



## **A NEW STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF KIDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING**

*By Stewart Dale Spencer & Maria Calcaben*

Break last March. It broke our hearts to have to do that. Our kids deserve better and had worked hard to earn the fun outings that we reluctantly canceled. We were working on plans to have at least a July summer program but that also had to be canceled.

Our kids need more support than ever. Parents have voiced this through surveys we recently did at Allen Woods and at C. M. Allen. Last month, as soon as we heard what the SMCISD was planning for the new school year, we began developing a plan to help support our kids, who are otherwise at risk of being left behind their more affluent peers. It will be more of an educational support program than an “after-school” program. We have been waiting to get the online class schedules from the schools. We just got the schedules for the middle schools and the high school but, as of this writing, we do not have the schedules for the elementary schools. Nevertheless, instead of serving all kids every day in the afternoon, our general approach will be to provide service in the mornings and in the afternoons, from Monday through Thursday. Students will be grouped according to what grade they are in and only when they are not scheduled to be attending an online class. We expect to have four different, general student groupings:

- ◆ Monday & Wednesday mornings
- ◆ Monday & Wednesday afternoons
- ◆ Tuesday & Thursday mornings
- ◆ Tuesday & Thursday afternoons

Each general group will be physically spread out, depending upon the space available at each site and the amount of volunteer support we have available, including our computer labs. Reasonable precautions will be taken. We all know the drill by now. We will provide tutoring and small group activities inside the center and, when it is appropriate and the weather permits, outside.

Please note that adults who need access to the Internet and a printer may also use our labs on a scheduled basis but not while any kids are in the centers.

It is important to note that this will be entirely voluntary. The SMHA Resident Services employees, interns, and other volunteers who will implement this activity are ready and willing to serve. Parents must sign permission and release of liability forms.

We hope to start enrolling students during the first week of school. We will have to adjust to changing circumstances so please bear with us as we get things sorted out. Also, enrollment will be limited. Kids who were in the after-school program last year will have priority but they must attend on a regular basis. After that, new enrollees will be accepted on a space-available basis. Contact Maria at the PODER Learning Center or Bonnie at the KAD Center. At this time, we do not expect to be able to offer this service at the Chapultepec Homes.



**WE MUST BE THE CHAMPIONS OUR KIDS NEED!**

## ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

### Standing Up for Lasting Social Changes



My name is Leonardo De La Garza III. I am doing my internship at the PODER Learning Center this fall. I am originally from deep East Texas. My hometown is a tiny town called Lufkin. Its population is about 35,000, so there are more students that attend Texas State than people that live in my hometown! Texas State University was a good choice for me, because so much of what sold me to the idea of attending here is their focus on diversity and inclusion. Being the most affordable public university in Texas was also a factor. I am a social work major, but initially I was a fashion merchandising major all my freshman year. I switched majors during my sophomore year. I wanted to help

people and be part of something that brings lasting social change. My main challenge I am facing now is finishing off this semester strong. My mental and emotional well-being have been put through a lot of strain with the stress of school, finances, and just generally being an adult. I am still figuring out who I am and who I want to be. I hope to gain some practical experience of working in a social service agency. I want to make connections with co-workers as well as resident clients of the center. I hope to gain knowledge that will help me in my professional career. My hobbies include watching television shows, watching movies, listening to music and watching accompanying music videos, playing video games, cooking, eating, sleeping, and applying and experimenting with makeup to use my face as a creative outlet.



Get ready  
for Fall  
Y'all!

Want to win a pumpkin for October? Call the PODER office at 512-396-3367 for more details!

### SERENADE PARADE



Music filled the air at the end of the summer as residents of the Allen Woods neighborhood enjoyed a Serenade Parade! A band of five members including, staff, interns, and volunteers walked around singing songs with a guitar and microphone. The other volunteers passed out snacks and drinks to residents that came out to cheer them on. Parade packs were given a few days prior to the parade which included streamers, a lawn stake, bubbles, fans, and other goodies. The residents, even those that were homebound, enjoyed familiar songs safely from their porch. The event was also covered by KVUE. This parade helped end the summer on a high note!





## Springtown Villa

### Missing Bingo and Other Activities?

Contact Senior Service Coordinator Maria Calcaben for at-home activities delivered right to your door! Call 512-396-3367 for more details.



Once you  
choose HOPE,  
anything's possible.

~ Christopher Reeve

### Easy Vegetable Stir Fry Recipe

This quick take on everyone's favorite carryout dish can be adapted to whatever ingredients you have on hand — and made in one pan for easy cleanup.



#### Ingredients

- ☺ 1 tablespoon olive oil or non-hydrogenated vegetable oil
- ☺ ½ pound protein, such as cubed chicken breast, sliced steak, or tofu
- ☺ 2 cups mixed vegetables (such as peppers, zucchini, broccoli, onions, snap peas, and mushrooms)

#### For the sauce

- ☺ ¼ cup orange juice
- ☺ ¼ cup water
- ☺ 2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- ☺ 1 tablespoon honey
- ☺ 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, or a sprinkling of ginger powder

#### Instructions

1. Heat oil in a large wok or skillet over medium heat. Cook the protein, stirring regularly, until lightly browned. Add vegetables and cook for another 5-10 minutes, until soft. Remove meat and veggies from pan and set aside.
2. Mix all sauce ingredients in a small bowl. Add the mixture to your pan and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Simmer for about 3 minutes, or until slightly thickened.
3. Add vegetables and protein back to the pan and stir to combine.
4. Serve over brown rice or noodles for a filling meal.

Source: [www.aplaceformom.com](http://www.aplaceformom.com)

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

My name is Callie Torres. I am a social work intern with C.M. Allen this fall semester. I was born and raised in Buda. I started college at UTSA, but quickly found that I longed to be in this area, which is why I chose to attend Texas State to pursue social work. I like to say that I did not choose social work, but it chose me. I was unsure about a career plan, but I knew that helping people was something I loved to do. I have volunteered at various places throughout my life, however being a volunteer youth soccer coach has definitely been my favorite. Being active is really important to me because it allows time for disconnecting and self-reflecting. When I am not doing school activities, I enjoy running and hiking with my fiancé and two children. After I graduate in December, I plan on getting my license and working for a couple years before going back to school to work on my Master's degree. My long term goal is to open a non-profit boxing gym with my fiancé. This has been a long time dream of ours and I cannot wait to start working on it. During this internship I would like to learn some new skills to help me work toward this goal and eventually accomplish it. I am very excited to be interning with Bonnie at C.M. Allen and I cannot wait to meet all of the wonderful people who live here.



Professor Gail Dickinson is back! She will be facilitating a series of science classes at KAD this Fall. She will be present online, along with her Texas State students, while the lessons are carried out at KAD, with the help of our intern, Callie, and other volunteers. At this time, we think we will be able to have six kids at KAD. Priority will go to previous KAD participants, but students must attend consistently. We expect to have some incentive awards for regular attendees. The classes will be on Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM at KAD. Depending upon demand, we may be able to have additional kids participating via zoom from home at the same time. Here is the schedule for Fall classes:

Sept 3 — Scientific inquiry with Oobleck

Sept 10 — What happens when you put salt and fresh water in the same straw?

Sept 17 – Challenging substances

Sept 24 — Using data to figure out how moons orbit a planet

Oct 1 — Fingerprints

October 8 — What happens when you put M&Ms in water?

October 15 — How can we use Ocean currents to bring a submarine to the surface?

October 22 — What is the community of organisms in my yard?

October 29 — What causes the seasons?

November 5, 12, & 19 — Texas State student lessons

Dec 3 — Predict a pop: Which bubble solution makes the biggest bubbles?

### Clothes Give Away

Thursday

September 10

9am to 1pm

KAD parking lot



## CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



*Welcome to the Chapultepec  
Family*

*Jaslyn Rose*

*Mom, Destiny Brown says that  
she is a blessing and that her  
sisters can not get enough of her.*

### ♦ Chapultepec Computer Lab Open By Appointment

- ♦ If you or your family need to use the computer lab please call or email Kathy to make an appointment.
- ♦ Time will be limited based on demand.
- ♦ Children 14 and younger will need a parent present.
- ♦ Computers are for educational or urgent personal use.



### Utility bills getting out of hand?

Here are a couple of tips and tricks to keeping your monthly bills to a minimum.

- ☺ Keep your thermostat at a stable 78 degrees. If you need it cooler in the evening turn it down after dark and put it back to 78 first thing in the morning.
- ☺ If you are not going to be home for a few days put the A/C at a higher temperature.
- ☺ Your A/C will not cool your home to 68 degrees in the middle of the summer. All that does is keep the compressor running 24/7 and run up your bill.
- ☺ A/Cs work best when set 10 degrees deferent from the outdoor temperature.
- ☺ Keep the area around the outside unit clear and free of debris. Do not attempt to service it yourself. If there is a problem, call in a work order.





# September



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Coming to  
a summer  
near you  
on 9/22!

1

2

3

4 SMHA  
OFFICES  
CLOSED

5

6

7 SMHA  
OFFICES  
CLOSED

8

9

10

11 SMHA  
OFFICES  
CLOSED

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 SMHA  
OFFICES  
CLOSED

19

20

21

22 Board of  
Commissioners  
5:30 PM

23

24

25 SMHA  
OFFICES  
CLOSED

26

27

28

29

30

September (from Latin septem, "seven") was originally the seventh of ten months in the original Roman calendar until perhaps as late as 451 BC. After the calendar reform that added January and February to the beginning of the year, September became the ninth month, but retained its name. It had 29 days until the Julian reform, which added a day, because, why not?

## LEADERSHIP

### Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz — Chairperson  
Gloria Salazar — Vice-Chairperson  
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