



Terri's Story

I joined the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2019. My credit was horrible, I didn't understand how to manage the little money I had coming in. I paid my bills late, I was unhappy with the fact that I was living paycheck to paycheck, and I was barely making ends meet. I hated my job and felt as though they didn't value me as an associate. I thought I could fix all these things on my own but I had no idea where to start. I was hesitant on whether or not I should join FSS because I felt like I would be judged by how much debt I had gotten myself into and how poorly I managed my bills and money. I decided to join anyway, and it was the best decision I could have ever made for me and my kids.

I joined with an open mind, determined to change my life for better. I was more than ready to learn new ways to excel. With help from FSS, I was able to take free classes to become certified in Microsoft Word, which tremendously helped me to stand out from all the other applicants when applying for jobs that involved typing in any way. I took free money management courses which helped me learn how banks can help me to make more money and better manage the money I had. I was able to look at bank statements to find out if I was spending money in ways that would help or hurt me in the future. My credit score has drastically improved. FSS showed me resources to help me understand how to start my own business, which I was successfully able to launch. I also landed a new career in management. I am now able to pay my bills on time, sometimes earlier. I graduated from the FSS program with almost \$7,000 in my escrow account. I was given a check and decided to use that money to paydown debt and fund my business. The FSS program basically pays you for working toward your goals.* That is incredible! I recommend others to join and take the program seriously. These programs should be used as a stepping stone to reach your highest potential.



This is just the beginning for me. I am determined to continue using the skills I learned to set and reach new goals. In 2021, I will become a homeowner. I have a solid plan and a realistic timeframe to reach that goal. I also have a new habit. I write down every issue that I feel contributes to my life being unhappy, and come up with a solution and a plan, to get it fixed. No excuses, just a strong mind and a positive attitude. I can honestly say I am extremely happy with the progress I have made. I am so grateful for the FSS program. It has changed my life.

**Editor's Note: An interest-bearing escrow account is established by the PHA for each participating family. Any increases in the family's rent as a result of increased earned income during the family's participation in the program result in a credit to the family's escrow account. Once a family graduates from the program, they may access the escrow and use it for any purpose. (Source: https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FSSFACTSHEET_FEB2016.PDF)*

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Travel Without Leaving Your Home

During these COVID times, we might not be able to travel as frequently, but you can still get away with a good book! The first PODER Book Fair was quite a



success with kids and adults alike finding great treasures to read at home. Some kids took an armful of books, sharing them with younger siblings at home or reading them with their parents. Even our elderly came out to get books for themselves or

their grandchildren. From first-reader picture books to chapter books, there was a book for everybody thanks to the boxes of book donations from our Community Action Mobile Librarian, Sandy Martell. Keep on the look out for future Book Fairs.

Kicking Back in Style

Karate class is back in session with instructor Rana Zeidan, who has been teaching karate to our kids since 2014. Although the class is in-person, the kids stay socially distanced and wear masks. Karate helps kids build confidence, learn self-defense, and practice self-discipline. The classes will stay small, but there will be tryouts for anyone interested and can stay committed in karate. Classes, uniforms, and equipment are all



free. Please call Maria, Senior Service Coordinator, at 512-396-3367 for more information.

Our New Intern is Blooming

Hello, I'm Tori Lee, the new intern at PODER! I'm from a very small town located in East Texas called Henderson. I decided to come to Texas State because of the location. I love that we are near Austin and San Antonio. There are more things to do in this area than where I am from. I am majoring in Therapeutic Recreation and I chose this major because I knew I wanted to help people but also have fun while doing it. After graduation, I hope to find a job in a hospital or rehab clinic, specifically in a behavioral health setting. As of right now, I am struggling to manage my time wisely. I feel like I'm always on the go. In the future, I'm sure I will be facing the same challenges, but also trying to figure out where I will be in life. During my internship, I am hoping that I will learn more about activity directing and how to interact with the community on a more personal level. On my free time, I *love* to play and spend time with my dog, Carti. Also, I enjoy hanging out with friends, going on walks, and shopping. Come by PODER and say hello!





Springtown Villa

Caption Call

Joy Hastings with Caption Call gave our residents an impressive and very useful presentation. Sometimes hearing can be difficult on the phone. This is an amazing service that displays closed caption in real time and can store up to two hours of recordings. It is FCC approved and it's free.

BINGO

Hey everyone, this is Tina Jacinto. At first, Tina wasn't having any luck at all. As a matter of fact, a friend of hers, Edna Gilmore, felt so bad for her that she let her have one of her prizes. Then it finally happened. She won! Tina was very excited. She has a huge smile (behind her mask).



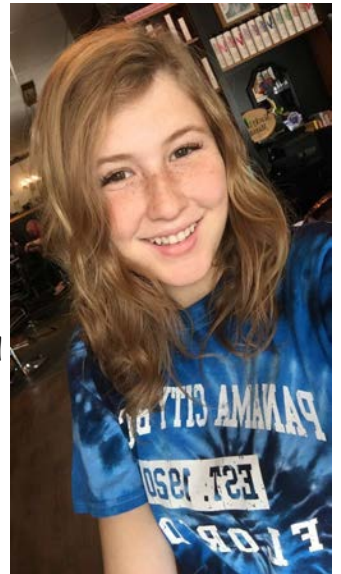
Girl Scout Cookies

Check out all different types of Girl Scout Cookies. Girl Scout Cookies are SO much more than just a sweet treat. Every box you buy helps to encourage and empower young girls' futures. I bought a few boxes for everyone to enjoy with coffee. The first one is free, but by then you are hooked.



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

My name is Katie Hall. I am doing my fieldwork here at CM Allen with Bonnie for the spring. I'm originally from Houston but moved to San Marcos four years ago to attend Texas State University. I chose Texas State because it's a tradition in my family. I'm actually the 8th person in my family to come to this college. I am a recreation administration major, but I started out freshmen year as a social work major. It took me a while to figure out what major best suited me but in the end, I chose recreation administration because I want to work with kids in an outdoor setting. I always loved playing sports and being outside as a kid. My favorite activities to do around San Marcos are hiking, playing soccer, kayaking, and anything that involves the river. I like working with kids because it's never the same work day. You never know what to expect and I like that aspect of it. After I graduate, I plan to stay in San Marcos for a few more years because I've fallen in love with this community and all the beautiful nature. I look forward to growing and learning during my time at CM Allen.

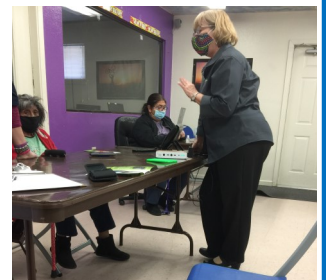


One of our residents, Zunny Rodriquez, recently graduated from Texas Southmost College with an Associate's Degree in Social Work. She thanked her mother, Consuelo Rodriguez, for believing in her. She hopes to split her time between working and continuing her education. We are very proud of Zunny and expect that we will be hearing from her again!



Katie and the kids are playing a game of Charades. One syllable . . . sounds like . . . fun!

Joy Hastings gave a presentation on the a captioning phone service that is available free of charge to anyone with a hearing disability. Three residents signed up for a free phone. You can contact Joy by calling 210-290-3966 or send an email to: jhastings@captioncall.com.

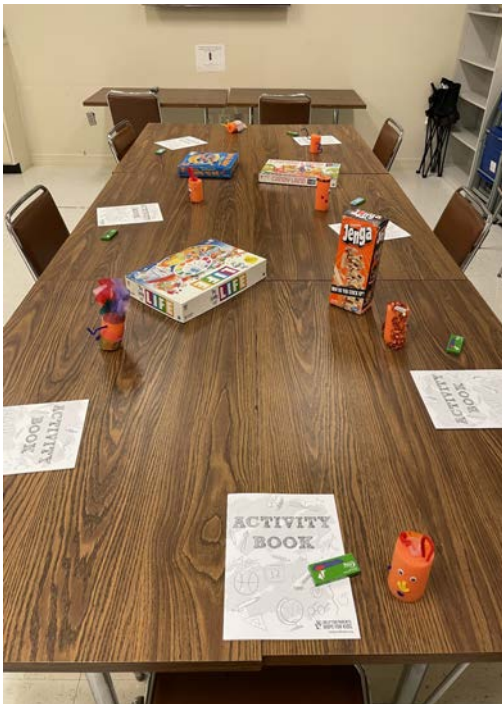


CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Lunchtime Walks

Starting February 1, Monday-Thursday at 12:30 PM (in decent weather) we will be having a social walking activity. The walk will take around 30 minutes, and will give anyone interested time to socialize and promote a healthy lifestyle!

Contact **Matt** by phone or email if you are ready to take the next step!



Thursday After-school Activities

Starting Thursday, January 28, we will be opening the Learning Center from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM for an after-school activity for school-aged children. This will continue to be held every Thursday, regardless of school days, unless it is a holiday.

The children will be given a snack, and an engaging activity to unwind and interact with others in a COVID-safe environment. Children can also take home a Weekend Backpack as they are leaving. If you are interested in having your child participate, contact **Matt** for a registration form. Call him at 512-353-5062 or send an email to matt@smpha.org. We look forward to having a fun year in 2021!

Weekend Backpacks will be passed out on Thursdays at the end of the after-school activity at the Resident Services office from 4:30 PM to closing time. Your children do not need to be in the after-school program to pickup a backpack, but they must be school-age.





February

2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1		3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11		13
	15 <i>SMHA OFFICES CLOSED</i>		17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <i>Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM</i>	24	25	26	27
28	<p>The Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term februum, which means purification, via the purification ritual Februa held on February 15 (full moon) in the old lunar Roman calendar. Historical names for February include the Old English terms Solmonath (mud month) and Kale-monath (named for cabbage) as well as Charlemagne's designation Hornung. In Finnish, the month is called helmikuu, meaning "month of the pearl"; when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as they freeze again, they are like pearls of ice. In Macedonian the month is sechko, meaning month of cutting (wood). In Czech, it is called únor, meaning month of submerging (of river ice). [Source: Wikipedia. Personally, I think February means, "I'm sick of winter."]</p>					

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512-353-5059

CM Allen Homes

512-353-1116

Chapultepec Homes

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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

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512-353-7343