



Director: Mary Hinkle

CASA CALLER

of Midland

OFFICE HOURS
9:00 - 5:00 pm M-F
915-682-9701
Lamesa & Garden Lane

1101 E. Garden Lane

Vol. 15, No. 3, August 1984

COME CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIPS WITH US!

Sunday, August 26th, 1-5 p.m. has been set for our open house and 20th birthday party. Everyone may tour the newly remodeled and expanded building. A pictorial history of Casa will be displayed. Among those invited are the members of the first kindergarten class Casa sponsored 20 years ago. We especially invite those who have participated and volunteered in Casa programs over the years.

The implications for existing and new programs with the additional Casa space are:

1. **A medical and dental clinic.** The Junior League of Midland will operate its Children's Dental Clinic here. The medical screening clinic for the Casa seniors will also be conducted here. Both volunteer projects have been in operation for a number of years. Ways to provide other medical and/or dental services for low-income families will be explored with the understanding that sometime within the foreseeable future, Midland will have clinic service and medical care for low-income families.

2. **A sewing/crafts room** which makes possible expanded number of class hours for sewing and crafts instruction. The room will allow for a wider variety of crafts. Ceramics classes will begin this fall for the seniors. A sequestered room will let participants concentrate without constant distractions.

3. **A classroom/library/meeting room** which makes it possible for board members to meet at the same time Boy Scouts are meeting. A neighborhood library with Casa's books will be available. Certain hours will be set aside for neighbors to study English or Spanish using language master machines, tape recorders, records, and other learning aids.

4. **A business office.** Our secretary/bookkeeper now has 180 sq. feet compared to her previous 45 sq. feet. All business functions have now been centralized.

5. **Expanded space for seniors** which provides: (a) a segregated smoking area, (b) a stage for in-house or visiting performers, (c) a "store" to continue the senior co-op, buy stamps, and to sell their craft items, (d) a table for dominoes and other games, (e) space for a pool table.

6. **A larger rummage room** which gives a more convenient location for deliveries, some space for large items, plus storage for out-of-season items.

7. **Specific storage space.** Designated, lockable cabinets will make each program easier to operate because every segment of program will be able to store and keep its own materials in order.

8. **Casa will now be available for use (for a fee) to neighbors** for such things as baby showers, family reunions, club meetings, benefit garage sales, etc. Paula is the booking agent.

THANK YOU JOE AND GUY MABEE

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Selection of new board members has been completed. We welcome Georgia Temple to the class of 1985, and Janet Foster to the class of 1986. Al Cummings, Sandra Staley, John Brigham, Mary Alice Tidwell, and Nancy Jordan have been elected to new three year terms as the class of 1987. Betty Deande has become a Director at Large.

CASA CALLER STAFF

Editor - Alice Brown
Assist. Editor - Mary W. Hinkle
Artwork - Jo Dufault
Proofreader - Kathleen Linsicombe



The New Casa Building

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

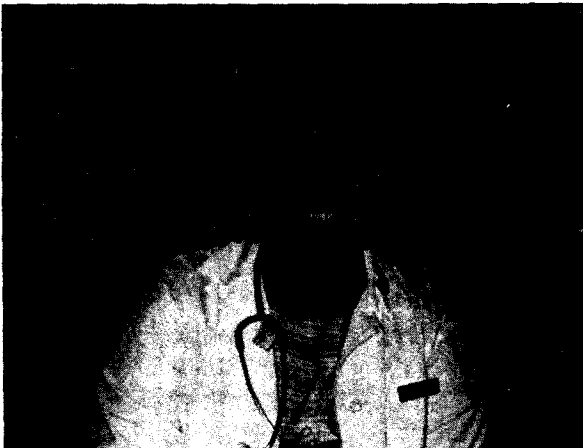
Kay Pai has served five years as a volunteer R.N. with our monthly medical screening program for seniors. Kay, the wife of Vithal Pai, has also given birth to two children in the same five years. Veronica is now 5 and Ryan is 2. When they were small, Kay brought them with her to Casa and let the seniors cuddle them while she conducted her examinations.

Kay also works part time on the orthopedic floor of Midland Memorial Hospital and is an instructor for the L.V.N. program at Midland College. She has initiated a program of student volunteers for community service organizations including the Community Children's Clinic as well as Casa.

We asked Kay why someone so busy would still find the time to come each month to help examine the blood pressure, urine, heart, eyes, lungs, ears, throat and weight of each senior at Casa. She answered, "I like to see people getting better. Everyone here remembers me and makes me feel special. It is a great joy to feel like somebody. I've been through some medical crisis with nearly every senior at Casa."

When the medical screening clinic began eight years ago, Casa de Amigos was taking approximately thirty seniors a month to the doctor. Now, through the work of Kay and other dedicated R.N.'s, we take about two a mon-

All cases of high blood pressure and diabetes are now controlled by medication and diet. If Kay finds someone with a disease which is not being controlled, we immediately get that person to a doctor. Thank you, Kay, for your dedicated service to our seniors. We can all see the results of your generosity and love.



Kay Pai

A very special thank you to the members of Petroplex Covenant Church, Inglesia Methodista Libre, Casa board, and family of the Casa staff who moved us out and then back in as sections of the building were remodeled. We also thank City Transfer for the use of their dollies.

TUTORING SUCCESS

How do we measure success in our tutoring program? Several of the children advanced over two grade levels in one year on their standardized test scores. Others did not. We asked classroom teachers to assess the progress of each child tutored at Casa. They reported that children involved showed a greater willingness to complete assignments, better oral skills, and an excitement on tutoring days. Often it is difficult to measure such progress.

Achievement comes in many forms. When a very shy child begins to communicate, we are excited. When a child's attitude toward learning begins to change from negative to positive, we are encouraged. When a student who believes he will never succeed at learning experiences even the smallest success, we share that success with him.

If you would like to accept the challenge of helping a child learn, please call us. Children are referred to us by the public schools. One group of children is tutored on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:15. Other students come on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same time.

CASA SPONSORS FUNDRAISER

What: Series of 3 book reviews by
Who: Marjorie Currey of Dallas
When: Nov. 14, 1984, Feb. 13, & April 17, 1985
Where: Theatre II, MCT

Season tickets (\$50.00) to go on sale after close of the United Way campaign.

We appreciate the support of Carolyn Vandeventer, Natura Energy Co., Beal Foundation, Trinity Presbyterian Deacons, Walter Liljestrand, TRW Reda Pump Co., Martha & Ed Bean, The Insurance Man, Unity S.S. Class of St. Marks U.M.C., ClayDesta Plaza, Dunkle's, M-System, Safeway, Leggett's Fabrics, and all those who brought us fresh vegetables this summer.

CALENDAR

Senior Citizens' Program	T & TH 7:00 - 9:00 begin-
M-F 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	ning Sept. 11
Sr. Clinic - every 2nd Tues.	Other classes to be ann.
of the month starting in	Boy Scouts - Troup 109
September.	Mon. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Sept. 14 - Dies Y Seis de	Tutoring
Septiembre	M & W 3:15 - 4:15
Oct. 31 - Halloween Party	T & Th 3:15 - 4:15
Homemaker Education	Beginning Oct 1
M-F 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Orientation - Sept 25 & 26
Adult Education Program	2-4 P.M. Tutors may at-
ESL Classes - no classes in	tend either session.
August	

I may be the new van at Casa, but I have been well broken in already. My day starts before 8:30 a.m. when I pick up Dona Mage and Dona Felipa for the Senior Texas Employment Program (STEP) at Casa.

Soon after 9:00 a.m., Isabel Gonzales, Director of Senior Services, climbs in me to take Josefina to the dentist and stays to translate. The dentist writes a prescription, so we must stop at the pharmacy on the way home.

When we return to Casa, Martha Garza, Director of Social Services, takes me to buy groceries for the pantry. Everyone hurries to unload the groceries as I must go to school and pick up a child who has suddenly become very ill and take her to the doctor. First I pick up her mother, then the child, and deliver both of them to the doctor.

I don't get to rest a minute back at Casa before Elizabeth Valenzuela, the Homemaker Educator, takes me on my daily rounds to gather the ladies for the Homemaker Class. Many bring their children also as child care is provided during the class. I safely return all the ladies and small children to their homes after class.

You'd think they would give me a break after going continuously all day, but now I must brace myself for the onslaught of school kids that will be tutored at Casa. Margaret Hernandez, Director of Operations, drives me to De Zavala Elementary School to get the children. What a busy bunch. They always fight over who is going to sit next to Margaret.

Tonight I am scheduled to take an ESL class on a field trip. I won't get to rest until after 9:00 p.m. Would you believe I didn't volunteer for this job? Someone just appointed me.



Casa desperately needs a freezer. The old one died and we are presently without one. Frozen foods are donated and distributed through the Seniors Program and through our Social Services.

EDUCATION

ESL Classes

Enrollment in the ESL Classes remained above 20 nearly each class night this summer. There will be no classes in August. Please note that ESL classes will begin again September 11th, 7:00 p.m.

Diane* first came to Casa about 1½ years ago needing to see a dentist. We arranged a dental appointment for her and bought her needed medication. Both were paid for through the discretionary fund. Diane's husband was unemployed and she had three children 5, 3, and 2 months.

We noticed that Diane was very shy and let her husband do most of the talking. We told her about our Homemaker Education classes and introduced her and her husband to Liz, the instructor. She seemed very interested, so we arranged for Liz to pick her up for the classes.

Diane continued coming to the classes which she enjoyed very much. She opened up and became friends with the other women in the class. We found out many things about her. We discovered that she has a learning disability and is unable to read even though she completed the 11th grade. However, she works well with numbers. Also, Diane was a battered wife. Through counseling she received at Casa and through knowing that she had a support system, she grew more self-confident and assertive. The batterings became infrequent as a result.

Diane became pregnant again very soon after the third child. Her husband was unemployed again and there was no money for a doctor nor was there sufficient food in the household. We sent her to the Pre-Natal Clinic and the Women, Infants, and Children Program (W.I.C.). Diane wasn't able to immediately get into the Pre-Natal Clinic, but she was able to get into the W.I.C. Program. This state program provides education and coupons to purchase food items such as baby formula, juice, eggs, etc. It is a program for pregnant women and children under 5 who are found anemic. Diane and all her children were tested and all were found anemic. We bought vitamins for them.

Then Diane was admitted into the Pre-Natal Program and both she and her unborn baby were given routine check-ups. On June 16, 1984, Diane delivered a healthy 10 lb. baby boy.

Casa has provided practical counseling and education, a support system, a dentist, medication and referrals, all of which have helped this family stay together. Diane says that she is ready to come back to the Homemaker classes because she is ready to learn some new recipes and to be with her friends at Casa.

*Name changed.

SENIORS

The seniors have enjoyed open houses at the Southside Senior Citizen Center in Odessa and the Midland Senior Citizen Center this summer. They will host a Días Y Sies de Septiembre open house for the other senior centers. The fiesta will include dancing, singing, and patriotic speeches. Authentic Mexican food will be served.

The seniors also spent many hours this summer dividing United Way brochures into stacks of 100. This fall they will help teachers in the public schools make visual aids for their classes.

The new expansion has given the seniors room for a special game table and a pool table. A pool table is still needed. Please call our office if you have one you would like to donate.

Alfredo Garcia, Owner

682-4092

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