



Director: Mary Hinkle

"The House of Friends"

**United Way
of Midland**

CASA CALLE R

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

1101 E. Garden Lane

Vol. 15, No. 4, November 1984

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY BECOMES A REALITY!

One of the goals of the long-range plan adopted in 1982 and made possible by the recent expansion/remodeling program has been the provision of a neighborhood library at the Casa. The rationale was that Casa has lots of books that have been donated through the years and many of our clients and neighbors have difficulty getting to the library or qualifying for a card.

Recently, the Midland County Commissioners approved creation of a library station at Casa de Amigos. The program, as most Casa offerings, will be a very cooperative venture. Hopefully, it will be the prototype for other library stations or branches in the community. It is a low-budget item for both the county and Casa.

The Casa is providing space and clients. The library is providing books it already has as well as some shelving and supplies. Volunteers are being recruited and will be organized similar to the tutoring program with a co-ordinator providing direction to other volunteers. A soon-to-be Eagle Scout has promised to see that the shelves get painted. An acquisition list will be developed in order to be able to take advantage of donations of other books or money.

The specific areas of concentration which the Midland County Public Library will be providing books for are:

1. Large-print and picture-type books for senior citizens.
2. Books printed in Spanish for our clients and neighbors who read for pleasure.
3. Encyclopedias and other resource materials for upper elementary and junior high age students.

Because the library also functions variously as a classroom/meeting room, the hours will be limited with several morning times dedicated to senior citizens, several afternoon times for the public, and early evenings (5:00-7:00 p.m.) dedicated to student use. The goal is to have the library functional by January, 1985.

(P.S. — We have the perfect spot for some African violets and every library needs African violets.)



The New Casa Library

DID YOU KNOW?

Casa's first building was an abandoned grocery store at 906 N. Dallas St. which was rented in 1965 for \$50 a month and fixed for use. It was used until 1978. Another building at 921 N. Dallas was purchased in 1968 for \$350. The donor of the \$350 wished to remain anonymous. A house at 923 N. Weatherford was purchased and moved to 928 N. Dallas for additional space in 1975. In 1977, Casa received \$49,673.85 in stock also given anonymously and designated for a building fund. This money was added to \$13,000 already donated to a building fund. Lots were purchased at 1101 E. Garden Lane for \$5,000. In October, 1977, plans were approved for building at that site. Abbott Construction Co. was the general contractor. Casa moved into the new facilities in April, 1978. In 1984, the existing Casa was remodeled and expanded to include space designated as a medical/dental facility. This expansion was made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Mabee Foundation. Casa has never incurred indebtedness for purchasing or expanding facilities.

CAR SEATS NEEDED

Casa carries many small children in the van. Because of new law, we are in need of car seats. We would appreciate any you could donate.

HELP PROGRAM

Casa de Amigos has set January, 1985 as the month they will begin a homework help program for sixth through eighth grade students. We will stay open from 5:15 to 6:45 and will have volunteers available each evening, Monday through Thursday to help students with homework. Also, our new library will be open so that neighborhood youth can use the encyclopedias and reference books. We will keep boxes of magazines from which the students will be allowed to cut pictures and articles for posters and projects they must prepare. Casa hopes to set a precedent in Midland in establishing a neighborhood homework center where students can receive specific help when they are having difficulty with a subject, or when they need reference books. Some may simply need a quiet place to study within walking distance. The homework help program will be closely supervised by adults. We hope to begin with three volunteers each evening, Monday through Thursday; volunteers will need to commit themselves to only one evening a week. This is an excellent opportunity for those people who work and yet would like to be involved in our tutoring program. If you are interested in pioneering this new program, please call Casa at 682-9701.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Dolores Duran is the name of a special friend to Casa. Her name always comes to mind when we need to give our rummage room a special cleaning, when we are surrounded by boxes of sewing supplies that need to be organized and put into cabinets, or when we need volunteers to serve a holiday meal to the senior citizens. She is always willing to help.

Since 1979 when Dolores and her husband, Ricardo, moved to Midland from El Paso, Dolores has been a faithful volunteer. For over three years she came each week to help the senior citizens with crafts. For a year she took one person who needed a translator to the doctor each week.

Dolores is the mother of four children, Ricardo Junior, 14, Robert, 12, Linda, 8, and Mary Ellen, 2. When Mary Ellen was born, Dolores gave up many volunteer activities, but has continued to support Casa by being available when we need extra help.

Dolores says, "I'm at the point where I need to help the seniors at Casa. I took care of my mother until she died and I miss being around older people. They appreciate everything. The Casa seniors gave me a baby shower when Mary Ellen was born and I have kept all the handmade quilts and baby clothes they made for me."

Dolores and Ricardo are also volunteer case workers for St. Vincent de Paul, a Roman Catholic charity organization. Their commitment to both organizations illustrates the close cooperation between social service agencies in our area.

We appreciate quiet servants like Dolores Duran.



Dolores Duran

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

W.T. Wynn, Martha & Ed Bean, Berte & Carol Haigh, Wayne Runkles, Trinity Presbyterian Deacon's Fund, Unity Class of St. Mark's UMC, Walter Liljestrand, Sponsors of the Marjorie Currey benefit, Red Haislett, Jerry Aston, Los Rayos del Sur, Midland Christian Church, St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, First Methodist Church, Midland Lutheran Church, Paul Rea, Larry Seright, Darrell James, Leggett's Fabrics.

CASA DE AMIGOS PRESENTS

Marjorie Currey

Book Reviewer and Noted Lecturer

for a series of three reviews

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 1984

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1985

Wednesday, April 17, 1985

7:00 p.m. — Wine and Cheese

8:00 p.m. — Program

Theater II at M.C.T.

Tickets are \$50. for the series and will not be sold after Nov. 14. Please call Casa immediately if you want season tickets. The wine and cheese before each review are included.

We thank the businesses who donated food and prizes for both the Dies Y Seis de Septiembre fiesta and the Halloween Carnival. We also thank the many individuals who volunteered to help us with these special events.

Casa de Amigos extends sympathy to the families of two long-time supporters: Margaret Sutton, board member, and Jim Sheeler, tutor.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Senior Citizen's Program | Dec. 20-Christmas Party |
| M-F 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Games / Gift |
| Sr. Clinic - every 2nd | Exchange / Special Food |
| Tues. of the month | Adult Education |
| Sewing Classes -M/Th. | English as a Second |
| 9:45-11:00 a.m. | Language-T / Th-7:00-9:00 |
| Exercise with Park Y | Youth Education |
| -M / W 10:00 a.m. | Boy Scout Troop 109 |
| Ceramics-Fri.-10:00 a.m. | Mon. 7:00-9:00 p.m. |
| Nursing Home Visitation | Girl Scout Troop 494 |
| -1st & 3rd Tues. of month | Thurs. 7:00 p.m. |
| Bible Classes-Mon.-12:15 | Brownie Scout Troop 107 |
| (Both in English & | Wed. 7:00 p.m. |
| Spanish) | Tutoring |
| Bingo-Wed.-12:15 p.m. | M & W 2:30-3:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 21-Thanksgiving Pro- | T & Th 2:30-3:30 p.m. |
| gram Singing / Prayer Service | Homemaker Education |
| | M-F 12:00-2:00 p.m. |

Zulema's Story

I first came to Casa de Amigos with my brother Juan on a rainy and cold fall day in 1977. Casa was just a little white building on N. Dallas St. then. We had come there to learn English and we were both soaked. I knew two words in English: cat and dog. I was nine years old. My mother supported me and my brothers Juan, 12 and David, 4.

Mr. John Savage became my tutor at Casa. The fourth grade was a hard year for me. I was frightened because Midland was so different from Ojinaga where we had lived. I felt constantly pressured because I wanted to do well in school and yet I just sat there all day understanding no English. Mr. Savage was very kind to me. When he realized that I needed more help to get through the fourth grade than his two hours a week with me, he added more hours of tutoring.

Mr. Savage tutored me in the fifth grade also. Then he helped me get a scholarship to Trinity School in the sixth grade. When he knew that I had been accepted at Trinity, he tutored me all summer with the textbooks that I would be using the next fall. Even with his continued help, the sixth grade was another difficult year of adjustment for me.

I was tearful at my graduation from Trinity School after the ninth grade, however. The teachers were all very kind and had become a second family to me. My last year at Trinity was a happy year. Mr. Savage continued tutoring me through the ninth grade and I finally felt comfortable with my English. I was sad to see my tutoring and my time at Trinity come to an end.

I remember once during those years that Mr. Savage had surgery. He was in pain and unable to drive. I was very touched that he made arrangements to tutor me in his home while he recuperated because he knew how much I needed help.

I started last year as a Sophomore at Midland High School taking a college preparatory course. I had always dreamed of being a secretary until I took typing. It bored me. Now I think I'll go into some field related to medicine, but I'm not sure yet. I do plan to go on to college.

Last summer I started working at the Midland County Library. I now work in the adult book section four evenings a week after school and Saturdays. I enjoy working at the library because I love to read. English is now my favorite subject — thanks to Mr. Savage.



Zulema Zubia

SOCIAL SERVICES

Discretionary money used to purchase food is given by those who request that we spend it specifically to aid families in emergency situations. It is separate from the Casa budget. Because we also use discretionary funds to buy medicines and to help with utility bills during medical crises, our money for food to be distributed by our social worker is limited. Many times we turn people away because our food pantry has been emptied until we receive more food or money specified for the purchase of food.

Historically, Midland churches of many denominations have supplied our food pantry. One church congregation periodically distributes brown bags with lists of needed food items stapled to them. The bags are brought to Casa filled with the designated items. Another church has made a "food train" out of plywood. Once a month the children push the train around to all the Sunday School classes to collect groceries that the families bring to church with them for Casa and other agencies. Other churches contribute to our food pantry in other ways. A Sunday School class may make a commitment to supply one staple such as beans for one year.

However the food is donated, we attempt to be good stewards and use both care and compassion in giving it to those who need it. We make home calls. We confirm medical situations with doctors. We also stay in close contact with other social agencies in our area to coordinate our efforts and to prevent overlapping services.

Below is a list of food that our social worker tries to keep in her pantry:

Dry Beans (pinto), Canned Beans, Rice, Noodles, Macaroni & Cheese, Cereal (hot or cold), Flour, Cornmeal, Powdered Milk, Canned Milk, Shortening, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Sugar, Potatoes, Canned Vegetables, Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti Sauce, Tuna, Canned Stew, Canned chili, Potted Meat, Spam, Juices (all types), Baby Formula, Baby Food, Baby Cereals, Soups (all types), Crackers, Bread, Velveeta Cheese, Diapers, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Detergents, Soaps, Toothpaste.

SENIORS

The Casa seniors love parties. Some of their recent events have been the Dies Y Seis de Septiembre fiesta, an evening dance with live music, and a Halloween carnival.

The Dies Y Seis de Septiembre celebration was complete with desayuno (coffee and donuts), an official explanation of the fiesta, traditional Mexican marches and dances, and a feast of Mexican food.

An evening of dance for the seniors was held October 10th. The **Los Rayos del Sur** provided live music without charge. The dance was well attended and plans have been made to have the band return to Casa.

Our Senior Halloween Carnival included a cake walk, plate throw, white elephant booth, balloon throw, surprise booth, cookie booth and costume contest.

Many generous local merchants make these special events possible by supplying food and prizes. Other caring people volunteer their time to help with the preparation, participation, and clean-up. The support of our community makes our senior program a success.

If you would like to be on our volunteer list for such special occasions, please give us a call.

SENIORS OPEN NEW CO-OP STORE

Twenty-eight seniors have become members of our senior co-op. A list of items which would be carried in the store was compiled from suggestions made by the members. The store is manned by volunteer members headed by Blas Zuniga. Martha Garza, our social worker, is in charge of purchasing the goods.

The idea of the store is to provide the small items needed in between grocery shopping trips. The store carries such items as eggs, toilet tissue, and canned beans. Later, the store will offer for sale the crafts and needlework which the members have made.

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