



Kindness at Christmas

By Maria Calcaben

This year, many of our families were affected by COVID. From losing a job to having their kids at home doing online schooling, our families struggled to have a sense of normalcy, and Christmas was no different.

Every year we try to get presents for the kids of the PODER After-School Program, but this year we wanted to do a little extra and with the help of our community — especially the Jackson Chapel United Methodist Church and the Tommy Hilfiger store in San Marcos — we were able to do just that! **Jackson Chapel** was generous enough to provide toys, board games, and balls so each of our kids could get presents along with a “Family Game” present to encourage family interaction. The church also donated goodie bags filled with candy, hand sanitizer, a water bottle, and an activity pad which each child received as they were going home. They



also sponsored our meal and cupcakes for dessert, which the kids happily ate while watching the movie *Elf*.

The **Tommy Hilfiger** store in San Marcos, and their partners, donated clothing for our kids. They also donated enough adult clothing to share some with our other housing sites. They even donated two bicycles!

Lastly, a donor that wanted to remain anonymous donated sets of socks, scarves, hats, and gloves for each child.

Because of the generosity shown by our local supporters, our kids were overwhelmed with armloads of gifts and had faces full of smiles as they hurried home to their families for their Christmas break. What a great way to end the year!



ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

A Jolly Christmas

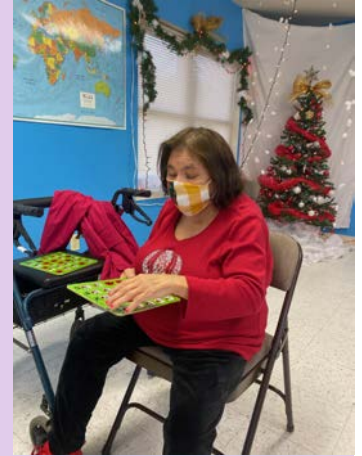
This semester, our kids program was half the size it normally is, but it was still just as much fun!

The Christmas party included lots of food and snacks, table games, and watching the movie *Elf*. The kids also had a contest throughout the last two months to win a bike. They won points daily with attendance, attitude, and participation. The two kids with the highest points by the day of the Christmas party would win the bikes. Congratulations to winners Matthew and Nia! No one went home empty-handed, though, because all the kids went home with lots of goodies.



Bingo For All

It's your lucky year so test it out with our two ways of playing Senior Bingo! One way is to play *At Home Bingo* where you receive a bingo activity sheet every week, fill out all the boxes, and put it in the envelope outside of PODER. You will receive your bingo cards and your prizes at your door. We have also resumed in-person bingo on Wednesdays. Participation is limited to ten persons. Call Maria at 512-396-3367 every Monday to reserve your spot!



Christmas Tree

This year has been an especially rough one for Allen Woods. We lost great neighbors that either left us to move with family through COVID times or have sadly passed away. Many other neighbors are isolated for health reasons. As the year is ending, we wanted to show that hope can still exist amidst trying times. A wooden Christmas tree, adorned with ornaments and painted by kids and other residents, will brighten your spirits

with unique designs, funny messages, and inspirational words. With the strength of this neighborhood and the kindness of neighbors, we can make it through 2021 together.



Springtown Villa

Coffee Club



After our residents took a vote, we decided to have a “Coffee Club”. Some of us love coffee and some of us just want to spend time with others. During the pandemic many of us have let our social skills slip a little. We could all use a little practice with people, coffee or not. We meet from 10 AM to 12 PM. Come join the club!

Christmas Party

At our Christmas party we enjoyed coffee or hot chocolate. We had chocolate covered pretzels, kolaches and decorated cookies. We even had chips and queso! Alan Baker, one of our residents, has been spreading Christmas cheer here and all over town. Alan reminds me of someone . . . I just can't put my finger on it.



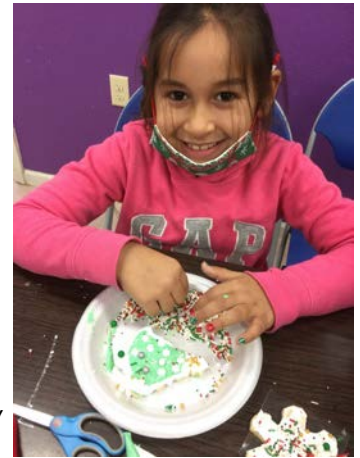
“Sunshine” Bingo

Bingo is FUN! Mrs. Juanita Torres with Bee First Home Healthcare always brings her “A game.” She also brings some great prizes to win. Edward Gilmore certainly enjoys it. He seems to be the kind of guy that just likes to be outside. I think his dog would agree.

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

IT LOOKED A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!

Navaeh participated in **Rose Berglund's reading group activity**. Based on the evidence, we suspect that not all of the decorations made it onto the cookies.



Our senior residents enjoyed some **Christmas carols** by former KAD member, Benito Castillo, his father, Pedro Castillo, and the Burns family. And just to prove that we never really grow up (thank goodness for that!), Santiago Cano asked to have a picture with Santa.

An **Angel Tree** event was organized by our intern Callie Torres. It brought so much joy to many families as volunteers distributed the gifts. In this picture, five kids, whose mother is out of work right now, were greeted by Angel Tree volunteers on the left and Callie on the right.



What's Happening in January at the KAD Center?

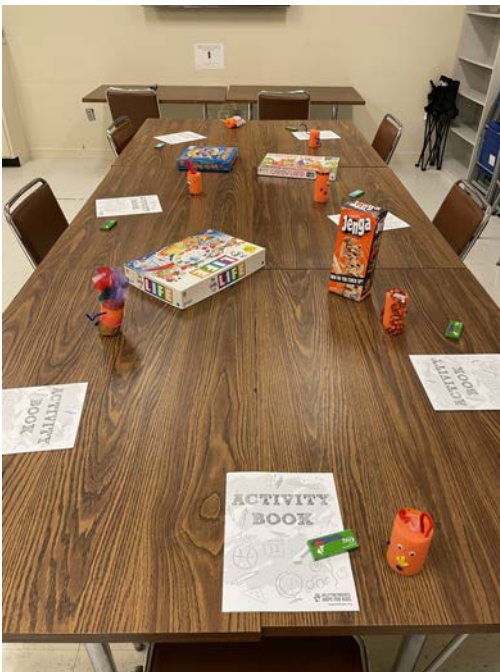
- ☺ Senior Bingo on Wednesdays! A reservation will be required.
- ☺ KAD Nutrition Class
- ☺ Texas State KAD Reading/Activity Group by Rose Berglund
- ☺ Blood Pressure/Blood Glucose checks by Charles M. Johnson

Stay tuned for more details!

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Happy New Year!

**We've had a rollercoaster of a year,
but we finally made it to 2021!
Lets work hard to make it a great year!**



After-school Program

We will be starting our after-school program on **Tuesday, January 5!** The program will be for children in 1st grade and up. Due to COVID-19 safety, it will run from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM. We will be offering Covid-safe activities for your children to play and interact in a safe environment. Your children **must** be wearing a mask to participate.

We may also have a 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM tutoring time based on turnout and volunteers. We will provide more information soon.

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 for school-age kids will resume on January 7. They will be passed out on Thursdays at the end of the after-school program at the Chapultepec Adult Learning Center at 4:30 PM and at the Resident Services office at 5:30 PM. Your children do not need to be in the after-school program to pickup a backpack, but they must be school-age.





January

2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. It is conventionally thought that the month of January is named for Janus (Ianuarius), but according to ancient Roman farmers' almanacs, Juno was the tutelary deity of the month.—Wiki



2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

*Our lives begin to end
the day we become
silent about things
that matter.*

Martin Luther King Jr.



19



21

22

23

24/31

25

26 *Board of
Commissioners
5:30 PM*

27

28

29

30

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