



CASA DE AMIGOS

1101 E. Garden Lane
Midland, Texas 79701

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1 9 8 2

CASA DE AMIGOS

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1982

Casa activities are divided into three basic areas: Senior Citizens' program, Social Services, and Educational program. The following is a synopsis with highlights in various components of each of the program areas for 1982.

All Casa program is made possible through the combined effort of both paid and volunteer staff.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PROGRAM

The Senior program is the most diversified program offered at Casa and is directed by Isabel Gonzales. It includes educational, recreational, and social activities, a monthly health screening clinic, outreach and advocacy, and a daily hot lunch. The nutrition site manager is Petra Lujan, who supervises four STEP employees. In 1982, 38,162 units of service, including 12,041 meals, were provided to approximately 175 different people.

Several field trips included two to the museum of the Southwest and attending the United Way's victory luncheon. Probably the highlight

of the year was the 16th of September celebration. Practicing and preparing for the festivities provided program activities for at least a month prior to the event. Many volunteers provided a variety of help. Guests attended from McCamey and Fort Stockton, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to whom it was important to impart this cultural legacy.

The participants in the program feel that it is important for them to be able to be of service to others and do so by helping to plan center activities, reaching out to sick and isolated friends, and participating in volunteer service projects.

Countless volunteer hours from people of every walk of life coordinated by a very able and dedicated staff make this quality program possible.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services encompasses those activities which help people on an individual basis and usually involves some sort of family emergency. Social Services also includes such components as translation, information and referral, informal job placement, and advocacy. Kathy Sandbach serves as director of Social Services.

Family Emergency Aid

Help is provided when available and appropriate through funds donated to the discretionary account, food given to the emergency pantry, donations of medical equipment such as crutches or wheelchairs, and items saved from rummage room donations that are needed in an emergency such as bedding, cooking utensils, and baby items.

Trinity Presbyterian church provides funds on a regular basis for medical emergencies; several individuals and Sunday school classes provide funds periodically for discretionary use, and occasionally a recipient repays. St. Nicholas church provides food on a continuing basis. A number of individuals provided food or funds on a special occasion basis. The Covenant Day Care Center provided total Christmas for a large family; 14 families, church groups, and a Girl Scout troop and the Chemical Society at Midland College provided for special needs at Christmas.

Statistically, in 1982 there were 698 requests for financial assistance. Casa was able to help 368 families by spending \$13,272 on rent, utilities, and medical expenses. \$463 was spent on MidTran transportation; food and clothing estimated at a probable \$2,000 was given.

Rummage Room

Mrs. Lomeli continues to manage the rummage room as she has for many years. Her able assistant, Margarita Balles, keeps donated items channeled to the proper program. Not only does she see that the rummage room is well stocked, but she also sorts out bingo prizes, items needed in the emergency closet or those appropriate for crafts activities, and special occasion items (saving Christmas tree ornaments received in June, or winter jackets received in July). The rummage room generated \$3,165 in revenue in 1982. Early in the year prices were raised from .10 to .20 a garment.

Our senior citizens love the rummage room as a 'something to do' as well as a source of clothing. They refer to it as 'Grammer-Murphy' and love to find a recycled blue Grammer's bag to put their recycled treasures in. Probably the most unusual donation received in 1982 was several pairs of live parakeets, complete with cages and seed. They very quickly found happy new homes with several of our seniors.

Income Tax Preparation

Two staff and three volunteers prepared 254 tax returns primarily between mid-February and mid-April.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tutoring Program

The spring of 1982 saw fifteen children per week receiving tutoring; in the fall, twenty-three children and their tutors worked weekly. The combined efforts of volunteer Helen Cronenberg, who trains the tutors and provides guidance and encouragement, and staff member Margaret Hernandez, who deals with the schools, the tutees, and their families keep this program's wheels turning. The tutors each received a framed school picture of their tutee at the end of the school year. Donations from the En Amie Review Club and Kappa Kappa Iota provided some intriguing new library books. Four language master machines, which are used to facilitate vocabulary building, were purchased with donations from several members of Holy Trinity Episcopal church.

In the summer, a weekly library program was held, with tutors available for helping with the selection and review of library books. It was the first summer in many when the neighborhood children did not attend the Pickwick plays.

Boy Scouts

Troop 109 has functioned under the leadership of Don Brame and Frank Gehrling. The size of the troop has fluctuated with the seasons, but an average of fifteen boys has enjoyed a fruitful year. Trips were made to Big Bend, the Pecos Wilderness area in New Mexico, and Colorado City. A planned trip to the Buffalo Trails Ranch during the Christmas holidays

was cancelled due to heavy snow. A taco supper in July was the main fundraiser, with the proceeds being used to purchase light-weight tents.

Food Buying Clubs

Clubs which were organized by VISTA's in 1981 continued to function on their own after VISTA funding was cut in April of 1982. Because it was felt that, in spite of the somewhat abortive VISTA support, organizing food buying clubs was a viable and valuable project, funds were sought in order to do the project right. The United Way agreed to partially fund the project in 1983, and the Claretian Fathers provided a \$1,000 grant. Approximately 75 families participated in co-operative food buying, and averaged 35% savings over retail purchasing.

English as a Second Language

With the help of Midland College, English as a Second Language classes were initiated in October. The original plan was that Midland College would provide a teacher, and the Casa would provide some aids and space. The response was so overwhelming that the class was divided into three groups. The college continued to provide materials, supervision, and one salary, with Holy Trinity Episcopal providing funds for a second salary; the third teacher chose to remain a volunteer. An average of 53 students attended each of the Tuesday and Thursday night classes. The highlight of the year was a pot-luck supper of the combined classes right before Christmas. The students are very serious about their studies and their socializing; they don't like to take a break during classes and their Christmas party lasted until 11:00.

MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAM

Ballet

Volunteer Beth McAlpine began a ballet class for 8 - 12 year-olds in September. An average of 10 girls attended the weekly classes. After Christmas they were able to find the wooden floor they needed at St. Ann's. However, the class members are from the Casa family and neighborhood.

Inservice Training

Inservice Training for MISD bi-lingual teachers and teacher's aids was held several times at Casa. The sessions were open to Casa tutors.

Park

The park was completed in 1982 with the installation of park benches. It is estimated that an average of 300 young people (ages 5 to 25) per month use the Casa playground which includes a basketball court, children's playground, and the park area.

FUNDING

Funding is from the United Way of Midland, local churches, foundations, and individuals. Some program components are provided by the Senior Texans Employment Program, Ector-Midland Elderly Nutrition Program, and Midland College.

The latest set of audited financial statements is available upon request.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

At the annual meeting in May, Isabel Rey was elected chairman of the Casa board following Jane Wolf, who served two years in that position. The working board of 16, plus 5 directors at large, is responsible for policy and finances for the non-profit organization. In September, a long range plan was adopted which will provide direction for the Casa over the next five years. Cathy Stump was responsible for the activities of the year-long process. The long range plan calls for an expansion of the hours which Casa is open to serve the community. Expansion of hours translates to accompanying expansion of program, staff, space, and funds in order to accomplish the primary goal. Also to be implemented is an aggressive public relations program designed to help accomplish these goals.