



CASA DE AMIGOS
The House of Friends

(AN ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER)

CASA EXPANDS STAFF AND PROGRAM

Hi, I'm Elizabeth Valenzuela with the Homemaker Education Program. I've lived in Midland for 16 months; I am originally from El Paso.

I am married and have two children. I have attended EPCC and plan to continue at Midland College. I was a Girl Scout Leader for four years. I was a member of the Marion Manor PTA, and Room Mother Representative for two years.

Being a Homemaker is a very important job that requires a lot of time, effort, and skills. Being able to help young homemakers acquire these skills will be very gratifying to me. Casa de Amigos is doing very important work in the community by sponsoring this program.

The Homemaker Education Program has been in operation for one month. The 6 to 12 ladies that come to the class are young homemakers who are eager to learn new skills. They are a very enthusiastic group.

To date, the women have been learning about nutrition. They know the four food groups, and how to plan menus. In sewing classes they've made an apron and a simple blouse. We need cotton and cotton blend materials of enough yardage to sew dresses and blouses for the summer.

CASA CALLER JUNE '83



(continued)
members of the steering committee of the Food Bank are David Baker, Joan Flynn, Janet Foster, Tom Garth, Bill Houghton, Eleanor Morse, and Eddy Willmon. The Chairman of the Steering Committee is Tom Garth.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

On the Thursday before Mother's Day all three ESL classes had a covered dish pot-luck supper as an end-of-school activity, and also invited their mothers to celebrate Mother's Day.

This summer ESL will be taught as a communication skill, with little or no emphasis on grammar or text book English.

As we look back on the past eight months much progress can be recognized.

PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Casa wants to make its new slide program available to your class or study group. The presentation very effectively brings volunteering and Casa's role in the community to life. The program can be supplemented by asking one of the Casa staff to come and be available to answer questions about current events at Casa de Amigos.

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DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Casa de Amigos finally has a 'dog and pony show'. After several years of hearing that we really need one (thanks, Steve Edwards!), the project is accomplished. The show, a slide presentation approximately 12 minutes long and narrated by Ed Clements, depicts the overall spectrum of the Casa mission. It is a good discussion starter, and is appropriate for civic club programs or church activities such as family-night suppers, Sunday School classes, circle or youth meetings

The Episcopal Diocese of North West Texas has recently produced an excellent slide presentation (about the same length as the Casa one) on the Hispanic population, and the two shows in tandem make a definite statement on the scope of the opportunities for Hispanic ministry plus the ways in which one community, through a central agency, is seeking to meet those opportunities.

The Casa presentation will also be helpful in orienting any group needing to gain an overall picture of the multi-faceted Casa, such as various United Way and Casa volunteers.

Lynn Whitt, Casa board member, Leadership Midland alumnus, member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and otherwise very talented and energetic lady, produced this show. Other volunteers included photographers Carol Rawls, Sarah

McDonald, and Robert Williamson; art director Jane Leslie; editors Jane Wolf and Rhonda Durham, and Mr. Clements. Their work will provide continuing benefits.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM

Fifty Seniors enjoyed the Senior Citizen Appreciation Day at Midland College with dancing, good food, and fellowship with other area centers. Another fun activity was a covered dish luncheon for the English and Spanish classes at teacher Berta Jeminez' country home. A trip to Fort Davis with the Southside Center of Odessa is planned for May 28.

Various crafts have been taught with popsicle sticks by Alice Brown and Lucille Cummings.

OUT-GOING BOARD RECOGNIZED

Staff and Volunteers prepared dinner for the Board of Directors in recognition of the fine job all of the board has done, but especially to recognize the outgoing members. The out-going members are: Cathy Stump, Danny Watts, Steve Edwards, Dr. John Martinez, and Lynn Jackson.

Again, thanks a million for a job very well done.

New board members accepting their responsibilities at the upcoming June meeting will be: Paul Brooks, Norma Short, Les Honeyman and Dr. John Borroso.



TUTORING

Our tutoring program will conclude the year with ice-cream parties for the two groups. The tutors will receive progress reports from the classroom teachers; we usually hear of improvement ranging from 9 to 24 months.

Twenty-two young second and third graders have benefited from this year's program. Thirteen have been with us all year, the others for a few months. The Casa is grateful for our twenty volunteers who have been on the job during the year.

Most of the children come to Casa because they are reading one or two years below their grade level. One child learned to read quite well, and is a fast learner, but he is too shy to talk. Another second grader has practiced the English language thru the telling of many stories; he has a full book of his imaginings complete with drawings.

Each child has presented a tutor with a challenge, a chuckle, a time of exasperation and a feeling of accomplishment. We pray that other volunteers will join us next year so that more young people may catch up with their peers in academic and social accomplishment.

FOOD CO-OPS

During the months of February and March the three operating co-op clubs purchased a total of \$3,317.00 of merchandise. The clubs saved a total of \$1,017.00 during these months which is approximately a savings of 30%. This total is obtained by comparing prices on items bought at the warehouse (where we do our co-op shopping) to the regular prices of the same items or very similar items at a supermarket.

On Saturday, April 23, we held a presentation open to the public on 'How to Organize a Food Co-op'. The presentation was very successful. Esther Gonzales from Channel 7 News came and interviewed some of the members of the Co-ops.

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank is a very possible dream come true in the near future. Researched by the Junior League of Midland, and turned over to a Steering Committee during May the Bank will make additional foodstuffs available to charitable organizations within our area who feed and distribute foods to the hungry people of our city. In addition to making more food available, it is hoped that the Bank can and will foster better communications between the existing agencies. The
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