

# CASA DE AMIGOS

*"The House of Friends"*

## CASA CALLER

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

Director: Mary Hinkle

1101 E. Garden Lane

Vol. 15, No. 2, May 1984

## CASA DE AMIGOS IS EXPANDING!

Construction has begun. Present at our March 15th ground breaking were the M-Squad of the Chamber of Commerce with Marion Kimberly acting as MC, representatives of the Junior League of Midland, United Way, Casa board and staff members, the media and participants in our Senior Citizen Program. We enjoyed coverage by TV channels 2, 7, and 9, the Midland Reporter-Telegram, KCRS/KWMN and KWEL/KBAT.

Expansion plans will add 2600 sq. ft. of floor space to the existing 4000 sq. ft. of Casa de Amigos.

One thousand sq. ft. of the additional space is designed expressly as a medical/dental clinic. Clinic space is the first step in the long term goal of providing medical services to low-income people. The Junior League of Midland is planning to locate their children's dental clinic in the new facility. The clinic will contain examining rooms, lab/pharmacy, a

dental operatory, a waiting room, restrooms and storage.

Sixteen hundred additional sq. ft. plus remodeled current space will provide an expanded rummage room, a large sewing room, several offices, a library/classroom, a lounge area, a small "store" for various senior citizen projects, and an expanded activity area that will include a stage.

Capital funds for the building project as well as the purchase of a new van have been possible by the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation. Abbott Building has been chosen as the general contractor. Work is expected to be completed in June.

We have been making up a wish list for the new building. Among the items suggested have been: a 16 MM film projector and a pull-down screen, kiln, VCR player, overhead projector, and a pool table.



John Barroso, Lana Booth, Mary Hinkle, Nancy Jordan, and Polly Davis break ground.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Casa de Amigos receives no government funding. All support is local. While we provide the space for such federal programs as the Elderly Nutrition Program, we handle none of the money or paperwork.

Casa de Amigos is a grass roots Christian service center. We have grown as we have reached out to meet specific needs in our community. We are not affiliated with any national organization. We are supported by local churches of many denominations, individuals, local foundations, and the United Way of Midland.

Casa de Amigos will celebrate its 20th birthday in the new expanded facility. The party is scheduled for August 26th.

# VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Beth has been a volunteer tutor at Casa since 1973. She says, "tutoring at Casa has mostly been a happy experience. These children need help so badly and there are so few tutors to help them. Each tutor takes one child and helps him all year, really working hard to help him keep up with his or her class. I have enjoyed knowing all of 'my' children, each with different abilities and needing the personal attention we give them".

We asked Beth how she had seen the program change in the eleven years she has tutored. She answered, "The tutoring program has come a long way since it started. We have a lovely new building where our classes are held, a good selection of children's books, reference books, and many educational games that the children enjoy and learn from at the same time. We now also have an excellent playground to help in the children's physical development, giving them enjoyment at the same time."

Beth, we appreciate your continued faithfulness in serving our Casa children. You have helped eleven children learn to read one day at a time.



Beth Elderkin and Damon Randolph

## VITA PROGRAM

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) workers counseled on Wednesday evenings with 203 people and filled out 239 returns between January 25th and March 28th. These volunteers stayed some nights until 10:00 p.m. helping those who came. Thank you Dr. Norman Gould, John Berry, Chris Sapyta, Lloyd Morse, Enrique Farias, William Bell, Cleo Lake, Jeannie Hester, Roland Banks, Belle Harris, Nancy Scharf, William Eggert, Kathy Lupardus, Larry Lintz, and Lisa Dugan.

If you would like to be a VITA volunteer next year, the IRS offers a free course for the public every January. All of our volunteers are CPA's or graduates of the IRS course.

Casa Caller Staff  
Editor - Alice Brown  
Assist. Editor - Mary W. Hinkle  
Artwork - Jo Dufault  
Proofreader - Kathleen Linscombe

## TUTORING RECORD SET

Twenty children were able to participate in our tutoring program this year because we had twenty volunteers giving of themselves and their time. Never before have we been able to help so many children.

A thank you to all the tutors who have faithfully taught our students this last school year: Patricia Allday, Ursula Alley, Ann Atchison, Mary Coester, Mary Deande, Marion Donnell, Beth Elderkin, Deborah Graves, Carole Haislett, David Hamm, Silvia Major, Donna Massey, Mary McNeal, Wesley Morehart, Verna Rathmell, Virginia Shankle, Dorthy Shaw, Beth Simon, Malcolm Slayter, and Cathy Stump.

Two special people have made this program work: Margaret Hernandez, our staff supervisor, who works with the families and schools and provides transportation, and Helen Cronenberg, our coordinator, who helps the tutors find appropriate learning materials and methods for each child. We especially appreciate their consistent efforts.

## BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Casa board elected new officers Monday, April 16th. The new officers are:

President	Larry Stapp
Vice President	Les Honeyman
Secretary:	Isabel Rey
Treasurer:	John L. Brigham
Chairman of Fundraising Committee:	Lynne Whitt
Chairman of Program Committee:	Paul Brooks

We thank outgoing officers for their service to Casa de Amigos. You are important volunteers. Outgoing officers are:

Chairman:	Nancy Jordan
V.P. Property:	Jim Brown
V.P. Finance:	Hill Glover
V.P. Program:	Betty Deande
Treasurer:	John L. Brigham

If it appears that the titles are different, it's because Casa has revised its by-laws. Many thanks to Patricia Allday who shared her expertise with us in this project.

Selection of new board members will be completed in May.

We hope you like our new *Casa Caller* format. We thank all our advertisers for making a typeset newsletter possible.

All stories in the *Casa Caller* are used with the permission and assistance of those involved.

If you would like to volunteer at Casa in any capacity, please just call us and we will try to use your talents to the fullest.

### SENIORS

#### Dolores' Story

Dolores is a diabetic. She lives alone. At 63, she is too young for Social Security and too old for Texas Rehabilitation. She had been seeing a doctor, but could not get her insulin properly regulated. Her doctor recommended that she see a diabetes specialist, but she could not afford one. Her swollen and weak condition had forced her to stop working. Her children provide her only financial support. Dolores says, "I was depressed and cried at home when alone. I didn't eat properly."

It was then that she saw the sign in front of Casa de Amigos advertising our diabetic clinic. Her daughter told her she could get help here and brought her to the clinic. A diabetes specialist began to see her and properly regulated her insulin. He worked with her to establish a payment schedule she could afford. He also gave her a special diet and recommended exercise. Casa found another agency that would provide insulin.

We introduced Dolores to our Senior Program, and she now comes regularly. Her health has improved with the balanced meals in the Elderly Nutrition Program. She looks forward to exercise days with the Seniors because physical activity makes her feel so much better. She eagerly participates in our craft projects.

"Casa de Amigos is a family. People help me in many ways. My family can see the difference. I am happy here. I have people to talk with and to care," Dolores concludes.

Dolores' story is representative of many who come to Casa. Most come because they have a specific need and then discover the wide range of activities and services we provide. Our programs overlap and complement one another. Many who come to our Homemaker classes find support and courage there to begin ESL classes. Others come to Casa because of our social services and return to participate in educational programs also.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

How many people a month are helped through our Social Service Program? In February, we recorded 327 individuals (all family members included) to whom we gave assistance in various ways. We use our discretionary fund to help with utilities, food, gasoline, rent, and medical bills in emergency situations. We make home visits, give advocacy assistance (act as mediators to resolve personal, financial, medical and other difficulties), help people find jobs, give out food and clothing, refer people to other social agencies and provide follow up. Many people come to us seeking aid we cannot provide. We give them information on other agencies that can help. These individuals are not asked to fill out applications and thus are not recorded.

#### Special Thanks To:

Mrs. Jarvis Salmon, Jane Wolf, Carolyn Vandeventer, Night Circle at St. Luke's UMC, Wayne Runkles, Unity S.S. Class of St. Mark's UMC, John Nichols.

### EDUCATION

#### ESL Classes

Interest in our English as a Second Language (ESL) classes remains strong. We offer beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. By request we will continue classes through the summer. We welcome students from our public schools who wish to maintain and improve their English skills this summer. Enrollment in these classes remains open.

#### Homemaker Education Class

Maria heard about the Homemaker Education Program at Casa from her sister who was coming here to learn how to sew. Maria had a six year old son and was expecting her second child.

After a few sewing classes, she made herself two maternity dresses and many clothes for the new baby. She made her home more comfortable by making pillows and other decorations. She even made the bridal bouquet and corsages for her sister's wedding out of silk and satin flowers that she learned how to make at Casa.

Maria contributed a lot to the classes by bringing baskets for the whole class to make Thanksgiving table decorations and all the ingredients for her terrific cherry cream pie. In appreciation the HE class gave her a baby shower and presented her with a friendship quilt for the baby. Each person made a square and the whole class pieced and quilted it.



Maria and new son, Patrick

### CALENDAR

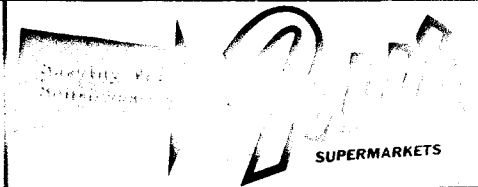
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Senior Citizens' Program</b>          | <b>Adult Education Program</b>                    |
| M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.               | ESL Classes - T & Th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.            |
| Sr. Clinic - every 2nd Wed. of the month | How to Get and Keep a Job                         |
| May 4 - Cinco de Mayo                    | Wed. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.                             |
| May 9 - Midland College Sr. Citizen Day  | Summer  |
| May 11 - Mother's Day Party              | Bi-lingual Class in Furniture Refinishing. Summer |
| <b>Homemaker Education Program</b>       | <b>Boy Scouts - Troop 109</b>                     |
| M-F, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.                    | Mon., 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.                            |

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