



## The FSS Program Can Help You Too!

My name is Amanda Torres. I came into the FSS program in 2014. I came in with no job and from the women's shelter. I worked hard at dead end jobs. While being here, I went to get my CNA to better my life. I was making okay money but I hit an obstacle when I became pregnant in 2016. I had to put my career on hold. I think it was a blessing in disguise. I ended up working at Schlotzsky's as a regular employee. Now, a year and a half later, I am the General Manager and I am able to make enough money to support my family with no assistance and it feels great to know I can do it all on my own. I love what I do and it has helped me to graduate this wonderful program.

I will miss this place but on to the next chapter in my life! If being here has taught me anything it's that I am way stronger than I ever thought I was. I want to thank the Chapultepec staff for an amazing opportunity to be a part of the FSS program.

*[Editor's Note: Amanda has said goodbye to Chapultepec. She is staying with family while her new home in Kyle is under construction.]*

## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS RURAL CAPITAL AREA

The **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program** provides funding for job search, career counseling and training services to three groups: Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth. Orientations are held every other Friday at 10 AM at Workforce Solutions. Bring your Social Security card and your driver's license or other identification. If you are not receiving SNAP benefits, bring something that shows you live in public housing.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Melissa Gutierrez at

### Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

202 S CM Allen Parkway

Ph. 512.392.1291 X 3016

### Adult Learning Center

#### Office Hours

Mondays to Thursdays

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Community Action, Inc. offers free classes for GED test preparation and English Language Learning classes at the San Marcos Public Library.

Please call the Learning Center at 512-393-8215 with any questions.

### GED Registration

Part 1: Tuesday, August 28

9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Part 2: Thursday, August 30

9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Free classes meet Mondays through Thursdays starting at 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

### ELL Registration

Wednesday, August 29

6:00 p.m.

Free classes meet Mondays through Thursdays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

# ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

## Surprising Summer Memories



Attendance was light in our kid's summer program, compared to other summers, but that doesn't mean we didn't have fun! We took the kids to Schlitterbahn, Austin Park N' Pizza, and Wonder World Park. Back at the center, weekly volunteers such as the Sozo Church group participated in the games and activities with the kids. The Texas State Football players joined in on some special days such as Pirate Day and Viva La FIFA day (pictured) for the PODER World Cup! Spanish interns Norman and Kathryn created weekly Spanish lessons and interactive activities. Dr. Lyn Litchke came to share her wisdom on yoga and

de-stressor activities with the kids. We'd also like to thank Hays County Food Bank, Mobile Library, Hays Caldwell Council, and United Way for bringing different experiences for our kids this summer!



## PODER Transformation

If you stepped into PODER this summer, you might have noticed quite a mess. Furniture was moved around, the walls were empty, and boxes were filling rooms. It was because contractor David Rhodes (pictured) was working hard on renovations to PODER. He replaced tiles in the bathroom, added a window to the music room, inserted colors repainted the walls, refinished the kitchen counter tops, stripped and waxed the floors, and did several other touchups and details. This was also a great time to clear out and clean up the center. Curious to see the changes? Come by and check it out!



## RESIDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

Rescheduled for  
August 10  
@ 10AM  
PODER



All residents are  
welcome to attend!



## Springtown Villa



Julie



Rhonda



Shirlene

This month we say goodbye to our wonderful cooking class teacher and friend, Stephanie! After nearly a year of collaboration with the Hays County Food Bank the residents have gained nutritional education, cooking tips, and over 20 new recipes. Some of the most popular ones being mushroom fajitas, roasted red bell pepper soup, and of course the pizza we made on our last day with Stephanie! She will be deeply missed by all at Springtown. We wish the best of luck to her on her new journey. Classes will continue on with a new instructor next month; see you then!



Jesse &amp; Roland



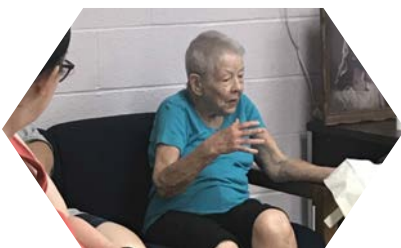
**Taking the  
time for  
self care  
by coloring  
& enjoying  
some  
Root Beer  
Floats!**



## LOTERIA

It's always an eventful time with our friends from Bee First! Thank you for all of the prizes & belly laughs!

Pictured from left to right:  
Rosie, Juan, and Juanita.



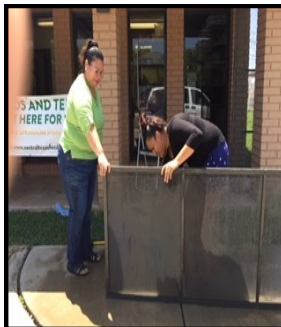
Get involved & make sure your voice is heard by coming to our Resident Council meetings every first & third Wednesday at 3:30PM in the Springtown Community Room!



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



These kids are waiting for the bus that will take them to the campus of Texas State University. No, these are not new freshmen . . . But someday they might be. They were on their way to the Fun & Fit 4 Life summer camp. The mission of this program is to provide innovative and creative experiences in positive youth development, physical activity, health, and college readiness activities to children from low-income households in the San Marcos community. Texas State students that are studying to be teachers and coaches provide the children with lots of fun while participating in many different physical activities. During the two-week camp, children are also introduced to the Texas State University community to instill the idea that attending college is a realistic goal. We want to thank Kent Griffin, Rose Berglund, and Terri L. Carter for their support for this year's program.



Regular volunteers keep the wheels of our program turning. Mrs. Yolanda Cruz and Evelia Gonzales (left) volunteer their time to come out and help clean the KAD center. Former intern Lucy Kalunde (right) keeps frequent contact with Bonnie Pecina and lends a hand as needed with office projects and programming.



## Gratitude



Donna McCain and Courtney Johnson, from the Hays Caldwell Council, provided a fun project during a KAD summer class, teaching the children the values of gratitude!

Every KAD participant wrote down what they were thankful for. Winning quotes included family, life, animals, peace, joy, Jesus, home, food and KAD!





## CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



There is no truth to the rumor of Kathy LaPlant-Israel's untimely demise. This picture is from the PODER Haunted House last October. Kathy served as a volunteer, and later as an intern, at the PODER Learning Center, where she is greatly missed. Now she is serving as the FSS Coordinator for Chapultepec residents. She has a degree in Child & Family Development and is ready to help you reach your goals. She already knows some of the families here because of the support group for parents with children diagnosed with ADHD. She has been participating in the FSS program as a resident of the Allen Woods Homes so she understands the challenges faced by other participants.

We had a packed house at the July Food Wise class presented by the Hays County Food Bank. Everyone worked hard, rolling out their dough, cutting veggies and grating the cheese for homemade pizzas. After all the hard work it was time to enjoy our creations. Families all shared their pizzas with each other so everyone could try new combinations. I have to say, we may have some future Master Chefs amongst us! - Kathy



## Back to School Clothing Swap

**Saturday August 25 \* 9 — 11 AM**

**Clean out those closets and bring your gently used clothing and shoes to Kathy at the Chapultepec office no later than Wednesday August 22. Then come out on Saturday and find some new clothes for your kids back to school needs!**

**Volunteers are needed to help sort out clothes by size and gender. Sign up with Kathy.**





# Child Care Financial Assistance

## To get an application:

- Visit our website: [workforcesolutionsrca.com](http://workforcesolutionsrca.com) and click 'For Child Care' to print an application or
- Visit any of our offices listed below, to pick up an application or
- Call us to have an application mailed, emailed or faxed to you.

1-512-260-1937, ext 4019

Or toll free

1-877-223-0404, ext 4019

**Child Care Services  
offices are open  
Monday-Friday from  
8:00am-5:00pm.**

**Child Care Services staff  
are located in these  
communities:**

### Bastrop

53 Loop 150 West  
Bastrop, TX 78602

### Cedar Park

1101 Arrow Point Drive #401  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

### San Marcos

202 South CM Allen Parkway  
San Marcos, TX 78666

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.  
Auxiliary Aids and Services are available  
upon request to individuals with  
disabilities. Relay TX: 711 or 1-800-735-  
2988 (Voice) or 1-800-735-2989 (TDD).*



**Child Care Services accepts applications to assist families  
with the cost of child care for children  
12 years old and younger.**

## Waitlist Criteria:

- The child **must** be born, to be on the waitlist.
- Each household member must be working, attending school, in training/other educational program, or combination of these, an average of 30 hours each week over a four-week period. **Household members include** those that live in the household: parents, step-parents, adult dependents and a child or other minor living in the household who is the responsibility of the parent.
  - If taxes are not taken out of pay or parent is paid cash-we consider parent to be self-employed.
  - Families who identify as homeless are exempt from this requirement to apply for services.
- Meet income guidelines based on gross household income (*before taxes*) and family size. *Types of other household include, but are not limited to: rental income for a house, homestead, store, or other property; income from boarders/lodgers; income from estate and trust funds, or royalties; pensions, annuities, life insurance, and retirement income, Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), workers' compensation income, alimony, court settlements, or judgements.*

Family Size	Family Gross Monthly Income Limit
2	\$3,493
3	\$4,315
4	\$5,137
5	\$5,959
6	\$6,780

- The person applying for services must have primary custody of the child(ren) needing services. If applicant is not the parent of the child needing services, then applicant must provide the following with the application:
  1. Reason the parent is not available, and
  2. Paperwork verifying reason parent is not available, and
  3. Paperwork verifying that applicant is the person responsible for the child.
- Families must live within these counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, or Williamson.



Hello, my name is Courtney Johnson. I am a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker, a Youth Prevention Specialist at Cenikor Foundation/Hays-Caldwell Council on Drugs and Alcohol Abuse, and a graduate student at Texas State University. During my last semester at Texas State University in 2016, I had the opportunity to intern at the San Marcos Housing Authority. Prior to the internship, I had serious doubts about working with children. When Gene Martin told me that I would be in charge of the After-School Program, my heart dropped into my stomach. I did not think that I could do it and was quite afraid of what the outcome would be. However, the entire staff at the Housing Authority made me feel extremely comfortable and provided me with much guidance and knowledge. I was given the support I needed in order to accomplish many goals in my internship.

During this experience, I gained a variety of useful skills and was given the tools I needed to enter my professional career. Everything I have learned about children here has followed me into my first official job as a Case Manager in a foster care agency and now as a Youth Prevention Specialist. It is now July 2018, nearly two years from the time I began my bachelors level internship and I have found myself back again providing services to kids in public housing through my agency, Cenikor, as a Prevention Specialist. A big thanks to the employees at San Marcos Housing Authority for making my internship a success and providing me with an awesome learning experience.

## HAPPINESS HAPPENS MONTH

By Brianna Lopez

*"Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be."* – Unknown

The summer season has a reputation for being a time of rest and relaxation. However, for me, this one has been anything but... With all of the chaos of dealing with a death in the family to increasing my hours/modifying work schedules to moving apartments, I realized that I was starting to not feel like myself anymore. I remember not eating regularly, sleeping through the night, or doing yoga. I woke up every morning already tired and grouchy. Despite knowing all of that was not good for my mental health, I kept on pushing because I had work to do and things to pack. What drove me to finally make a change was noticing that I was taking my stress and frustration out on my cat. He would meow at me to play while I was home for my lunch break and I would yell, "STOP!" and roll over to continue my nap.



If you know me, you know that every other sentence out of my mouth is about my cat, and I decided I did not want to be so awful to something I love so much (and that loves ME so much!); I wanted to make the choice to be happy. It is important to pause and take these moments for yourself as well, especially during these "busy" seasons. Did you know that August is Happiness Happens Month? Well I didn't either until I learned about an organization called "The Secret Society of Happy People". The members of this group wanted to create a space to encourage happy people to talk about being happy more. If you struggle with finding happiness, remember that you can always learn to be happy because happiness is a choice, and there are an endless amount of resources out there (cue Resident Services ☺). Now, "happy" does not mean "problem free" because that kind of life does not exist. As the Stoics of Ancient Greece observed, it is about the *quality* of your thoughts, especially during those difficult moments. Enjoy everything and anything, notice more happy moments, let happy feelings linger inside every single day, and share them with others. Joy can be anywhere at any time, so if you find yourself yelling at your cat a lot, remember me and make the choice.

*[Editor's Note: Brianna is one of our service coordinators. Her office is at Springtown Villa.]*

# August 2018

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

August was originally named Sextilis in Latin because it was the sixth month in the original ten-month Roman calendar. In 8 BC, it was renamed in honor of Emperor Augustus. He chose this month because it was the time of several of his great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt.

*1**2*

*3 Orientation  
Workforce  
Solutions, 10 AM*

*4**5**6**7**8**9**10**11**12**13**14**15**16*

*17 Orientation  
Workforce  
Solutions, 10 AM*

*18**19**20**21**22**23**24**25**26**27*

*28 Board of  
Commissioners  
5:30 PM*

*29*

*30 Food Wise  
Cooking Class  
CALC @ 6 PM*

*31 Orientation  
Workforce  
Solutions, 10 AM*

*Labor Day  
Weekend*

**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