

THE CASA CALLER

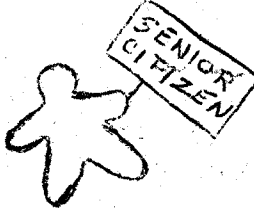
Casa de Amigos  
The House of Friends  
928 N. Dallas  
Midland, Texas

DIRECTOR: MARCIA INGRAM

April, 1977

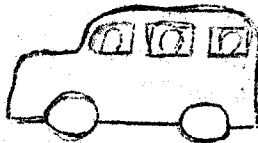
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WELCOME TO THE STAFF, Delia Ramirez. Delia, who is working with Casa through the Manpower program, is the mother of eight children and is the sole support of her family. Delia is well known in the community, having lived in Midland all her life. She is dedicated to helping families in need. Bienvenidos to Delia! JOAQUIN RUBIO, who has worked with us at Casa, will be leaving the first of June to enroll in TSTI in Waco. Joaquin will be enrolled in a two-year specialized auto mechanics course. His tuition and room and board will be funded through CETA Manpower program. We are grateful to programs of this type which enable a very promising young man with Joaquin's abilities to be able to further his education and prepare him for a promising future.



OUR SENIOR CITIZENS recently enjoyed a tour of the Museum of the Southwest. This tour was graciously arranged by Sam Grover, museum curator. Next stop: Petroleum Museum. Special thanks go to Memorial Christian Church for furnishing flower arrangements for these seniors celebrating birthdays each month. We are grateful for the overwhelming response from the following churches who have arranged to furnish our senior citizen needs for the balance of the year: First Christian, First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, Memorial Christian, Christ Presbyterian, Trinity Presbyterian, St. Paul Methodist, Covenant Presbyterian, Crestview Baptist, and Midland Lutheran.

Casa sponsors a monthly clinic for senior citizens in our area. We have been most fortunate in having Mrs. Irma Aguillar, R.N., who has staffed the clinic for the last several months. Irma will no longer be able to continue with the clinic after April. We are very much in need of a volunteer R.N. who could work with the clinic one morning each month. We must have a qualified R.N. in order to keep this worthwhile project going.



CITY-WIDE TRANSPORTATION is still a problem in Midland. During February Casa furnished transportation to over 900 persons. We urge the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council to take an in-depth look at this need.

DUE TO THE CONCERN AND GENEROSITY of a local Midland family, Casa is making plans to build a new Casa de Ninos Building. This expansion project will be undertaken with the help of this family and other friends of Casa. Our present Ninos building is over 25 years old and is much too small for our present needs. We are now serving forty weekly meals to our senior citizens and each day we have an average of 25 participating in our tutoring program. This expansion will fortunately give us the opportunity to better serve these persons and to enlarge our present programs.

WE AT CASA ARE GRATEFUL to the United Way for funding our PACE program during 1976. During January the program was funded through a donation from the Downtown Lions Club. Through PACE we are providing guidance and counseling services to dropouts and potential dropouts on the 7th and 8th grade levels. In February the Board of Directors voted to incorporate the PACE program in our regular Casa budget. Our finance committee is now in the process of raising money for this program. The PACE committee has met with Dr. Doug Brown, Assistant Superintendent, and several of his associates from the MISD Central Office to redefine some of our goals to deal more effectively with the dropout problem. Two counselors from MISD have been appointed to work as coordinators with PACE: Mary Ziegler and Billie Eiland. We appreciate so much this help and interest. Our present director, Joe Williams, has submitted his resignation and we are now interviewing for a new director. We regret Joe's leaving, as he has done such a fine job administering the program during this past year. We will all miss Joe and wish him well in the future.

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A KEY FACTOR in helping alleviate the dropout problem is the availability of tutorial help. Casa sponsors a very effective tutoring program under the fine direction of Helen Greenburg and Florence Mailey and their staff of dedicated volunteer tutors. In addition to this program, however, PACE very much needs a separate tutorial supervisor and several tutors to work with students on a secondary level. In other cities, such needs are being met with the assistance of businesses which donate their employees' time to devote to community services. Employees are able to use a few of their regular working hours each month to work in some volunteer capacity. Such a program would be an invaluable service to those whose future so heavily depends upon their success in school.

A REPORT TO THE PBRPC HEALTH CARE HEARING was submitted in February. We feel several of the points affect not only the poor but the community-at-large as well. An abbreviated version of the report includes these points:

1. The need for alternative sources of funding for Midland Memorial Hospital: The annual cost in uncollected accounts is approximately \$600,000. County Welfare pays for only about \$100,000 of this amount. The deficit must in the end result be borne by the paying hospitalized patient. He not only must pay for his expenses but must assume his share of indigent care. Presently there is consideration being given to the creation of a tax district to finance hospital operation and possible expansion. We at Casa strongly endorse this proposal.
2. There is also a great need to attract more physicians to Midland. It is virtually impossible to find a doctor who will take a Medicaid recipient. At Casa, we called 14 doctors before we could find a physician to treat a Medicaid recipient or admit a Medicare client to a nursing home.
3. There is a need to explore the possibility of an outpatient clinic with a fee set on a sliding scale. This must also be available for Medicare and Medicaid patients.
4. Utilize nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants for screening.
5. Some method is needed whereby physicians can be paid for indigent care (no money is now appropriated by county welfare).
6. Expand VD screening information and referral programs.
7. Expand neighborhood satellite clinics.
8. Screening clinics for Senior Citizens, checking blood pressure, weight, and diet. In Casa's monthly clinic, 20% of our clients have to be referred for medical problems.
9. Screening clinics for rectal exams. (80% of rectal carcinoma can be detected through early examination.)
10. Dental Clinics - presently there is no financial assistance for dental work for elderly and disabled through welfare or Social Security.
11. Salary increases for nursing personnel to attract more qualified nurses.
12. Utilize social workers for referral and follow-up patient care and for liason with community agencies.



OBSTETRIC CARE is a major problem in Midland. It is now costing approximately \$1000 for an expectant mother to have a baby delivered through the pre-natal clinic. (This is for families who have below-poverty incomes.) Many doctors are never reimbursed for obstetric care for the indigent. Alternatives:

1. Midwife program under the auspices of the County Medical Association
2. Regional maternity clinics whereby delivery and overnight care could be provided for a nominal fee.

A PROGRAM ENTITLED "Helping Parents Talk to their Children about Sex" was jointly sponsored on February 28 by Casa and Planned Parenthood. The program was conducted in Spanish at the P.P. Clinic. The discussion was lively and informative. We plan to hold follow-up sessions at the Casa for both parents and teenagers.

TWO IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- (1) Casa is very much in need of all kinds of clothing, especially children's clothing. We can also use all kinds of household goods in our rummage room. These are sold at a nominal cost to those in need.
- (2) Be sure to attend the Midland Town Meeting on April 16 (Saturday). This meeting is being held to provide input on community goals and priorities. It will be from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Midland High School

P.S. - Add to the list of those churches furnishing food for our Senior Citizens lunches: St. Ann's Altar Society. Thanks!