

MISSION

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

Take 2 Job Skills Training Program—A New Beginning

Chevron Oil created the Take 2 Program in partnership with Casa de Amigos in 2010. Take 2 provides job training scholarships to low income residents helping them to achieve skills that will lead to a family-wage. Graduates of the program work in several occupations such as Professional Truck Drivers, Pharmacy Techs and CNAs.

Josie Serna, a mother of four grown children and a grandmother, came to Casa de Amigos looking for a way to better her chances of employment. Her situation was made difficult by the fact that she had once been incarcerated.

Josie speaks matter-of-factly about the past. “I did my time and I learned from my mistake. Doing one thing wrong shouldn’t hold you back from moving forward with your life.”

She completed a Culinary Arts degree at Midland College and worked in

the Fast Food Industry and as a Sous Chef.

“The work was ok, but I wanted to find a job with more opportunities. One day, I overheard two ladies talking about Take 2 and the CDL classes.”



Intrigued, Josie started up a conversation with the ladies and found out about Casa de Amigos. She made an appointment with Josie Samaguey, the Take 2 Coordinator.

“Josie explained the Take 2 program and helped me with the application. I started training for the CDL right away. Passing the test was easy.”

Finding a job as a Professional Truck Driver took persistence.

“I applied at Fuel Mark, Inc., a small company that delivers propane to the oil fields. I called and called and even went to the HR office asking about the status of my application. Finally, they hired me. I must have been doing a good job because after I worked there a while, they sent me to Austin for Hazmat training. I passed the test with no problem. When I got back, the HR Manager said, ‘Josie, maybe I need to hire more females.’”

“I also have my Railroad Commission Certification so I can haul liquid petroleum,” Josie states proudly.

Josie has some advice for Take 2 candidates. “Set goals for yourself and never give up. You can accomplish anything!”

For more information on the Take 2 Job Skills Training Program, please attend a drop-in weekly orientation every Monday 9:30-11:30 am.

Casa de Amigos
1101 Garden Lane
Midland TX 79701



Adult Education

ESL and GED classes are offered each semester. Financial Literacy classes are also offered several times during the year. Citizenship classes will start again in January, 2017. Check our website @ casadeamigosmidland.org

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



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Congratulations to Our Newest GED Graduate!



Tony Morales is a soft spoken 21 year old and the eldest of seven children, all boys. He left school in the ninth grade. In September of 2016, Tony passed the GED. He took the test in stages, Math first, then Science and Social Studies and finally, Language Arts.

“When I finally decided to get serious and finish my education, I looked for a class. I heard about Casa de Amigos from my stepmother and started studying here last April.”

“Preparing for the Math test was hard. But Karen, (the GED instructor at Casa de Amigos), helped me understand the formulas.”

Tony’s stepmother is a Pharmacy Tech at Sam’s. She encouraged him to think

about the profession.

“I always liked science,” he says, Being a Pharmacy Tech, the hours and the benefits are good and I want to help people. But I am really interested in becoming a Pharmacist.”

One way Tony can meet his goal is by studying to be a Pharmacy Tech through the Take 2 Job Skills Training Program at Casa de Amigos.

The Pharmacy Tech certificate is a four month course based at Odessa College. After completing the course, candidates must pass a rigorous State Exam.

Tony is prepared to study hard.

“While working as a Pharmacy Tech, I want to enroll in the Pre-Health Professional Program at UTPB and take Biology and Chemistry. Then, I can transfer to Texas Tech to finish my studies. I

won’t have much time when I start the Pharmacy Tech program. Hopefully, I will have time to see my girlfriend, watch sports and play a little basketball.”

And being very practical, he adds “I also want to buy a house.”

We are very proud of Tony for passing his GED and setting goals for a bright and promising future.

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Adrienne Olaiivar-Leonardo, Chevron Oil.

Adrienne is a volunteer tutor in the Casa de Amigos GED evening class. She is an Electrical Engineer working in exploration and production.

“I graduated from California State University, Fresno in 2014 and joined Chevron in 2015.”

The Chevron Humankind program encourages employees and retirees to volunteer. Chevron will match volunteer time with cash donations to the organization. Why did Adrienne chose Casa de Amigos?

“Casa de Amigos provides all elements for people to improve their situation. You have education programs, job training and support services like the Emergency Food Pantry.”

Adrienne volunteered at her university Student Food Pantry. “I know how important that program can be to address hunger insecurity. I would like to continue volunteering at Casa de Amigos and help start Nutrition Education classes. I want to give back to the community that has welcomed me.”

Thank you, Adrienne for your volunteer spirit!

CASA DE AMIGOS - Programs/Programas

After School & Summer Program

A learning center designed to help children in grades 1–7 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 1-7 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 Dr. Yolanda Ramirez**

English as a Second Language

Classes for students whose native language is not English. AM and PM.; Citizenship/Ciudadania **Contact Dr, Yolanda Ramirez**

Ingles Segundo Lenguaje

Clases para los estudiantes cuya lengua materna no es inglés. AM y PM. **Habla con Dr. Yolanda Ramirez**

Take 2 Job Skills Training

Contact: Josie Samaguey

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

Medical Clinic/Clinica Médica/
Emergency Dental/Emergencia Dental—Health and Wellness Programs/Programas de la Salud
Contact/Habla con Silvia Lemos

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



Helping People Help Themselves

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Thank You, Casa de Amigos' Corporate and Foundation Donors

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Unitarian Universalist Church
WP & Bulah Luse Foundation
Walmart
Wayne & Jo Anne Moore Charitable Foundation
Wells Fargo Bank
West Texas National Bank



The Youth Education After School Program

Children from 1st to 7th grade can receive homework help and tutoring in all subjects. To enroll, the child needs a referral letter from his or her teacher or school counselor. Besides the academic subjects, the program includes snacks, supervised recreational activities and opportunities for leadership and teamwork. For more information, please call 432-682-9701.

Secure donations can be made on our website—casadeamigosmidland.org

Get Involved!

Casa de Amigos
1101 Garden Lane
Midland TX 79701

432-682-9701

Building Blocks help build the Casa de Amigos' Endowment Fund

A Building Block is an engraved brick installed in our Main Hallway. The Building Blocks will greet visitors for generations to come. Each Building Block is \$250.

Building Blocks are 7 ½" h x 15 ½" l. Your message will be artistically laser-etched by Staton Memorial Co. of Lubbock, TX.

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.

Please contact Naomi Vargas, Executive Director's Assistant, at 432-682-9701 for more information.

This personal message is will be engraved on a Building Block. Thank you!



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to introduce you to the newest member of the Casa de Amigos' team, Dr. Yolanda Ramirez. Dr. Ramirez joins us as Adult Education Coordinator. She will be overseeing the ESL, GED, Citizenship and other Adult Education classes at Casa de Amigos. Dr. Ramirez brings many years of teaching and administrative experience to our Adult Education program. She has taught courses in Bilingual/ESL, Early Childhood, Multicultural Education, and Educational Leadership. She was a student teacher supervisor for Bilingual/ESL, Early Childhood, and Elementary teacher candidates and Grant Coordinator on the SHARE grant for teacher candidates. She also served on several committees including Budget and Planning. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Ramirez to Casa de Amigos!

Sincerely,

Tonya Eckert
Executive Director



"I hold the strong belief that all students can learn given the right opportunities," states Dr. Ramirez.

Tonya, Eckert agrees. "We share this philosophy and will do everything we can to help our students achieve success!"