



Luna and Sol's Incredible Journey

By Maria Calcaben

This is our 3rd year partnering with TexasAgriLife to do the "Hatching in the Classroom" Project where our kids are able to watch and learn the process of hatching chicks from an egg and taking care of them after they hatch. The incubator was set for three weeks, the candling (the process of holding an egg towards an intense light to see inside) was successful, and nine chicks were predicted to hatch. In previous years, we had successful hatches of five or more chicks with few complications. Unfortunately, this year during the hatching stage, there were problems. Already overdue to hatch, only two chicks successfully hatched but neither survived. Kelly Giesler, Youth Program Assistant at Texas AgriLife, was our rock and guiding light during this process. She had hatched extra chicks just in case there were any unsuccessful hatches and generously shared two chicks. All this happened during non-program days but we decided to tell the truth to our kids. It is difficult to explain death to children because with it comes many challenging questions. The important thing we emphasized was that none of what happened was their fault or ours, that this is what happens in life and in nature.



What began as a tragic story, turned into a marvelous opportunity to teach the kids about adoption. We discussed how we "adopted" the chicks that we have and that we would love them and protect them just as if they were our own hatchlings. We even had a Gotcha Day to celebrate the day we adopted the chicks and played many chicken-themed games, which the kids thoroughly enjoyed! Luna (the black feather-footed chick) and Sol (the yellow chick) then began traveling the world where the kids were able to follow them on a map and read facts about each country they visited. We also posted pictures of their journey on our Facebook page. From Brazil

to Egypt and even the Pacific Ocean, our intrepid chicks wanted to learn about the world and our kids learned as they followed their adventures. Luna and Sol made it safely home and are now living in a large backyard with other chickens. Sol and Luna will not be soon forgotten for they taught our kids many great lessons: coping with death and tragedy, adoption and family, and living life in this great big world.

Why did these chickens cross the road? To boldly go where no chickens have gone before!



ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER**STAYING COOL THIS SUMMER**

The kids started off their summer with a big SPLASH with the help of Rays of Hope Coordinator Bettye Wiginton (pictured right). She was able to get help from Walmart and Walgreens to provide food, candy, water balloons, and toys for an unforgettable Water Day! The summer continues to sizzle with the kids as they went to Fun & Fit Camp at Texas State University and continue to be active with visits from the Texas State Football players and Texas State students from Ms. Wright's Physical Education K-12th Grade class. They also have had activities such as Super Hero day, cooking classes, science experiments, and other activities that sprinkle those usually boring summer days with some fun!

**Little Hands, Big Help**

Abrian Leal may only be 10 years old, but this summer he's made a huge impact in the Allen Woods community, especially at Meals-on-Wheels. So far in the month of June, Abrian has achieved 36 hours of volunteer service! He's gotten up early every morning to help Beatrice Pacheco, site manager at Meals-on-Wheels. He helps serve food to the elderly, sweeps, delivers food, and puts plates together. He says, "It's really fun to meet new people and it's good for you because it keeps you out of trouble." Ms. Bea, as well as other diners, praise his good manners and respect to the elderly. She claims that when she has no other volunteers, Abrian is always ready to jump in to complete whatever task is needed. He's even encouraged some other kids to help volunteer from time to time! His show of commitment proves that no matter what age you are, you can always contribute to your community.

Springtown Villa

Virginia Bonilla (left) and Elnora Rodriguez (right) helping with cooking and serving the residents.



Brianna and Lino greet and welcome everyone to the Father's Day celebration!



HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!



This month we celebrated Father's Day with yet another successful cookout! Residents had brisket, sausage, and burgers cooked by the Cookout Kings themselves, Joe Torres and Evaristo Hinojosa. Everything for the event was donated. Thanks to everyone for their contributions! Former resident, Arleen Machado, even cooked her famous rice for all of her friends over at Springtown. Lastly, a huge thank you to Lisa Smith from Regent Care Center for donating 3 tubs of potato salad, coleslaw, and 2 gallons of sweet tea. See you at our next event!



Residents Ramona Galvez and Cathy Spencer feeling happy as they enjoy our monthly event of coffee and donuts.



Resident Council officers take a moment away from our Taco Sale to pose for a group shot. (From left to right) Sergeant at Arms: Patrick Moring, Vice President: Eric West, and President: Lino Puente.

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Future Entrepreneurs

On an early June morning we had a few young entrepreneurs selling their art work. When asked what they were going to do with the money they made, their response was it was for the KAD summer program. This is a great example of children in the community trying to make a difference anyway that they can! Whether it is a small contribution or a large one, every little thing helps.

L-R: Victoria Acosta, Claudia Barrera, and Olivia Martinez.

Meet Curtis Singleton, one of our new KAD Korner Store summer interns. Curtis is a senior at Texas State University. Following this and another internship, he will complete his undergraduate degree in Recreation Administration. Before starting school, Curtis was in the Air Force, working as a medical technician for five years. Now he is focusing on gaining experience in administrative work through Resident Services and providing recreational activities for children. He envisions himself working in the future with an organization such as Texas Parks & Wildlife, teaching families about the benefits of outdoor recreation.



Shamel Wade is also one of our new interns. He previously attended Blinn Junior College in Brenham where he received an Associate's Degree in Business Management. After graduation he chose to follow his mother, a Texas State alumna, and continue his education at Texas State. She completed her degree in teaching and is currently working as a special education teacher. Shamel is following in her footsteps, helping kids. He plans to graduate this summer with a bachelors degree in Recreation Administration. After graduation he will be completing his final internship at San Antonio Sports and Social Club. He is enjoying working with the kids and the community at CM Allen. His goal is to gain experience working with others while helping out the community as much as possible.

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Congratulations
to our 2017 high
school graduates!
Pictured below
are Megan and
Logan, two of our
graduates.



Movie Night!

The Resident Assembly hosted a Movie Night fundraiser in June. We watched "The Good Dinosaur." There was a concession stand with fajitas, ice-cream floats, pickles, popcorn, and cookies. The little ones were more interested in playing than watching.



Resident Assembly

7/6 Community Cookout
and a movie

7/15 Community Yard Sale

7/28 Parents Night Out

Summer Fun!

Gabrielle and Asher had an amazing opportunity to participate in Texas State University's Annual Fun and Fit 4 Life Camp. Each day for a week they were able to participate in fun, hands-on physical activities.



End of School Year Ice Cream Party

The Resident Assembly hosted an ice cream party to honor our graduates, and all of the hard work the students and parents put into the school year.



More than Meals

A buzz is about in the Allen Woods Dining room. The sound is a mix of laughter, community, and camaraderie as neighbors share a meal at the Meals-on-Wheels Program. Monday–Friday from 11 AM to 12 PM, Housing Authority residents come together for food and friendship at the dining room. Anyone is able to join and eat. They request a \$2 donation. Meals are also delivered to homebound persons throughout the area by



many generous volunteers who come mostly from community churches but also some who need to perform community service. Volunteers can help, beginning at 9 AM, to get everything ready and then to serve meals and clean up after.

Beatrice Pacheco, site manager, does Bingos twice a month and arranges for special meals to celebrate holidays. For Easter, Meals-on-Wheels participant Jesse Martinez donated some clams and shrimp and fried them, along with some catfish for a delicious Fish Fry. For Cinco de Mayo, Jesse and fellow participants Juan Villanueva and Pablo Gomez, cooked fajitas. Other residents brought sides and desserts to make it a delicious pot luck community meal! For more information about signing up for Meals-on-Wheels or for volunteering call Beatrice Pacheco at 512-353-5018.



At a recent Resident Services staff meeting, the summer interns outnumbered the staff! Resident Services Director Gene Martin II is getting an update about various summer activities. Interns and volunteers are essential to our operation. They get real world experience and we get help delivering services to our residents to help make a difference in their lives.

FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

*Please put your trash cans on the street, in front of the curb. Do not leave them on the sidewalk, where they block your neighbors who must use wheelchairs and walkers to get around.

*And speaking of being neighborly, please pick up trash around your home, even if you didn't put it there. It's the right thing to do.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The SMHA board of commissioners met on June 27. Present at the meeting were Rose Brooks, Gerald Brown, Gloria Salazar, Liz Trevino, Maggie Moreno, and Albert Sierra.

Financials: Public housing has a YTD surplus of \$74,674. The Housing Choice Voucher program has a surplus of \$7,518 in administrative fees. Springtown Villa has a surplus of \$37,205.

Occupancy: Public Housing is at 93%, Housing Choice Voucher is at 100%, and Springtown Villa is at 95%.

New Business:

Sierra presented the Capital Fund Plan for proposed activities in the next five years. It includes activities such as the rehabilitation of dwelling units; exterior paint; replacement of appliances, counters, sinks, & commodes; and administration. We anticipate receiving \$409,000 for 2017. Almost all of the 2016 funds have been expended.

The 2016 independent audit of the SMHA was presented to the Commissioners. There were no negative findings. The auditors are expected to make a presentation at the next meeting and be available to answer any questions. Sierra pointed out that our operating reserve should cover 4 to 6 months of operations. However, because of the flood repairs, our reserves are down to just over 1 month.

Sierra said that one of our residents, Makayla Sayles, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the NelRod Consortium. There will be an official presentation later this summer.

Directors Report: Sierra provided a brief summary on the discussions with Texas State University regarding their potential purchase of the Allen Woods Homes. He also reported that the SMHA had applied to the City for approximately \$758,000 in CDBG Disaster Relief funds.

Commissioners Report: Ms. Moreno reported that she greatly enjoyed her tour of our facilities and programs earlier in the month. She said she was impressed by the variety of programs and how each service coordinator brings their own personality to their work.

CAREER UP

Hays County—Earn More with a Degree!

If you're a Hays County resident who would like the opportunity to get an associate degree in nursing or a Career Expressway tech degree and have your college education paid for, attend one of the CareerUp information sessions below. We'll go over the support we provide, as well as the qualifications and commitments you'll need to meet. Pick a date below and show up ten minutes early. **Questions?** Call for more information: 512-457-8610.

Tue. Jul 11 | 6:30 PM

ACC Hays Campus, 2nd Floor, room 1214
1200 Kohlers Crossing, Kyle, TX 78640

Mon. Jul 17 | 6:30 PM

Kyle Public Library
550 Scott Street, Kyle, TX 78640

Wed. Jul 26 | 6:30 PM

Workforce Solutions of Hays County
202 S CM Allen Pkwy, San Marcos TX 78666

Tue. Aug 8 | 6:30 PM

ACC Hays Campus, 2nd Floor, room 1214
1200 Kohlers Crossing, Kyle, TX 78640

Mon. Aug 14 | 6:30 PM

Kyle Public Library
550 Scott Street, Kyle, TX 78640

Wed. Aug 23 | 12:00 PM

ACC San Marcos Goodnight Center
1331 State Hwy 123, San Marcos, TX 78666

Note: Capital IDEA may cancel CareerUp sessions when severe weather is expected. Check our website for notices.

COOL SAN MARCOS LIBRARY STUFF!

Awesome Drama

Thursday, July 13, 2017 (2 PM - 3 PM)

Hands-on workshop for ages 7 - 12. Local director and drama teacher Laura Haygood presents an interactive theatrical workshop. Present a skit for your parents at the end of the workshop. Registration required. Act fast!

Chemistry of Minecraft Science Show

Friday, July 21, 2017 (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM)

Dr. Ben Martin of Texas State University will reveal the underlying chemistry of Minecraft with both virtual and real world experiments!

SMHA CALENDAR - July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	The month of July was named by the Roman Senate in honor of the Roman general, Julius Caesar, because he was born that month. Prior to that, it was called Quintilis. The “dog days” of summer begin in early July. These are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star Sirius, which Greek and Roman astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.					1
2	3 CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10 AM	 SMHA CLOSED	5 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	6	7 ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM	8
9	10	11	12	13 CHAPULTEPEC RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 6 PM	14	15
16	17	18	19 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	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