



Victorias's Story

I came into the Family Self-Sufficiency program at the age of 23 with a 5 year-old and 8 month-old and was completely lost.

Today I stand before the world freshly graduated with a 700+ credit score, going back to working for the government and looking into starting my own business on the side. I will be moving into a home soon.

I can honestly say that I lost myself time and time again during my 5 years at Chapultepec until finally something gave when my daughter's dad passed away 3 years ago in a wreck. Something told me to just keep going even if I'm tired so I fought through the confusion and fatigue and I made it.

Here's to breaking another stereotype of being a single mom that can't do it . . . a foster kid who will grow up to be nothing . . . a low income citizen who can never rise above. We can. I'm living proof of it.



**COVID-19 has impacted daily life for all Texans.
Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas is on the front line providing stability to
Central Texans who have lost their jobs, are low-income,
or are vulnerable during this crisis.**

Affected by COVID-19?

Through our COVID-19 Relief Funds, Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas is working to provide relief to some of our most vulnerable communities: seniors, children 5 and under, veterans, disabled, and low-income families; and to those affected by:

- Loss of Wages or Job
- Loss of Income
- Lack of funds to pay rent, utilities, essential services, food, or medicine

Thank you! to our supporters: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs,
United Way of Hays and Caldwell Counties, and Private Donors.

For more information, go to: <https://communityactioninc.schoolinsites.com/covid19relieffund>

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Rein in the End of the Year

A special field trip to the Mini Equine 2 U ranch really lifted up the spirits of our elementary kids from a rough year of Covid! The kids were able to brush miniature horses and donkeys, lead them around an obstacle course, and feed them treats.



The kids had a blast interacting with the docile animals and practicing good, calm leadership techniques. The field trip ended with pizza and a movie at PODER. Thank you Donna McLean for allowing us to visit your beautiful ranch.

SMALL FALL FEST



Our kids could not go trick-or-treating at Springtown Villa this year, as they have in past years, but our families were still able to enjoy treats and games with our outdoor Small Fall Fest. From kids to elderly, all enjoyed doing a spooky scavenger hunt, a haunted maze, lots of arts-and-crafts, and our thankful wall (pictured). Everyone went home with lots of candy and goody bags. Our costume contest winners received a special button and bag of treats!

A Taste of Normal

The seniors were ready for the holidays with Texas AgriLife Extension's food safety class. They learned how to make delicious "cauliflower mashed potatoes" and took home meat thermometers. The more knowledge our elderly have in cooking healthy, the better their choices can be for a healthier lifestyle. We are looking forward to AgriLife Extension's Senior Nutrition class series next year with new recipes, information, and prizes!



Back to Bingo



Juanita Torres from Bee First Primary Home Healthcare kicked off our senior bingo with a special outdoors version. On a beautiful fall day, seven seniors came out to try their luck at winning some cleaning prizes.

Springtown Villa

Turkey Day



On this special day of giving thanks, we were fortunate to have Lino's family cater our meal. This is Cecelia, William, and Erlinda. They can't wait to try the turkey. Yummy!

Veteran's Day

All veterans have made sacrifices. Thank you to all that have served our country and thank you to the students at PODER, who took the time to remember our vets here at Springtown Villa.



“Sunshine” Bingo

Going outside and playing games is a good way to maintain your mental health. Thank you to BEE FIRST for hosting our first bingo since quarantine! This is Roland and he's always ready for some bingo time.

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

FAREWELL

My days as an intern at CM ALLEN are quickly coming to an end. It has been interesting being an intern here during COVID and the other things that came with it. I thank everyone who has given me the opportunity to work with them and I especially thank all the parents who have allowed me to work with their children. I have cherished every conversation, laugh, activity, hardship, and celebration with the community. Please know that I will dearly miss all of you and will think of you often. I couldn't imagine a better place or a better group of individuals and families to learn from and work with. It has been a pleasure being Ms. Bonnie's sidekick for the past few months! My parting advice to everyone is to stay hopeful during trying times because every storm will pass. And lastly, please answer the door the first time Ms. Bonnie knocks because she will not leave until you open it and she probably has something good for you! ~ Callie Torres

DECORATE YOUR ORNAMENT

Please come to KAD to pick up an ornament. You may decorate it and then bring it back to KAD to share your work by hanging it on our Christmas tree!



The KAD students have been staying busy with fun activities. In November, they took a hike along the river with our intern and our social work volunteers. They also did other activities, like learning to pot a plant with help from Kristin Harris from the Cenikor Foundation.

Pictured on the right are a few of our elementary students who have been excelling in school. Although school has been difficult during the pandemic, these three individuals have been doing very well and have been recognized for it by their teachers. Pictured from left to right are Alexia Guevara, T.S., and Abbigail Johnson.



CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

My name is Matthew Teagle and I will be taking over for Miss Kathy as the FSS Coordinator for Chapultepec. I have been working with the San Marcos Housing Authority and maintained contact with the staff for over 3 years, starting back when I served as a social work intern at the PODER Learning Center. During that time, I met Kathy as a fellow Intern, and became great friends while working with her and Maria Calcaben, the Senior Service Coordinator at Allen Woods. After graduating, I worked part-time in the after-school program at PODER for a year before returning to graduate school to continue my education. I maintained contact with Kathy and Maria during this time and would serve as a volunteer for various events as I could.

I am very excited to be taking this position, but also sad to see Kathy leaving as I return. Although I can never replace her, I want to do everything in my power to continue her legacy and strive to help everyone achieve their goals!

Please come to come into the office if you would like to meet me in person. I look forward to meeting everyone at Chapultepec!



Hello!

Weekend Backpacks are Back!

The Central Texas Food Bank “backpacks” are here again. We will be distributing the food every Thursday **from 4:00 PM to 5:45 PM** at the **Chapultepec Office**. School-age children are eligible to receive the bag of food but must come in person. The parent does not have to be present.





December



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

The Anglo-Saxons called this month *Ærra Geola* ("before Yule"). The Romans called it the 10th month of the year. Both were very practical folk, eh?

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22 *Board of Commissioners*
5:30 PM

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OFFICES
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OFFICES
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OFFICES
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OFFICES
CLOSE 2 PM

2021

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