



### Adventure? Alpaca My Bags!

By Maria Calcaben

This year, the PODER Center has embraced the llama trend. It began with Donna the Drama Llama, a black plush llama that helps our kids and teens whenever they are feeling sad or having problems. They give Donna a hug and feel more comfortable talking about their problems. Next came along Donna's cousin Lawrence, a grey plush alpaca who loves adventures. At the end of the week, one lucky child is chosen to take Lawrence home and write about his or her adventures in Lawrence's journal. It is a great way to encourage responsibility and journaling among the kids. The newest addition to the family is a knitted llama, crafted by resident Arleen Machado, named Horatio the Happy Llama. His job is to bring joy and happiness to the kids. Of course, as great as our toy llamas and alpacas are, it is even better to see one in real life! Our teens were treated to a trip to Tierra Prometida (Promised Land), an alpaca ranch located in the majestic hills of Wimberley. A little rain didn't spoil the late afternoon tour of the ranch. The teens and volunteers were greeted by curious alpacas and although some were shy, other alpacas were happy to get petted and pictured with the Housing Authority group. Tour guide Jenny showed the group the different areas where they keep the alpacas and shared information about the animal. Ever wonder what the difference between alpacas and llamas are? Alpacas are much smaller, more docile, and have rounder ears. Alpacas, llamas, and camels all come from the same family. The teens learned this and other interesting alpaca facts during the tour. The best part about the field trip was being able to interact



with the animals! Although most of the alpacas had recently gotten their fleece sheered, they still felt soft when petted. The alpacas that still had their thick fleece felt like a cloud! My hand would slightly sink in and be surrounded by the warmth of the fleece. Those alpacas stayed in a separate area of the ranch where they could stay cool with fans until they were ready to be sheered. Once sheered, their fleece is collected in another barn and ready to be shipped and processed for clothing, blankets, and other goods. At the end of the trip, Keandre Richardson exclaimed that the field trip felt unbelievable because it was such a cool experience. We are so grateful for the opportunity to interact with and learn a little bit more about these exotic animals.

### WELCOME TO WEST TEXAS!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE HEADING INTO ANOTHER DRY SPELL. CENTRAL TEXAS IS FUNNY THAT WAY. SOMETIMES IT'S MORE LIKE EAST TEXAS BUT IF YOU REMEMBER 2011, YOU KNOW THAT IT CAN BE A LOT LIKE WEST TEXAS.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY REMINDS YOU THAT KIDDIE POOLS ARE NOT ALLOWED. THEY KILL THE GRASS AND WASTE WATER. SEE THE CITY-WIDE WATERING SCHEDULE ON THE LEFT. THAT'S A GOOD DAY TO LET THE KIDS PLAY IN THE SPINKLER. OTHERWISE, ENJOY THE RIVER OR THE POOL AT RIO VISTA PARK!

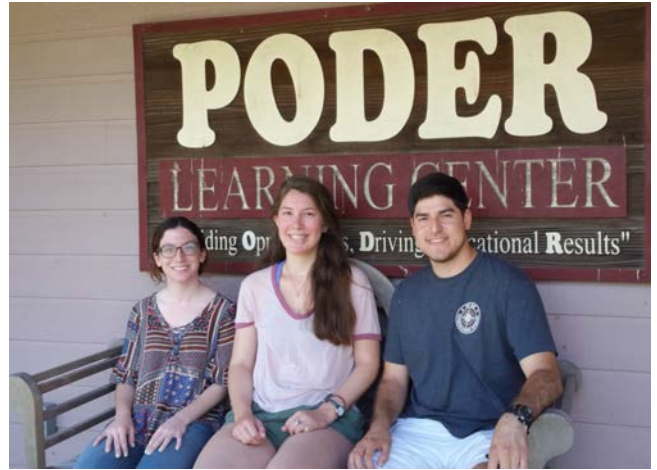
ADDRESSES ENDING WITH:	DESIGNATED WEEKDAY IS:
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

## ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

### Summer Shout-out from Super Interns

Meet our A-Team interns this summer (left to right): Liane Staff, Kathryn McDaniel, and Norman Contreras. They will be here all summer to help our kids and residents.

Hi y'all! I'm Liane, I was born in Birmingham, Alabama and raised in San Antonio. I transferred to Texas State in Fall 2015, and am happy to be here in San Marcos. I love the small town feel and tightly-knit community here. I chose to be a Social Work major because I want to help people and make a difference in any way possible. After graduation, I plan to become a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker, and plan to eventually obtain a Master's in Social Work. I want to travel more and maybe even join the Peace Corps. I hope to gain a positive professional experience while working here at the PODER Learning Center and establish meaningful relationships with the kids and residents at Allen Woods. I'm looking forward to meeting you during my time as an intern! — *Liane Staff*



I was originally born in Indianapolis and raised in Cypress, Texas but my family is from Ecuador. I came to Texas State to save money, meet new people, and move a little farther from home. I am majoring in Mathematics and minoring in Spanish. I see math as the most important tool in anyone's life. I want to improve the education in the United States. After I graduate, I would like to travel the world and teach math. With this internship, I hope to expand my Spanish language skills and feel more comfortable interacting with and helping people. — *Norman Contreras*

My name is Kathryn McDaniel. I am from Beaumont. I have been attending Texas State for the past two years. When I first visited San Marcos to see Texas State, I had a feeling that this place was meant to be my home. I am currently in my junior year studying international relations and Spanish. My love for Spanish goes back to high school. I had a Spanish teacher that had immense pride in her Mexican culture. It was important to her that we learned the Spanish language as well as the cultures to which the language belongs. Her influence gave me a passion for learning about languages and cultures different from my own. When I graduate, my goal is to work and gain experience in the international relations field and to later pursue a master's degree in international relations. My goal is to serve the community to the best of my ability and develop relationships with the people I meet. I look forward to serving the San Marcos community! — *Kathryn McDaniel*

### Strong Families Initiative 2018

**DATE:** June 12

**TIME:** 6 PM—8 PM

**LOCATION:** PODER

**FREE Food, LIVE Music,  
VARIETY of Local Resources  
and Information,  
RAFFLE PRIZES!**



**ANOTHER SUPER SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL  
YEAR HAS ENDED! THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED US OUT THIS  
YEAR. OUR KIDS ARE READY FOR A FUN-  
FILLED FANASTIC SUMMER. READ ABOUT  
OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT ISSUE!**



## Springtown Villa



### GOOD LUCK, ARIEL

Congratulations to our Spring semester intern Ariel Caldwell for successfully completing her internship, and getting one step closer to attaining her Masters degree! Thank you for working so hard these past several months. You have been such a light to us, and we will all miss your energy (and your really cute baby too) so much! Thanks again, and best of luck in wherever life takes you next!

### Resident Council Meetings

Every  
first & third  
Wednesdays of  
the month at  
3:30 PM



**Jennifer Rouda from True Heart Hospice gave us tips on how to save money by shopping smarter when on a fixed budget. After the presentation, residents were able to take home some fresh fruits and veggies!**

We had Anna Shadix come back to do her infamous Mobile Salon event where she provides affordable \$7 haircuts on-site for our residents.

Pictured to the right are Estela and Julie with their new pixie cuts, just in time for the hot summer months ahead!



### Mother's Day Cook Out

We have many residents pictured from our 2nd Annual Mother's Day Cookout event! It is a great opportunity for many to get out of their comfort zone and get to know their neighbors in a light-hearted and fun environment. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. We are also grateful to EVO Entertainment for giving us two free movie tickets to raffle off at the event! Edna Gilmore and Alberta Gonzales were the lucky winners. Little Andie, daughter of our intern, Ariel, shared part of her meal with Ernest Hernandez.



## C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Mothers were serenaded by Benito Castillo, a former KAD member. This special Mother's Day event was filled with lots of love and joy and was shared with many mothers and families. We had fun activities, good food, and good neighbors. What an amazing event!

## Mother's Day Surprise!

What a wonderful Mother's Day surprise visit from James Robert Burleson! He stopped by the KAD Center during our Mother's Day Event to wish his grandmother, Ola Anderson, a Happy Mother's Day. Thank You James and thanks for your service to our country!

## CM Allen's Top Volunteer



Ms. Cathy Carson was our Top Volunteer in 2017 and she is making a run for the 2018 honors! You can always find her at the KAD KORNER STORE. She volunteers in the KAD afterschool program, doing whatever is needed. Thanks Cathy!

## SUMMER Events

Driving Safety Class,  
June 6, 1:30 PM

KAD Summer Program

Begins June 11

Father's Day Event

Soap Box Derby & Bar-b-que Dinner, June 13,  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Fun and Fit 4 Life

June 12, 13, 14, 15, & 18

KAD Summer Trip to Schlitterbahn

June 28

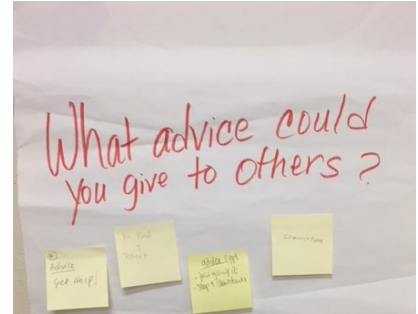




## CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



**Donna McCain, of the Hays Caldwell Council, presented a FSS class on Healthy Relationships. It was an interactive class and the participants said they really enjoyed it.**



**While the parents attended the FSS class, the kids had a dance party and play session!**



### Schedule of Events:

June 15 – Parents Night Out/Movie night for the kids plus dinner; \$5 per child; 6 PM–9 PM

June 20 - USDA Home Ownership, 6 PM

July 3 – Chapultepec Independence Day Celebration and Resident Picnic; 6 PM–8 PM

**The June 15th event will be a fundraiser to help raise money for the July 3rd event. We plan to rent a bounce house and have other fun activities for the whole family. Please help support our Resident Assembly so that we can do more events like this.**

# June 2018

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

The Latin name for June is Junius. It may be named after the Roman goddess Juno, the goddess of marriage and the wife of the supreme deity Jupiter. It may also come from the Latin word iuniores, meaning "younger ones", as opposed to maiores ("elders") which might be the source of May (Maius). It might be named after Lucius Junius Brutus, founder of the Roman Republic.

**1****2****3****4****5**

**6** *Driving  
Safety Class  
KAD 1:30 PM*

**7**

**8** *Orientation  
Workforce  
Solutions 10 AM*

**9****10****11**

**12** *Strong  
Families  
PODER 6 PM*

**13** *Father's  
Day Celeb.  
KAD 5:30 PM*

**14****15****16****18****19**

**20** *USDA  
Home Buying  
CALC 6 PM*

**21****22****23****24****25**

**26** *Board of  
Commissioners  
5:30 PM*

**27**

**28** *Food Wise  
Cooking Class  
CALC 6 PM*

**29****30****LEADERSHIP****Board of Commissioners**

Maggie Moreno — Chairperson

Juan Miguel Arredondo — V. Chairperson

Gerald Brown — Res. Commissioner

Rose Brooks — Commissioner

Richard Cruz — 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