

CASA de AMIGOS

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This is the time of year when we pause (hopefully) and reflect on the blessings of the past year, give special gifts to special people in our lives, and generally make some resolutions about priorities in the coming year. And all out of a response to God for his goodness to each of us in myriad and unique ways as well as His one universal way, the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Casa de Amigos is here, and healthy, and serving and growing in Midland, Texas because He loves, and you respond! It is truly beautiful.

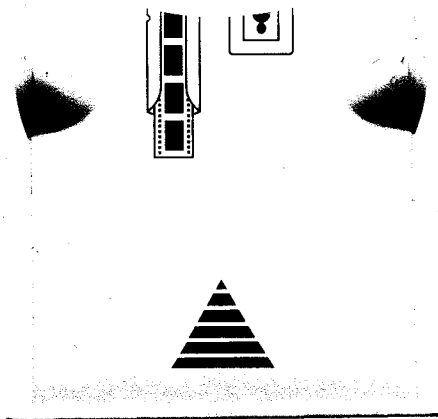
Two items that Casa is currently undertaking and that you'll hear more about as time progresses are long-range planning, and a food Co-op.

The board has begun long-range planning this fall, and expects to involve all aspects of its program within the next year. Chairman of the committee is Cathy Stump, committee members are Michael Williams, Wayne Kohout, Isabel Rey, Don Hellinghausen, Helen Cronenberg, Steve Edwards, and Severo Enriquez. Plans call for utilizing lots of community input in this process. So far, the committee has drafted a mission statement, and is currently evaluating the tutoring program.

The board is most appreciative of the time given by those individuals who are, or will give their criticisms (both positive and negative) of our outreach. This "baby" of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is approaching 17 years in age, and its mature future deserves some thoughtful scrutiny.

A new program that Casa is working to get in gear in 1981 is a low-income food Co-op. Many of you have belonged to, or are current members of, various sorts of food Co-ops in the community, and we would welcome your wisdom and expertise in the near future. In a low-income Co-op, the purpose is two-fold: one is, of course, to help people buy in the very most economical way possible; the second is to involve people, who are perhaps on the fringes of the democratic process, in working together to make things happen that directly affect their lives. A food Co-op can provide that experience.

Boy Scout Troop 109 has come into existence this fall under the sponsorship of Casa de Amigos. There are currently 9 boys from the neighborhood who have become members. In November they took a camping trip to Cristoval. The advisory committee is composed of Isabel Gonzales, Casa staff, John Savage and Severo Enriquez, Casa board members, and Gene Latrip, Boy Scout staff and troop leader. They are looking for a permanent leader, and Gene will provide on-the-spot training for this person - sort of an apprenticeship, which is a deal that's hard to beat! The troop is an enthusiastic group and has received some nice donations of uniforms, equipment and money.



HOW ABOUT MAKING A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO BECOME A TUTOR AT CASA DE AMIGOS?
We have some very appealing candidates.....

J is in the second grade; his sister, who is a third grader, is coming for her second year of tutoring at Casa. Their mother would like to be able to help her children learn to read. She's learning to read English at Midland College and she and the kids do their homework together! J really needs a Casa tutor.

H and M are both sixth graders at Crockett. They're cousins who live at the same house. They came to the United States last summer and really need some help with English! They need tutors.

A and C are bright third graders who somehow haven't got easy reading under their belts yet. Their parents feel that reading is really important because they have such difficulty with it themselves. They each need you.

If you feel that the tutoring is important, but that being a tutor is not your bag, we need other volunteers for this program: a tutor recruiter, a librarian-clerk, an assistant co-ordinator. Any of these jobs would require two to four hours a week of your time. Call Margaret at the Casa or Helen Croneneberg at 682-9887.

We have recently received some memorials to John Williams, father of faithful tutor, Lou Scherer. We are most appreciative of these gifts.

For those of you looking for a unique Christmas gift for someone special, there are three original quilts for sale at the Casa. All three are double bed size quilts (not spreads); two are pattern quilted and are \$150 each; the third is "tufted" and is \$85. Call Margaret if you'd like to see or purchase one of these.

FELIZ NAVIDAD Y PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO PARA TODOS USTEDES DE PARTE DE TODOS NOSOTROS DE LA CASA DE AMIGOS.

And a special thank you to Reynolds and Sons who have printed the Casa Caller this year!

