 'There' is finally having a chance to not have to freak out and have panic attacks about things like paying for school pictures, buying the kids tennis shoes, or even having to worry about getting toilet paper or washing machine soap. I did not have high expectations for my life, and I still do not. I do not need a fancy house or cars or jewelry. I just want to be above living in survival mode. Because of you welcoming us and being supportive, you helped me reach 'there.' "

Heather explained it so well. This is why we do what we do. In the picture above, Senior FSS Coordinator, Megan Spiller (L) presents a certificate of completion to Heather. During her stay at Chapultepec, Heather remarried. William Austin worked toward his own goals and was very supportive of his wife and his new step-children. Heather and William used what they learned in FSS, along with the FSS Escrow they earned, and are now homeowners. Yup . . . FSS strikes again!



ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Jordan's Story: Brightening Up Our Kids Lives

If you haven't been to PODER, take a walk and say hello to Jordan Phillips, Allen Wood's newest intern! Jordan is originally from Arlington and came to Texas State University to study Social Work. She comes from a long line of Bobcats since both her dad and brother are alumni. Jordan has always loved working with children and wanted to go into a profession where she could make a positive impact on their lives. After graduation, she plans to join Teach for America where she will be moving to Southern Louisiana to teach children from poor neighborhoods. The biggest challenge she faces is overcoming her shyness. Working with the residents at PODER has helped her with her approach to people and her communication skills. Jordan also hopes to learn more about working with children in group settings, establishing classroom management, facilitating events, and working with clients individually. All this will help prepare her for Teach for America. Now that Jordan has had time to clean up after the Color Our World activity during a recent Family Night, come check out our after-school program and see all the fun activities that Jordan has planned in action!



Teens Rule at Camp PODER

Our very first Teen Night was quite a success with our camp theme! Jordan is creating a series of Teen Nights with different themes and activities. The Camp PODER was filled with activities relating to camping: tennis, obstacle races that include horseback riding with stick horses, and even a canoe race down our homemade river using skateboards and shopping carts! The evening ended with s'mores in a tent and ghost stories over our homemade paper fire. The teens learned teamwork with the games but the best part was that they didn't have to worry about little kids or their younger siblings or homework or responsibilities. They were free to let loose, be themselves, and act silly.



Chocolate Caliente con Picante

Ingredientes : 2 tazas de leche 2%, 1/2 tableta Auténticas de Chocolate Mexicano ABUELITA de NESTLÉ, 1/8 cucharadita de pimienta de cayena, 1/8 cucharadita de clavo de olor molido
 Agregar a la lista de compras Marcar todo



Direcciones:

CALIENTA la leche en una cacerola mediana a fuego medio alto. Añade el Chocolate Abuelita; cocínalo, mezclando frecuentemente con un batidor, de 5 a 7 minutos o hasta que el chocolate se disuelva. Agrega la pimienta de cayena y el clavo de olor molido; dejar reposar durante 1 minuto. Usando un batidor o licuadora a mano, bate la mezcla hasta que quede espumosa. Servir caliente.

CONSEJO DEL CHEF: Si deseas, espolvorea con pimienta cayena.

<https://www.elmejornido.com/es/recetas/>

Springtown Villa

RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!



Posing with EMS and SMFD personnel are (L-R) Cynthia, Rosie, Arleen, Bill, Deborah, Esther, Lino, and Rosie's grandson.

Springtown Villa has been blessed the past few years with residents that care enough about their neighborhood to volunteer in various ways. The officers of the Resident Council are stepping up to the plate to take on more tasks around Springtown Villa since we are temporarily without a Resident Services Coordinator. They are helping with tasks such as fundraising to build up the Council's bank account, implementing events such as the monthly birthday celebration, and planning events such as Texas Night Out. The officers were able to get donations from Grins, Logan's, SuperCuts, Jimmy John's, Shipley Donuts, Papa John's and Cuevas Produce. We had various partners from the community come out to support us like Quality Providers, Bee First, Oceans Behavioral Hospital, Well Med, AmeriGroup, and a few others. San Marcos police, fire department, and



emergency medical services personnel joined us for the event. We want to thank all the residents who helped set up or who donated gifts and food to help us celebrate. We couldn't have done it without their help!

Bill Cruz (left) is the current President of the Council. He has lived here since 2013 and has served on the council for a little over two years. Deborah Morris (right) is the Vice-President. She has been a resident since 2012 and has served for about two years. Arleen Machado (below, right) is the Secretary. She has also been here since 2013 and served for two years.

Resident Council officers also assist with food bank distributions. They have even taken residents to pick up food from the food bank when they need help but don't have a way to get to the distribution sites. Resident Council officers also deal with after-hours questions from other residents. Residents band together to call EMS or the SMPD when needed.

Another resident, Henry Kuykendall (left) is always willing to help out and do what he can to make Springtown Villa a better place to live. He often sweeps the walk-ways and picks up trash. What would we do without such awesome residents?



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Leticia Marin from the Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse came to the center and did an activity promoting teamwork. Leticia had the kids do the human knot, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This taught the kids to be patient and to use teamwork. Teamwork Rocks!

We love to check in on our residents to see how they are doing. Ola Anderson shared some of her thoughts about living here. She said she loves it here and cannot see herself living anywhere else. Ola was displaced from her home after the flood and had to live with family. Not being in her home for over a year was difficult for her. She was used to being in her own home. She said, "I'm glad to be back in my original unit. They said I could have another unit at CM Allen but I wanted to come back to my home." As soon as she found out that her home was ready she rushed back.

Ola appreciates the Resident Services program. Some of the services we arrange are regular blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Various other medical checks and screenings are performed routinely. Ola, along with other residents, loves to participate in bingo during the senior socials. She is so glad that Bonnie Pecina, the Service Coordinator, got her out of her comfort zone to participate in more activities. Ola really enjoys the company of her neighbors and talks with them often. Ola is pleased that she has been able to get a nurse and a physical therapist to visit her twice a week to check on her health, while also getting some exercise.



Family Science Night is Thursday, October 13. Your whole family is welcome so come out from 6 PM to 8 PM and enjoy fun games and science experiments!

KΔX



The sweet ladies of Kappa Delta Chi are back and our kids are thrilled. They serve as positive mentors as they help kids with homework and engage them in play. They work hard to motivate our kids. We appreciate them and everything their sorority does for us. Thanks Kappa Delta Chi!

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Rachel Emry and Justice Quintana from Just Results showed our tenants and their children how to defend themselves if they are ever in a dangerous situation! Everyone had a great time and



can face the world with more confidence in their ability to protect themselves from harm.



My name is Courtney Johnson. I am a Social Work Intern at Chapultepec Homes. I will graduate from Texas State University with a bachelor's degree and will continue school until I receive my Doctorate in Social Work. I am a very motivated person and I live by the phrase, *"Motivation is the KEY to success."* Most of this motivation comes from my mother. She was a single parent. At a very young age, I noticed that my mother was struggling and I took responsibility for my life. I made good grades in school. I participated in basketball, tennis, volleyball, and track. Much of my motivation comes from sports. We were constantly taught to work as a team and to never give up. When I was seven years old, my mother gave me a children's bible. This was the spark for my desire to help people. The story of "The Good Samaritan" was my inspiration. From that moment on, I wanted to be someone who could

make a difference in someone else's life. My education in social work has absolutely changed my life.

I enjoy running and weight lifting. It relieves a lot of my stress. I love good food, good movies, and good music. I also enjoy hanging out with friends and playing sports. Overall, I am a lover of people and a very compassionate person. It has been very rewarding working in the FSS program at the Chapultepec Homes and I am learning a lot!



A New Perspective: A Visit to the New Bedford Housing Authority



Maria Calcaben, our Service Coordinator at the PODER Learning Center, recently visited the New Bedford Housing Authority in Massachusetts. That housing authority had been identified by HUD as a "Best Practices" site with regard to their implementation of the the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program. This is the grant program that funds much of our Resident Services operations at the Allen Woods and CM Allen Homes. With Resident Services Manager Esperanza Alejandro-Berube as her guide, Maria was able to talk to most of their staff, the Executive Director, and even some partners in the community. She also saw most of their properties. Although each town and city is different, New Bedford and San Marcos have many similarities including a small town feel in a fast growing community and a dependency on local resources to help their residents. Through this experience, Maria was introduced to different ideas on effective ways to reach residents, increase community partnerships, and improve our programs.

Maria is eager to put some of those ideas into practice. She

took a selfie from the top floor of the Whaling Museum. You can see the docks in the background. Fortunately, the only whaling going on was in the museum. Also of interest are the solar panels on the roof of Bay Village, one of the public housing sites in New Bedford. We are grateful to the New Bedford Housing Authority for being a gracious host and sharing their approaches to serving their residents with a stranger from Texas, even though Maria had left her cowboy hat and boots at home.



CARTS & the City Launch SMTX THE BUS

CARTS has long served as San Marcos' choice public transit service, and now they are introducing five new buses to their fleet. In addition to the brand new 29-passenger buses, CARTS is rebranding the San Marcos transit system, now known simply as THE BUS. It is a newer, cleaner, and greener city bus system that will revolutionize San Marcos transit. On Wednesday, Oct. 12, a soft launch will be held at the bus station at 338 S Guadalupe Street. The launch will include a ribbon cutting ceremony from 10 - 11 a.m. followed by coffee and donuts. All rides on Oct. 12 will be free to the public. In celebration of the new buses, THE BUS will host a launch event on Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event, SMTX THE BUS Roll Out, will feature local treats from Yogurt in

Love, Gumby's Pizza and HEB at four different bus stop locations. THE BUS will hold a competition from Oct. 12 - 19. To enter the SMTX THE BUS ROLL OUT competition you must "like" CARTS - San Marcos on Facebook and post a picture either on the bus, at the bus stop, or at the bus station with the hashtag #smtxthebus. The SMTX THE BUS ROLL OUT competition winner will receive a free SMTX THE BUS monthly pass and a \$20 gift card to Outback Steakhouse. The details can be found at [facebook.com/smtxthebus](https://www.facebook.com/smtxthebus) or at SMTXTHEBUS.COM. (continued on Page 7)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Public Comments: None

YTD Account Balances: Public Housing – \$135,373; Section 8 – (\$10,508); Springtown Villa – \$74,462.

Occupancy Rates: Public Housing – 96% (does not include CM Allen units that have not yet been reoccupied); Section 8 – 99%; Springtown Villa – 100%

CM Allen Update: 63 units are occupied, 13 are ready but not yet occupied, 12 units are under construction, 8 units are out for bids, and there are 4 routine vacancies. FEMA has been notified that we anticipate all repairs will be completed by January.

Actions & Other Reports:

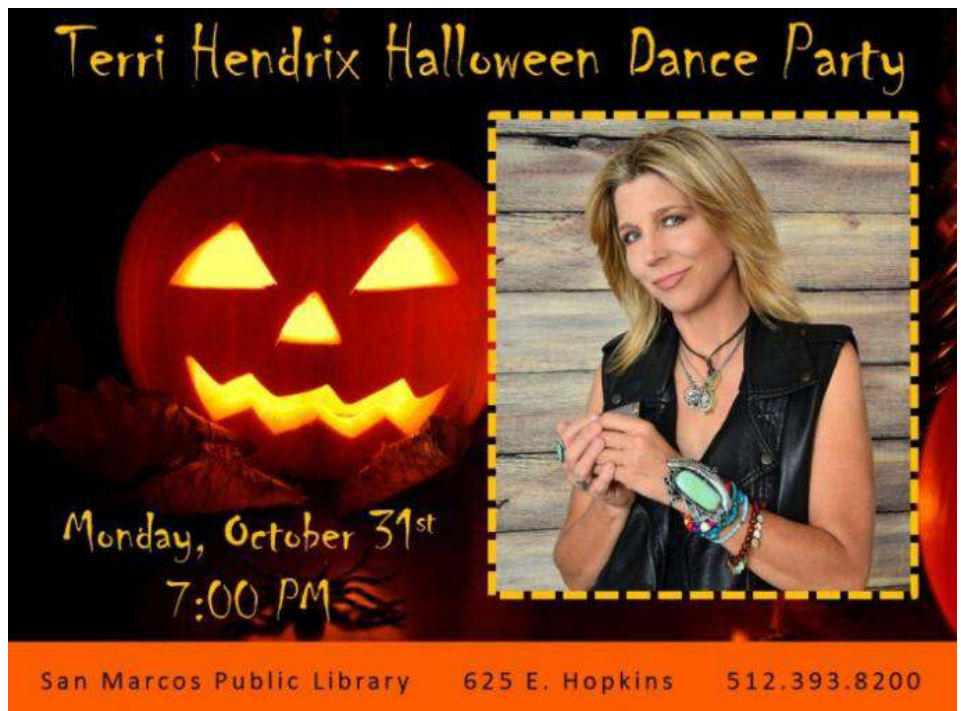
--An outside management review of Springtown Villa was recently conducted by a HUD contractor. Albert Sierra reported that we received a "satisfactory" rating, which is their highest rating. There were a few minor findings that were administrative in nature. We have 30 days to resolve those findings.

--The Commissioners reviewed the proposed Public Housing budget for Fiscal Year 2017. Total expenses are projected to be \$1,567,398. Sierra explained a few changes from the previous year. Two maintenance positions will be eliminated because some routine maintenance is now being done by contractors. Some expenses connected with the Resident Services program that had been paid directly by the SMHA will now be paid by Resident Services so the commensurate funds have been allocated to that department. Water and waste-water costs are lower, primarily because residents are using less water than they were during the recent drought years. The oldest maintenance truck will be retired and a new truck will be purchased. The Commissioners approved the budget.

--The **HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) grant** was submitted without a letter of support from the VA Medical Center that serves this area. Sierra explained that we are trying to document the number of homeless veterans in the community and we can submit that letter later. [Editor's Note: The VA has since said that they will not support our application because of the lack of a designated supportive services network for the homeless in our community so the application will not be considered by HUD.]

(continued from Page 6)

THE BUS runs on ultra-clean diesel and boasts a spacious 29-seat interior and doubles as a mobile office with free Wi-Fi on each bus. Through a partnership with the University, THE BUS is free for Texas State students, and half-price for seniors, persons with disabilities and elementary through high school students (with student ID). It is \$1 for a one way ride, \$2 for an all-day pass, and \$30 for a monthly pass. Passes can be purchased at the bus station on S Guadalupe. Route information will be posted at each stop and online at SMTXTHEBUS.COM.



Terri Hendrix Halloween Dance Party

Monday, October 31st
7:00 PM

San Marcos Public Library 625 E. Hopkins 512.393.8200

The poster features a glowing jack-o'-lantern on the left and a portrait of Terri Hendrix on the right. The background is dark with orange and yellow accents.

SMHA CALENDAR - October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is the tenth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of seven months with a length of 31 days. The eighth month in the old Roman calendar, October retained its name (from the Latin octō meaning "eight") after January and February were inserted into the calendar that had originally been created by the Romans. Among the Anglo-Saxons, it was known as Winterfylleth, because at this full moon (fylleth) winter was supposed to begin. - Wikipedia						1
2	3	4	5 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	6	7 ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM	8
9	10 CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM	11 COOKING CLASS 5:30 PM CHAPULTEPEC	12 CHAPULTEPEC RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 6:00 PM	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	20 FSS CLASS 6:00 PM CHAPULTEPEC	21	22
23	24	25 SMHA BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM ALLEN WOODS	26	27 COOKING CLASS 5:30 PM CHAPULTEPEC	28	29
30	31 - Halloween, or Hallowe'en (a contraction of All Hallows' Evening), also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in a number of countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed. It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from Celtic harvest festivals which may have pagan roots, particularly the Gaelic festival Samhain, and that this festival was Christianized as Halloween. Some academics, however, support the view that Halloween began independently as a solely Christian holiday. - Wikipedia					

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz—Chairperson
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
VACANT—Resident Commissioner
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
David Peterson—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