

CASA de AMIGOS

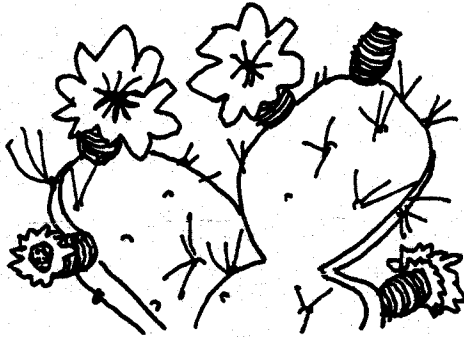
* * * * * HOUSE OF FRIENDS * * * * *

921 N. DALLAS
MIDLAND, TEXAS

MARCIA INGRAM, DIRECTOR

MARCH, 1978

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PROJECT PRICKLY PEAR: A thorny predicament has borne a delightful fruit! The predicament was that the owners of our Casa de Niños building decided to sell it. Since this is where most of our programs are held, a real crisis existed. This crisis was resolved by a Midland family's generous donation. As a result, our new facility is now under construction!

The new building will be located on the corner of Garden Lane and Lamesa Road, just 1½ blocks from our present Casa de Niños location. Our new facility will make it possible for us to expand many of our present programs and to add some new ones. We hope to:

- * Keep the Senior Citizens Center open daily with a variety of educational and recreational programs.
- * Establish a Physical Fitness and Nutrition program for Senior Citizens.
- * Provide space for a community vegetable garden for Senior Citizens.
- * Expand our medical screening clinics.

Our new building will also provide office space for the counselor from Family Services. This United Way Agency makes counseling available on specified days for families in East and South Midland.

Our special thanks go to Mr. HAMP HODGES who has worked for many months on our building project. Hamp has been a dedicated Casa Board Member for over two years. He has worked in every phase of this project and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Watch for an announcement of our Open House when our new center is completed, sometime in March or April.

In the process of moving and expanding our programs at Casa de Niños, we will require additional furnishings. Please be aware of the following list of needed items:

- Desks
 - Chairs
 - Storage Cabinets
 - Examining Table for Clinic
 - Banquet-size Tables (6' x 2½')
 - Fencing for community vegetable garden
 - Substantial toys and equipment for nursery
 - Special equipment for motor development play area (catalogs available)
 - Refrigerator/Freezer
 - 2 Ranges
 - Filing Cabinets
- (Prices range from \$125-375)

~~The above mentioned MOTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAY AREA is being planned especially for children with learning disabilities. We greatly~~

appreciate the assistance of MRS. GENE BUTLER of Midland Schools in establishing this important facility.

If you are one of those homemakers who has spent much time at a sewing machine, you have a talent we greatly treasure! If you spare some time to share your knowledge and experience, you would be warmly welcomed at our SEWING CLASSES. The classes will be offered during the summer.

4:00 P.M.
remedial
the consider

If your talents are of a more general nature, you might consider becoming a TUTOR. Our elementary age children receive remedial assistance in reading and math twice a week from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. If you are willing to make a personal investment in this valuable program, please call Casa and talk with our tutoring supervisors.

*** TRABAJADORES ***
(Workers)

SOCORRO RUIZ, who has been with the Casa for three years, is now working almost full time on program development for senior citizens and home and nursing home visitation. She recently came upon an elderly couple living in a dilapidated rental house (rent: \$120/mo) with their five year old grandchild. The man was chronically ill and the house was without any heat except for a cook stove. Through the generosity of the donors who contribute to the Discretionary Fund, we were able to move the family to an adequately heated house, pay the rent, obtain medical care for the man, and purchase necessary household items for the family.

Plaudits are due JO ANN PETERSON, R.N. for her help with the Senior Citizens monthly screening clinic. During February, 28 individuals were given attention. Several Midland doctors have been very cooperative in working with our patients who have medical problems.

We extend our special thanks to AL WALVOORD who has served on the Casa Board for the last three years. Al resigned to serve as Chairman of the Board of Deacons at First Baptist.

We are grateful to members of the AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION for their very special Christmas Party. Fifty Senior Citizens were taken to dinner at a local cafeteria, then for a tour of the city to view the Christmas decorations, then to First National for coffee and gingerbread. This was one of the nicest events ever planned for our seniors. Arrangements were made by Board Member JOHN NICHOLS and ABA President SAM BLANCK.

*** SENIOR CITIZENS ***

Attention: Senior Citizens (and anyone else who is interested!) - Please mark your calenders for Thursday, March 16, when the first of a series of CRIME PREVENTION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES SEMINARS will be held. The seminars will take place in the new Fine Arts Building at Midland College. This is a joint project, sponsored and conducted by several human resource and civic agencies of the community, including the Midland Police Department, Texas Department of Human Resources, Midland, College, First National Bank, Chamber of Commerce and the News Media. We have been especially fortunate in having ERNIE KUHNEL's assistance in planning this event. Ernie is a Law Enforcement Consultant with DHR and an energetic Senior Citizen who has participated in planning similar seminars throughout the state. The seminars will present an overview of all the protective services available to our Senior Citizens. Representatives of various organizations will make brief presentations of the services they are prepared to offer. Specially trained members of the Police Dept. Crime Prevention Unit will discuss and demonstrate procedures and programs that Senior Citizens can adopt to prevent being victimized.

One of our Senior Citizens, Mrs. LEVA SPENCER, uses her spare time studying. She has recently gone back to school and enjoys it all except "those pesky fractions." This remarkable lady is 81 years old.

Another extraordinary person who attends our center is Mr. LUIS RAMOS. Although he is 97 years old, he refuses transportation to the center and insists on walking - even in 34 degree weather!

Those citizens not quite so hearty took advantage of Casa transportation services 934 times during the month of January. A final report on public transportation will be made by the Chamber of Commerce by March 15. We are all hopeful some type of public transportation will be approved in the near future.