



Truth or Consequences

By Maria Calcaben



Have you ever felt like turning back in time and redoing something you wish you hadn't done? Would your life have turned out different? This past teen night, teens were faced with a life-size board game called "Truth or Consequences." This game, invented by former intern Jordan Philips, had the teens as their own game pieces. They rolled the dice to see how many spaces they could go forward in the game board which were made of construction paper on the floor. Each space had a real life situation on it from "Not doing homework" to "Not telling parents where you really are" and more serious situations such as "Not paying your light bill" or "Drinking Alcohol." The teens would then roll another dice marked "T" or "F" determining whether they told the "truth" about the situation or whether they "lied" about it. If they rolled the dice that marked "truth," they would continue moving forward. If they rolled a "lie," they would have to face consequences. From getting made up into an "old man" for not doing homework and failing a grade, to having lights turned off because they didn't pay their light bill, each consequence related to their "lies." The teens had a lot of fun seeing their peers have to go through consequences. They cheered when they were able to move forward. The most important message they got out of the activity was the discussion after the game. Volunteer and resident parent Kathy LaPlant-Israel talked about each situation with the teens and

why it was important to show them that their actions had consequences. It was important to explain to the kids that these outcomes would be much more serious in the real world, but more importantly that they could also go to a trusted adult to talk about their problems. Empowering our teens to make better decisions for themselves, and being available to listen to them, helps these kids to become healthy, responsible young leaders of the community!



ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

A Break from the Ordinary



Spring Break at PODER was filled with exploding bags, games in the park, and yummy creations! The Chapultepec kids joined the Allen Woods kids with different activities each day hosted by interns Pamela Holmes, Brianna Lopez, and Monique Valle. The

teens were doing activities with Coordinator Maria Calcaben. Field trips included going bowling and games at the park. The teens created easy homemade healthy meals that they were eager to share with their families at home. They also painted art and played competitive games. The elementary kids enjoyed having a science day, played games outside, and watched a movie on the last day. Overall, it was a week of busy activities and excited smiles!

Lucky Ladies!

The Allen Woods Bingo Fundraiser was a success raising over \$60 to go back to the Allen Woods Resident Assembly! Participants chowed down on tostadas that were donated by Bee First Primary Healthcare and winning prizes donated by Edwards Home Health. Pictured are Lola Bell and Gloria Ortiz, the winners of the grand prizes!



Beautiful Art



Residents were delighted in creating beautiful masterpieces in this month's "Crafts with Pam." Intern Pamela Holmes showed residents how to carefully glue small colored squares on paper to create a bigger picture. Everyone's art turned out unique and it was a great time to bond with old friends and meet new ones!

Cómo Ayudar a Su Niño a Tener éxito en los Exámenes

- Cuando obtengas el examen, lee las instrucciones con mucho cuidado antes de comenzar tu trabajo.
- Si hay algo que no entiendes, pídele al maestro que te lo explique.
- Revisa el examen rápidamente para ver qué tipos de preguntas incluye. Esto te ayudará a determinar cuánto tiempo debes tardar en cada sección.
- Si no te sabes una respuesta, déjala y sigue con el examen. No desperdices tiempo preocupándote demasiado con una sola pregunta. Márcala y si tienes tiempo al final del examen, regresa e intenta responder de nuevo.



Source: www.colorincolorado.org

Springtown Villa

Instructors from the Hays County Food Bank did two presentations in the month of March. Each presentation also had a snack demonstration portion at the end to tie it all together. The first presentation was on the importance of a low sodium diet for people 31 and older. The residents were taught how to make yogurt parfaits. They also discussed the benefits of salt moderation for the heart and how a lower sodium diet will help their health. There was a question and answer period after the presentation.



Fundraiser for Resident Council

This beautiful crochet blanket was made by Arleen Marchado. Brianna did the flowers. You know you want it! See Brianna in the Resident Services office or Amanda in the Manager's office.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

For the second presentation, the instructors made protein burritos with our residents. They used whole wheat tortillas, fruit, and peanut butter. Protein is an essential component to our diets. The recommended daily consumption for a healthy diet is 5 – 6 ounces per day.



Upcoming events for Springtown Villa:

- ◇ Resident Council Meetings — April 5 & 19 (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
- ◇ Easter Celebration with Texas State Generations Organization on April 7 from 1 to 4 PM

HAPPY EASTER!



We would like to welcome our new resident, Mr. Dwuane Perry, to Springtown Villa! He came from Kyle living with his parents. Raised in Nebraska he said the weather was crazy hot during the summer and very cold during the winters. He likes to play video games (his favorite is Dragon Ball Z). His favorite food is bacon cheeseburgers, but he pretty much follows a “see-food” diet. If he sees food, he’s gotta eat it!

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

Underage Drinking Prevention Program



Mr. Terry Wilt with the Travis County Attorney's Underage Drinking Prevention Program visited KAD and gave a demonstration to increase community awareness that underage drinking is illegal, unhealthy, and unacceptable. The students had a chance to put on drunk goggles and see how it feels to be under the influence. Thank you to the parents that participated as well.



Having fun while exercising!



Texas State students from the Exercise and Sports Science Department came to KAD to volunteer and teach the students how to live healthier lifestyles. They interact with the children by playing sports outside. Thank you all for volunteering.



Texas State Exercise and Sports Science students will return on April 27th from 3:30 to 6:00 PM.



CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Spring Break Camp



The Chapultepec Kids had a great time going to the PODER Learning Center during Spring Break. They enjoyed playing, doing crafts, and making new friends.

Our FSS class for this month was about Internet and social media safety. Our guest speaker, Jemm Corona-Morris, from the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center presented tips for parents on



how to keep themselves and their children safe on social media. If you missed the class and are interested in the material covered, we have copies of the presentation at our office.

He said that the Women's Center is available for anyone who lives or works in Hays or Caldwell counties and that they serve men as well as women and children.



One of our residents has graciously volunteered to present her couponing class at our next Resident Assembly meeting, Monday, April 17 at 6 PM.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

We love our little office visitors. This tiny resident puts a smile on our face when he comes to visit.





Community Action, Inc.
of Central Texas

Head Start Program (zero-to-five)

Would you like your child to have a **Head Start** in school?

Apply now to Head Start and your family could be eligible for additional services!

Head Start is a high quality Early Care and Education Program that focuses on school readiness for children birth to 4 years old including support services for: disabilities, mental health, nutrition, health, parent training, and more!

For more information, please inquire at the following locations:

A.Washington CDC 0-3 Year Olds 103 Hays Street Center# 512-353-1507	Henry Bush CDC 3 Year Olds 722 So. McKie St. Center# 512-396-3533	Bonham Pre-K 4 Year Olds 1225 Hwy 123 Center# 512-757-8243
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Head Start Services are free for families who qualify!
◊ Child Care ◊ Health ◊ Nutrition ◊ Education ◊ Family Services ◊




Preparing for the Inevitable

San Marcos Public Library
Tuesday, April 11 - 6:30 PM

Death often comes without warning. Do you have documents in place to help your family manage your final affairs? Do you know what steps to take when your spouse or parent dies? Pre-planning is necessary to ensure our survivors are taken care of and our wishes are carried out. Presented by Charles Walts, contingency planning consultant.



SERVING THE SERVERS

On March 25, Housing Authority staff treated volunteers at the PODER Learning Center to a catered meal. In the picture below, Executive Director Albert Sierra chats with a few folks while Resident Services Director, Gene Martin II, prepares to serve the food. On the left, our Senior Service Coordinator, Maria Calcaben, joins Gene in presenting the Volunteer of the Year award to Kathryn LaPlant-Israel, who can be found working with our kids on a regular basis. Kathy is a student at Texas State and a participant in our FSS program. That is one busy lady! Her plaque was inscribed with these words:



The Housing Authority thanks you for all your hard work to the PODER after-school program and the Allen Woods neighborhood. Because of your creativity, your dedication, and your resourcefulness, this has been an amazing year for the kids and families! Thank you for sharing your joyfulness!

Watch next month's issue for stories about the top volunteers at each site!

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on March 28. All members were present including two new appointees to the board. The new members are Liz Treviño and Maggie Moreno. The other commissioners are Rose Brooks, Gloria Salazar, and Gerald Brown, who is the resident commissioner. The first order of business was the election of officers for the year. The Chairperson is Gloria Salazar, the Vice-Chairperson is Gerald Brown. The Executive Director serves the Commissioners as Secretary.
- **Financial Reports as of January 31:** Public Housing has a YTD surplus of \$92,325. The Housing Choice Voucher program has a \$485 deficit in administrative expenses. Springtown Villa has a surplus of \$15,271. There was some discussion about flood expenses and disaster relief funds from the City. Sierra reported that he is working with the City in the hope that we may be able to recover about \$750,000 in direct and indirect flood recovery expenses. For the most part these funds were diverted from their originally intended uses to meet the emergency. Sierra also noted that some of the repaired units are still vacant because we are having difficulty finding families to fill those units.
- **Occupancy Reports:** Public Housing is at 93%, Housing Choice Voucher is at 99%, and Springtown Villa is at 93%.
- **New Business:** 1) Officers were elected for the two subsidiary non-profits connected with the Housing Authority. For the San Marcos Reinvestment Corporation, Mr. Brown is the President and Ms. Salazar is the Vice-President. For the San Marcos Development Corporation, which owns Springtown Villa, Ms. Brooks is the President and Ms. Treviño is the Vice-President. 2) The Commissioners approved a write-off of \$11,619 in unrecoverable account receivables. These are mostly unpaid rents and other expenses incurred by people who left housing for various reasons in the last 8 months.
- **Director's Report:** 1) Sierra explained to the Commissioners the process involved in an update of our administrative plan for public housing (a.k.a. Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy). He said that we are required to advertise the proposed plan for 30 days and that the public comment period is 45 days. He anticipated that it would be posted on our website soon. There will also be a copy at the main office for public inspection. He said that unless there are any changes, it could be adopted by the Commissioners at the May meeting. 2) Sierra updated the Commissioners on the possibility of the sale of the Allen Woods property to Texas State University. He talked about some of the additional options presented by a consultant hired by Texas State, including the possibility that vouchers could be given to CM Allen residents who would then move out and the property would be sold. It is also possible that something similar would be done at Chapultepec. Sierra said that he would be submitting a letter to HUD to get the SMHA on the waiting list for HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration program, which would facilitate this process. He said that they were also looking at options for changing our relationship with the Mariposa Apartment Homes. He said that the Housing Authority has the right of first refusal if the developer of that property decides to sell it in 2020.

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

One of these items is allowed to be on your porch and one is not. If it is not intended for outdoor use or it looks junky, do not put it on your front porch or back patio. After appropriate warning, we will remove the item and you will be charged for disposal. We prefer to not have to do that so please do your part to keep your place looking nice.



SMHA CALENDAR - April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Romans gave this month the Latin name Aprilis but the derivation of this name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb aperire, "to open," in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open," which is supported by comparison with the modern Greek use of άνοιξη (άνixi) (opening) for spring. Since some of the Roman months were named in honor of divinities, and as April was sacred to the goddess Venus, her Veneralia being held on the first day, it has been suggested that Aprilis was originally her month Aphrilis, from her equivalent Greek goddess name Aphrodite (Aphros), or from the Etruscan name Apru. - Wikipedia (No foolin'!)</p>						1
2	3 CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 5:30 PM	4	5 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	6	7 ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM	8
9	10	11	12	13 SMHA Offices Close at 2 PM	14 Good Friday SMHA Offices Closed	15
16 	17 CHAPULTEPEC RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 6 PM	18	19 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	20	21	22
23 30	24	25 SMHA Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM	26	27	28	29

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners
 Gloria Salazar—Chairperson
 Gerald Brown—Vice-Chairperson
 Rose Brooks—Commissioner
 Liz Trevino—Commissioner
 Maggie Moreno—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