



## Success Begets Success

We want to give a warm welcome to the newest member of the San Marcos Housing Authority staff. Victoria Rhemann is working in the Section 8 office as a Housing Choice Voucher Specialist. She is working with a new voucher program called the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative. This program targets foster youth that have recently aged out of the foster system and are in college but are either homeless or at-risk for becoming homeless.

Our partners in this project are Texas State University, Austin Community College, and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Participating students will have a Housing Choice Voucher for up to three years to help ensure stability while they work toward their educational goals.



Gene Martin, LBSW is our Resident Services Program Director. He said, "Any one of our partners can refer someone to us: Texas State, ACC, or the Department of Family and Protective Services. All referrals must be cleared by DFPS to make sure they were a former foster youth."

Victoria is a former foster youth herself. She is also a current Chapultepec resident and a participant in our Family Self-Sufficiency program so she understands the challenges facing her clientele.

She will also be helping the Section 8 office with the administration of voucher holders who relocate to San Marcos from some other area. This procedure is

called "portability." The local program pays the landlord and does all the routine administration and sends the bill to the other program.

Victoria and her two children came to us in 2016. Her goal was to become financially independent and become a homeowner. She was in the final stage of approval for a Habitat for Humanity home when the response to COVID-19 put the entire process on hold. She expects it to resume soon.

Victoria has worked very hard to make her dreams come true. There is no doubt that she will be a successful FSS graduate. We are confident she will help her clients to be successful as well.

She says, "My favorite quote is 'Dreams don't work unless you do.'" We know the truth of that!

### NEED HELP WITH YOUR UTILITY BILLS?

As one response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Resident Services office secured a grant to help residents through this difficult time. If we have not helped you with your bills since May 1, we can probably help with your San Marcos utilities, Pedernales Electric, or CenterPoint bill. Contact the service coordinator at your site to get started. Residents of the Porter Homes and our single homes should call 512-396-3364.



# ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

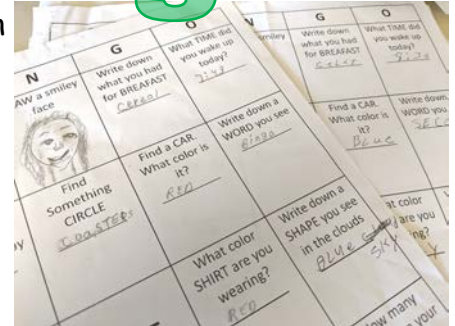


## At Home Bingo

It's been about two months since the last Bingo was played at Allen Woods and the senior residents are itching to get some social interaction and brain workouts again! At Home Bingo was created as a temporary solution to fight off the negative effects prolong solitude can bring to mental health. Residents receive a new bingo card every week.

They fill out the boxes which have questions on

them such as "Write down a **SHAPE** you see in the clouds" or "Draw your **COFFEE MUG**." These questions encourage them to think and observe their surroundings. Residents turn in the papers on an envelope outside PODER. Two winners are chosen randomly and are given a prize safely outside their door. If you'd like to play, please call Maria at: 512-396-3367.



### Parenting During The Pandemic

#### Notice What's Going Well

We could all use a little extra encouragement  
High fives and praise go a long way

#### Plan (a little)

Make transitions easier by talking together about what's happening next

#### Get Down On Their Level

Sit on the floor and let yourself play / be goofy  
Imagination can be a mini-vacation for you too

#### Give Good Directions

What can my kid actually do in their current mood?  
Doing it with them or giving choices might help

#### Take a Step Back

It's OK to take a few minutes when you're feeling overwhelmed

#### Choose Non-Reactivity

Notice your emotions before responding  
Practice coping-thoughts for when things get hectic

#### Reset & Move On

We're all going to mess up.  
RESET & Move on!

#### Be Generous With Affection

Give more hugs, kisses, lap sits, & squeezes  
Physical touch helps little humans manage stress

ParentingDuringThePandemic.com

Infographic by Jessica Flannery & Leslie E. Roos

## Sun Still Shines

Meet Jason Dominguez, summer intern for the PODER Center. Jason was born and raised in Corpus Christi. He came to Texas State because there are so many recreational opportunities. Jason is majoring in Recreation Administration. He was thinking of a career that would keep him active and outdoors. Jason says, "When looking back on my childhood, I always remember how much fun I had when I would get to be a

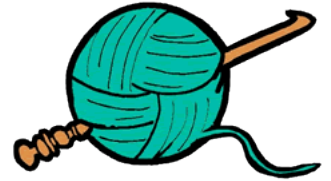
part of park events, community service, and surrounding myself with people who cared enough to act and make changes that helped the community." After graduation, he plans to go to law school. Getting sleep has been a challenge for Jason since he's a district manager for three stores across Texas. He says he feels lucky his bosses are willing to work around his school schedule so that he can finally finish undergrad and keep going. Regarding his internship, he is looking forward to doing something genuinely interesting that makes a difference in people's lives. He plans to work with us to help find alternative ways to engage the community as we continue to cope with COVID-19 restrictions. He says, "I want to be able to remind people that even though the world may be going through this, the sun still continues to shine!"



## *Springtown Villa*

**Although residents are eager to participate in events again, here is how a few have been coping.**

“I miss talking to everyone and being able to play bingo... now I am able to talk to friends on the phone and crochet.” - Ramona Galvez



“I miss bingo. We all had a really good time and I loved seeing everyone smile! I have been able to cope by having my dog around and through catching up with old friends.” - Rhonda Massey

“I miss social events and getting together with everyone. To help time pass I have been sewing masks.” - Delia Patterson



We have not been able to celebrate our resident birthdays with a monthly gathering so we wanted to take the time to recognize them here.

### **May Birthdays:**

Dawn Gammill

Ray Hatch

Lorenzo Rodriguez

Destiny Colliss



# C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

## Congratulations to Our 2020 Seniors



Brendon Williams  
Jordan Kirk  
Luis Sanchez Jr.  
Marisol Medina  
Michelle Dominquez  
Ryan Durrance



You did it! While this is not the way we all imagined your Special Day to be, we want to honor you. This day is a stepping stone to your future. You have opened the door to the rest of your life! To all the first generation graduates, we see you and we are proud of you. You have set the path up for younger siblings. You did it for them and for the generations to come. This is an achievement to be proud of. You are an inspiration and example to younger generations to remind them that whatever they set their mind to, they can achieve. We are so proud of you; don't stop now. You can achieve so much more in this life!



## ZOOMING INTO SCIENCE!

Texas State Professor Gail Dickinson has been facilitating Science Night at KAD for several years. This month, she has arranged for Zoom classes for participating families. Supplies for the experiments will be provided so families can do the experiments at home as they are being safely guided by Dickinson and her students. They will be doing experiments from 2 PM to 3 PM and from 4 PM to 5 PM. Below are the topics for the first half of June but the classes will go on until July 2. Contact Bonnie at 512-392-6273 if you want to join in on the fun!

June 2: *How can I make the baby swing higher?*

June 3: *Can water float?*

June 4: *How did Galileo figure out other planets had moons?*

June 5: *What makes some objects sink and others float? Can I make an object that doesn't sink or float?*

June 8: *Why do fortune telling fish curl?*

June 9: *How can we use fingerprints to solve a crime?*

June 10: *What happens when we put M&Ms in water?*

June 11: *What lives in my yard? Do different things live in different parts of my yard?*

June 12: *What causes the seasons?*

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided to SMCISD students throughout June. The distributions are Monday — Friday, from 10 AM to 12:30 PM.



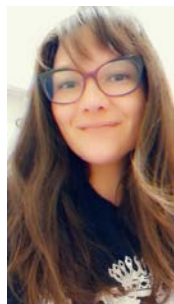
# CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



## Salve

Don't you think  
 It's a little strange,  
 How time continues on?  
 You go through this,  
 You go through that  
 And somehow come out strong  
 But still  
 It persists to tick  
 It's metronomic tock.  
 The lessons learned,  
 The bridges burned,  
 The toxic cycles stopped.  
 I'm happy now  
 And I can breathe.  
 The noose was cut by  
 me.  
 The tension was,  
 What I allowed.  
 I landed on my knees.  
 Pick up your head,  
 Open your eyes.  
 Indulge in your reflection.  
 That person is,  
 What you've become,  
 A vision of perfection ♡  
 - Bonnie Smith

## About the author:



Bonnie Smith  
 lives at  
 Chapultepec  
 and is a FSS  
 participant.

She is  
 currently  
 attending ACC  
 as part of the  
 Capital Idea  
 program to  
 earn a degree  
 in Medical Lab  
 Technology.

## Something That I Realized Today

My residents often do not see their own worth. I do not say this to shame them but to help them see how amazing they are. To help them see how I see them every day. They all work so hard to provide for their families. Most work some sort of job; some are going to school. My residents have interests in cosmetology, social work, business, nursing, medial assistance, laboratory work, child development, and so much more. They are all amazing. They work, go to school, take care of their children's needs, and work this program. They all have some sort of super power that makes them able to juggle so much more than the average person. Nothing is impossible for them when they set their minds to something.

Since the end of March, they are all homeschooling their kids, having their children home 24/7, and feeding them 3 meals a day. Their schedules were thrown out the window yet they coped. They make sure that everything gets done.

They are so focused on the here and now that they do not see how amazing they are. They are so fixated on the next assignment, the next meal, or the sudden roadblock, that they do not see all of the progress they are making.

So to all FSS participants: Take a moment. Breathe. Take a long, hard look at how far you have come. Be patient with yourself. You are only one person and there is only so much you can do. Take one thing at a time. The other things will be there waiting for you. Love yourself. Take time for you. Enjoy a good book, a long hot bath, or a nature walk. Do some meditation. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Just close your eyes, breathe, and focus on the good — the good in you and the good in life. Enjoy the little things! Sometimes that is all we have.

One day you are going to look back on this journey and marvel at everything you have accomplished. When my FSS journey was over, and I was able to look back and reflect upon my successes, I was stunned. I have been asked many times, "How did you do it?" My response is always, "I just did." We all do what we must because we are moms and dads that refuse to let our families—and most of all ourselves—down.

To all of you: YOU ARE AMAZING. YOU ARE A BLESSING. YOU ARE LOVED. AND MOST OF ALL, YOU ARE ENOUGH.

Kathy Israel

**DO YOU NEED A FAN?**

The Summer Fan Drive can help you.



BE COOL. SAVE MONEY. GET A FAN.

**FREE  
FANS IF  
YOU  
QUALIFY**

WE'RE AN OFFICIAL  
FAN DRIVE PARTNER!

**MAY 1 - AUG 31**

- ✓ Low income households
- ✓ Age 55+ OR get disability benefits, OR live with children
- ✓ Have photo id

Contact the service coordinator at your housing site to request fans. If you live at the Porter Homes or in one of our stand-alone homes, contact the Resident Services Office @ 512-396-3364.

## Science Matters

By Maria Calcaben

When you were younger, did you ever dream of becoming a doctor or detective? Did anyone ever tell you what you'd have to do to achieve it? Texas State students from BHPO (Black Health Professions Organization) hosted our Teen Night in February. The theme was

"Science Night." Volunteers from five different majors within their organization set up stations for the teens and their chosen partner to learn about the major, what classes they would take in college to accomplish it, and what career prospects they can look forward to in that field. Each station started with a short introduction and had a prepared interactive activity that related to their major. The teens had fun with the activities including making homemade ice packs, analyzing their fingerprint, learning to properly use a blood pressure cuff, and creating a DNA strand out of Twizzlers, marshmallows, and toothpicks. The one-on-one sessions with each station also gave the teens a chance to ask questions of BHPO members about college. One teen asked Jerrica Robinson, a BHPO member representing Exercise Sports Science, about the scholarship process. The majors included Anthropology, Nursing, Chemistry, Biology, and Exercise and Sports Science. At the end of the night, the teens got to take home a pamphlet and all the goodies that they created. We are very grateful to BHPO for planting the seed of possibilities in the minds of our kids and expanding their future career opportunities.



## The Nelrod Education Fund (NEF) Scholarship for Underserved Youth

Deadline: July 1, 2020\*

Scholarship Notification: After August 10, 2020

Purpose: To provide educational and personal development opportunities to empower underserved, low-income youth residing in public and assisted housing who demonstrate a mature work ethic and an extraordinary will to succeed despite a lack of traditional resources.



SCHOLARSHIPS  
FOR "C"  
STUDENTS

Award Components: 1 (one) \$1,000 Scholarship sufficient to encourage further education and to defray a portion of the cost and other materials. The number of eligible awards will be based on funding availability, eligibility criteria ranking, and the number of applicants.

### Award Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applicant must be a current High school senior, no older than 22 years of age.
2. Must reside in government subsidized or other participating low-income housing provided by a Nelrod Consortium Partner Agency for no less than two years prior to award. (see [www.nelrodeducationfund.org](http://www.nelrodeducationfund.org) for a list of participating agencies)
3. Must be member of a "low-income" designated family. All Public Housing and Section 8 residents are eligible.
4. Must be a "C" or "Near 'C'" average student with a cumulative GPA not to exceed 3.5 or be lower than 2.0 on the 4.0 grading scale. If you don't meet this requirement, you are ineligible and will be disqualified.
5. Must have Work Experience, community service experience, or extra- curricular involvement.
6. Must have plans to attend an accredited 4 or 2-year University or college, or other vocational, trade school, or career development program.
7. Scholarship funds released to awardees upon verification of College or trade school enrollment by the NEF.

Questions: Please contact Tracie Martinez at: 817-922-9000 ext. 124 or email: [tracie@nelrod.com](mailto:tracie@nelrod.com)

Application Process: Applicant must submit the following items.  
(Please Type or Print Clearly)

1. Complete and signed application form
2. Official academic transcript
3. Letter from Agency attesting residency and good moral character
4. Two (2) Letters of Recommendation – personal and/or academic

Note: *Scholarship Awardees have one year post High School graduation to utilize scholarship funds.*

**\*Contact the service coordinator at your site to get an application. Submit application and all required materials to the Main Office of the Housing Authority at 1201 Thorpe Lane no later than July 1. We must prepare the "Letter from Agency" and submit the packet to the Nelrod Education Fund by July 10.**



# June



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Tue

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Thu

Fri

Sat



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23 Board of  
Commissioners  
5:30 PM

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25 Food  
Wise Class  
CALC @ 6 PM

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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. Pick whichever story you like best.

## LEADERSHIP

### Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz — Chairperson

Gloria Salazar — Commissioner

Nina Linda Ramos — Commissioner

Rachel Durrance — Resident Comm.

Mittie Miller — Commissioner

### Executive Director

Lana Wagner

## 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