



1101 E. Garden Lane
Midland, Texas 79701
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Mary Hinkle, Director

March, 1980

Spring is here and the Senior Citizens at Casa de Amigos are ready to get their co-op garden started again. In fact, the onions are in the ground, and the day-lillies Carol Craig brought us last year are coming up. Don Ramon has grubbed out the mesquite and hopefully, all the sticker-burrs, and will soon be planting grass in the area to be used for the "senior parque".

Fortunately, this has been a mild winter in West Texas, but even so, the soaring cost of utility bills is horrendous. For those on limited fixed incomes, the situation is terrifying. Can you imagine paying more for the gas for a month than you do for rent or housepayments? Can you imagine trying to live on \$250 a month, and then get hit with a \$50 gas bill?

Casa has been very involved this winter in trying to help alleviate the suffering experienced by people in these circumstances. On one hand, we have been able, through the assistance of those of you who so generously donate to the discretionary fund, to keep the gas on in some homes, especially those where young children or old people live. On the other hand, we have been attempting to educate concerning fuel conservation. Bobby Trimble, of Christmas-in-April fame, conducted a workshop in keeping out the cold, and we in turn, through teaching and tip sheets, are passing on our knowledge to clients.

Christmas in April is making available materials for low-income people to use in repairs to lower fuel bills. Your donations to Casa and Christmas in April are really helpful in this respect.

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Norma Johnson who has been the program development specialist at Casa for almost 2 years, first as a volunteer, than as paid staff. She will be going to California where her husband has accepted employment. Norma has been instrumental in developing the well-rounded Senior program to the point it is today, and the Seniors, staff, and other agency personnel wish the Johnsons success and mil gracias!

Among her other duties has been one we hope one of you out there in "volunteer-land" will accept. That job is one of filling out medical insurance and other similar type forms, especially for Senior citizens. It would be a once-a-week, for 3-4 hours type job. No knowledge of Spanish is necessary, but some clerical experience of this type is. If you would be able to help in this respect, please call.

Just as many of you are getting your income tax work done, many in the Casa neighborhood are coming to get help in preparing their forms. Nita Turner, a VITA volunteer (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) has done a herculean job on Monday and Friday mornings, and our hats are off to her. If any of you have the training and are willing, we'll put you to work too. Please call.

Our needs list currently includes the following items which we hope you'll help us with:

- a refrigerator (for one of our Seniors to replace one that "died")
- a washing machine (for family of 8 with working mom and large medical bills this winter) - dryer would be a big help, too!
- a double bed size mattress and box springs

The aforementioned items need to be in working condition, of course.

Don't forget good used clothing and household items, and that it's never too late to help out.

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Don't forget good used clothing and household items, and that it's never too late to be a tutor for a child who's really struggling to learn to read.

At this special season of our life in the Christian faith, we ask your prayers for those who serve and those who are served by the Casa de Amigos, and thank God for the example He gave us in Jesus Christ!