



Helping People Help Themselves

Newsletter  
Summer 2016

### MISSION

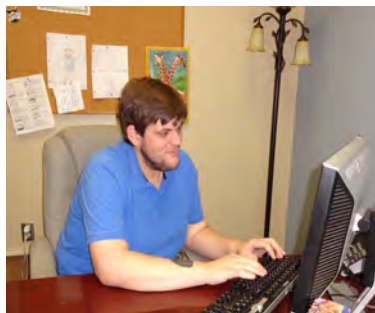
To improve the quality of life throughout the community by helping people help themselves

## Casa de Amigos—Casa de Niños

Casa de Amigos began as Casa de Niños in 1964 in a 500 sq. ft. abandoned, cinder block grocery store at 960 N. Dallas. Volunteers painted stick figures, called “Monito Men”, in bold colors on the front of Casa de Amigos’ first building. Los Monitos identified the building as a safe and welcoming place for the children of the economically struggling community. Four days a week children from the surrounding schools received homework help from highly qualified volunteer tutors. That commitment to academic excellence continues to this day. Children are referred by their teachers or school counselors for tutoring and homework help in the After School Program. Working with the families and schools,



the program provides a challenging and engaging environment that meets each child’s specific academic needs.



Michael White, our new Youth Education Coordinator, has many years experience working with children. “I want each child to be the best student he or she can be. I want each child to have every opportunity to excel in whatever they want to do in life. Our program builds leadership and fosters teamwork as well as keeps children active and interested in learning more about the world.”



The Youth Education Program also offers the Summer Literacy Camp. Over the long summer, children can lose a grade level or more of reading skills. Our experienced leadership team of educators draws upon the most effective enrichment, physical fitness, nutritional and life-skill programs to make learning fun. In partnership with United Way’s Club Read, children keep up and even improve their reading skills. The program also includes Math, Science, Character Building, Arts & Crafts and Recreation.



Rocio Franco, Youth Education Assistant, and Arlene are all smiles. “Making learning fun is the best part of my job!”

Casa de Amigos  
1101 Garden Lane  
Midland TX 79701  
432-682-9701

### Welcome to Summer Literacy Camp!



Kenna Wilson of the Girl Scouts of the Desert, is bringing exciting activities to our Summer Literacy Camp. Also participating are the Boy Scouts, MPD, Junior Master Gardeners, the Petroleum Museum and more!

Casa de Amigos offers four areas of service:  
Education  
Social Services  
Health & Wellness  
Senior Center



For more information on the Youth Education Program please call 432-682-9701

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### Everyone knows Mr. Brooks



Tonya Eckert, Executive Director of Casa de Amigos, presents Mr. Paul Brooks with a certificate commemorating 20 years of service.

After 30 years with MISD, including administrative and teacher-training positions, Paul was recruited to be a Board Member for Casa de Amigos. It was here he met Jim Henry and they have been friends ever since. Paul was Board President from 1985-1987 and Jim was President 1987-1989.

In 1995, after volunteering at Casa de Amigos for several years, Paul took the position of Education Director. He adds, "I wanted to be here because everyone was willing to take on any task that had to be done, including painting, repairs, moving furniture and equipment. We all felt part of the team."

Perfectly fluent in English and Spanish, he is the Casa de Amigos' spokesperson for Hispanic media.

"People stop me in the street to say, 'Hey, I saw you on Univision last night!'"

The most gratifying moments for Paul are when a student gains the knowledge to further his or her education.

"I have students from my English classes that entered in ESL 1, followed our curriculum and are now taking courses at Midland College. In the Youth Education Program, we have helped children stay in school and helped parents understand and navigate the public school system."

Paul is also known as the best Citizenship teacher in Midland.

Paul's retirement takes effect August 31, 2016. We wish him and his wife Joan, many wonderful years to come.

### GED Step by Step

"I came to Casa de Amigos to get advice on how to prepare for my ideal career. I



needed guidance to get on that path." Nancy Diaz is a current GED student, "I left school to work in the oil fields to help my family. Then, I was laid off."

"GED got me back on track. I am applying to the Take 2 Job Skills Program to study truck driving. I want to start my own business." Nancy passed the GED Science and Social Studies tests. "I am taking the Math and Language Skills next. I am very confident that I will pass." And we are very confident that Nancy and all of our hard-working students will achieve their goals. Congratulations!

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432-682-9701  
[Casadeamigosmidland.org](http://Casadeamigosmidland.org)

Every year, the Social Services' Department collects school supplies. Individuals and companies such as Wells Fargo (pictured below) donate backpacks filled with school supplies to Casa de Amigos for Midland's children. You can, too! For more information, please call Ida Fletcher at 432-682-9701.



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service:

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Senior Center

# CASA DE AMIGOS - Programs/Programas

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## After School & Summer Program

A learning center designed to help children in grades 1–8 with their homework or to provide individualized tutoring. Monday-Friday, 3:30pm-6:00pm. **Contact: Michael White**

## Programa Despues de la Escuela y Durante el Verano

*Un centro de aprendizaje diseñado para ayudar a los niños de grados 1-8 con sus tareas o proporcionar individualizado tutoría. lunes-viernes, 3:30pm-6:00pm*

**Habla con Michael White**

## GED Classes—English

GED preparation for math, language, writing, science, social studies and reading. AM and PM. **Contact Paul Brooks**

## English as a Second Language

Classes for students whose native language is not English. AM and PM.; Citizenship/Ciudadania **Contact Paul Brooks**

## Ingles Segundo Lenguaje

Clases para los estudiantes cuya lengua materna no es inglés. AM y PM. **Habla con Paul Brooks**

## Take 2 Job Skills Training

**Contact: Josie Samaguy**

## Financial Literacy/VITA

**Contact: Wende Perry**



## Senior Center

A variety of exciting recreational and educational activities for seniors. Lunch is also served at 11:30am. Age 60 and up. **Contact Diana Gomez**

## Programa para personas mayores

El programa para personas de la tercera edad, ofrece actividades variadas recreacionales y educativas. La comida se sirve a las 11:30am. Edad 60 y más. **Habla con Diana Gomez**

## Social Services

Emergency Food Pantry, clothing, school supplies, holiday assistance, referrals to partner agencies. **Contact Jacky Garcia**

## Servicios Sociales

Comida de urgencia, ropa, utiles escolares, asistencia para las fiestas, referencias a otras agencias. **Habla con Jacky Garcia**

## Benefits Application Assistance/Beneficios Asistencia

**Contact/Habla con Jacky Garcia**

## Catholic Charities Immigration Assistance/ Caridades Catolicas Asitencia de Inmigracion

**Contact/Habla con Margarita Amado 806-741-0409**

## Legal Aid Prescreening/Ayuda Legal Prescreening

**Contact/Habla con March Scribner 432-686-0647**

## Health & Wellness/Salud y Bienestar

Cholesterol and Kidney Screening/ Colesterol y proyección de riñón

Blood Pressure Screening/Examen de presión—Diabetes Screening/Examen de Diabetes

Medical Clinic/Clínica Médica/ Emergency Dental/Emergencia Dental—Health and Wellness Programs/Programas de la Salud

**Contact/Habla con Silvia Lemos**

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For more information please call/Para más informacion por favor llame 432-682-9701 or visit/o visite [casadeamigosmidland.org](http://casadeamigosmidland.org) — 1101 Garden Lane, Midland TX 79701





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**Thank You, Casa de Amigos' Corporate and Foundation Donors**

- United Way
- Abell-Hanger Foundation
- Albertson's
- Apache Corp.
- AT&T Co.
- Atmos Energy
- Bank of America
- Barbed Cross Construction
- Beal Foundation
- Benevis Marketing LLC
- Bowie Fine Arts Academy
- Campbell Construction
- Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation
- The Cary Brown Family Foundation
- CDBG
- Chevron
- Christ Church Anglican
- COG Operating LLC
- Concho Oil
- David Bledsoe Family Fund
- Donald & Kay W Bishop Foundation
- EOG
- Excelsior Foundation
- F. Marie Hall Foundation
- The Fasken Foundation
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Frost Bank
- Girl Scouts of the Desert
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Greenwood High School Students in Philanthropy
- Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust
- HEB
- Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust
- Halliburton Employee Giving
- Henry Foundation
- J. Robert Jones Charitable Trust
- Key Energy
- King Foundation
- L & M Charitable Foundation
- Lee High School Students in Philanthropy
- Lowe's
- Lutheran Foundation of Texas
- Midland Chamber of Commerce
- Midland College Students in Philanthropy
- Midland High School Students in Philanthropy
- Midland Rockhounds
- Midland Rotary Club
- Katie & Paul Morrow
- MWA Financial Group
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- Oxy Petroleum
- Pioneer Natural Resources
- Permian Basin Area Foundation
- Pepsico
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- Prairie Foundation
- Principal Financial Group
- R&E Systems Co. LLC
- Russell K Hall & Associates
- Scharbauer Foundation
- State Employee Charitable Campaign
- Superior Health Plan
- Texas Mutual Insurance Co.
- Texas Roadhouse
- The Trinity Servant Leadership Class
- UBS Financial Services Inc.
- Union Pacific
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- WP & Bulah Luse Foundation
- Walmart
- Wayne & Jo Anne Moore Charitable Foundation
- Wells Fargo Bank
- West Texas National Bank



**As part of a lesson in community service, Trinity School Second Graders held a food drive for our Emergency Food Pantry. Our families especially need: rice, beans, soup, pasta, sauce, mac & cheese, cereal and canned vegetables, tuna and chicken. Thank you!**

**To purchase a Casa de Amigos' Building Block engraved with the name of your choice and displayed in the Main Hallway please call 432-682-9701.**

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## Get Involved!

Casa de Amigos  
1101 Garden Lane  
Midland TX 79701

432-682-9701

**52 years of service  
to the community -  
"helping people help themselves"**

You can make a lasting difference in someone's life.  
Become a volunteer at Casa de Amigos.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Youth Education Tutors

Senior Center

Emergency Food Pantry and Kathryn's Closet

Lend a Hand to Special Projects

Applications are on-line at [casadeamigosmidland.org](http://casadeamigosmidland.org).

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## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

One of the most fun and educational lessons of our Summer Literacy Camp is Financial Literacy. Children collect Casa Bucks for academic achievement and demonstrations of leadership and teamwork. At the end of the session, they have a chance to go to the "cardboard mall" to buy things for themselves, their family and friends. With United Way's participation, we stock the stores with child-friendly items. Many are very tempting! It is amazing how thoughtfully and carefully the children spend their Casa Bucks. This year we are adding a bank for saving and a charity for giving. Our mission of "helping people help themselves" is meaningful at any age!

Sincerely,



Tonya Eckert  
Executive Director



Jane Hellinghausen, United Way, and Tonya Eckert stand in front of storefronts. Children spend their Casa Bucks on books, games, treats and gifts. They learn to budget wisely and make consumer-informed choices—knowledge that will last a lifetime.

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