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## From the Director's Chair

*Melody Woosley*

The City's Charitable Campaign is a strong supporter of the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, which provides crucial services to the community. The City is a pacesetter organization, which means our campaign begins in August and ends in October.

Each year, the City sets goals for the departments along with a citywide goal. Last year, City employees contributed more than \$1 million to agencies in our community. This year, the goal is to raise \$1,025,000 across the City with DHS contributing \$38,000. Thus far, the DHS Campaign has already



raised \$38,174, exceeding our goal! We are well on our way to exceed last year's donation of \$42,000. We will continue through October to take donations to make this the most successful Charitable Campaign in our department's history.

DHS coordinators Joe Martinelli and Edith Merla have led this year's campaign with support from division leaders - Child Care Services - Jamie Timmerman and Betty

Gonzales; Family Assistance - Norma Hernandez and Hilda Banuelos; Head Start - Chantelle Stoops; Senior Services - Danica Brown; Fiscal - Omar Garza; and Director's Office - Jessica Dovalina.

I appreciate the work this team has done to make the campaign successful.

This year, if you pledge \$60 or more with E-Way or pledge form, and in compliance with the DHS Dress Code, you may wear jeans on Friday and other designated days during the year. This equates to \$2.50 per pay period at that level.

Beginning in September, this will be the only time for current employees to join Charitable Campaign Jean Days. Money will not be raised throughout the year.

DHS is a reflection of our community, embodying this year's theme - "Together: We Go Far."

## REMINDERS

### COSA Homebuyer Education classes

Financial Empowerment Center, 1400 S. Flores, Saturday, September 10 - 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Learn the importance of budgeting and saving for a down payment, escrow, and home maintenance.

### Senior Kermes

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Friday, September 16 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A celebration of seniors

registered in Department of Human Services' senior centers and senior nutrition program. The event is an official Diez y Seis de Septiembre event commemorating Mexico's independence from Spain.

### Credit and debt class

Habitat for Humanity, 311 Probandt, Wednesday, September 28 - 5 to 7 p.m. Financial Empowerment Center presents bilingual class on credit and debt.



**Doris Griffin Senior One Stop Center staff receive C.O.R.E. awards**

The Department of Human Services honored staff members who were recognized for their professionalism.

DHS received a letter signed by 148 seniors at the Doris

Griffin Senior One Stop Center. The letter acknowledged several staff members who have created a caring and loving environment for all seniors at the center.

C.O.R.E. Awards for Professionalism were presented to Victor Ayala, Senior Center Manager; Sonia Sheets, Nutrition Site Coordinator; Tom Santee, Chauffeur; and Linda Hurst, Administrative Associate. Hurst also received a 20-year service certificate.

If you see your fellow employees demonstrating



*DHS Assistant Director Edward Gonzales presents a 20-year service certificate to Linda Hurst.*



*Edward Gonzales stands with Linda Hurst, Victor Ayala, Tom Santee, and Sonia Sheets.*



*DHS community service specialists Teresa Tellez, Alejandrina Lopez, and Gloria Gomez are shown with Training for Job Success students at the LVN pinning ceremony.*

excellent Teamwork, Professionalism, Innovation, and Integrity skills, we encourage you to submit an EnC.O.R.E. to recognize their good work. Forms can be found by visiting [http://cosaweb/new\\_EnCORE/index.html](http://cosaweb/new_EnCORE/index.html).

**LVN students finish Training for Job Success program**

The Training for Job Success program is proud of the students who completed the vocational nursing program at St. Philip's College on August 11.

A pinning ceremony for the Class of August 2016 was held in Watson Fine Arts Auditorium. Students completing the one-year program included Dionicia Alvarez, Sonia Gutierrez, Graciela Ramirez, Griselda Torres, Joe Anthony Treviño, Korpo Kollie, and Triver Mondy.

Training for Job Success provides case management services for San Antonio residents seeking better employment through higher education and training opportunities.

# New District 3 Senior Center



Construction on the new Senior Center in Council District 3 is moving along. At more than 13,033 square feet, the metal, stone and glass building will house a reception area, classrooms and offices, space for health screenings, exercise and dance activities, meeting rooms, and a warming kitchen. A large multipurpose room will double as the dining room. The center, on Pecan Valley Drive, includes a large front porch that overlooks a great lawn and South Side Lions Lake. The building was designed by Debra J. Dockery, Architect.

## September: National Senior Center Month



Happy birthday to DHS employees in September:

- Jose Caban, Senior Center Manager, 1st
- Gilbert Lopez, Chauffeur, 1st
- Rosa Gonzalez, Case Aide, 2nd
- Roberto Contreras, Maintenance Worker, 3rd
- Anna Marie Villela, Child Care Resource Specialist, 4th
- Richard Keith, Assistant Director, 4th
- Melkay Lashay Nation, Nutrition Site Coordinator, 4th
- Ivis Portillo, Family Support Worker, 7th
- Demetria Marquez, Family Support Worker, 7th
- Arnie Glascock, Nutrition Site Supervisor, 8th
- Brittany Noriega, Time & Attendance Specialist, 9th
- Jayda Garcia, Temporary Summer Employee, 9th
- Beatrice Gonzalez, Chauffeur, 11th
- Vanessa Ibarra, Family Support Worker, 13th
- Arnoldo Morin, Community Services Supervisor, 13th



Happy Birthday!

- Modesta Putla, Senior Management Analyst, 15th
- Mary-Margaret Garcia, Community Services Supervisor, 16th
- Angel Lerma-Encina, Senior Mgt Analyst, 17th
- Marithza Guzman, Family Support Worker, 20th
- Dolores Tijerina, Administrative Associate, 21st
- Susan Thomas, Senior

- Management Analyst, 21st
- Joseph Martinelli, Management Analyst, 21st
- Cassandra Bentley, Senior Management Analyst, 22nd
- Sri Rangarajan, Fiscal Analyst, 23rd
- Martha Alvarado, Child Care Resource Specialist, 24th
- Leticia Segundo, Community Services Specialist, 24th
- Lily Castano, Administrative Associate, 25th
- Abraham Dennis, Community Services Supervisor, 25th
- Minnie Gutierrez, Administrative Associate, 26th
- Sandra Santos, Senior Management Analyst, 27th
- Edith Merla, Senior Management Analyst, 27th
- Stacy Pechacek, Child Care Resource Specialist, 27th
- Joann Guia, Management Analyst, 28th
- Sylvia Mantooth, Management Analyst, 28th
- Mario Moreno, Maintenance Worker, 30th
- Gloria Granado, Child Care Resource Specialist, 30th

## Claude W. Black opens doors for back to school event

The Claude W. Black Community Center hosted the 11th annual Back 2 School Jamboree on August 12.

Hundreds of families attended the event, which included free backpacks filled with school supplies, and dozens of community groups providing information and services, including immunizations for back to school. Refreshments and child-friendly activities kept families busy.

The Spurs Coyote and other mascots made an appearance to the crowd's delight.



## District 1 holds wellness fair

Councilman Roberto C. Treviño's office held the annual District 1 Back to School Wellness Fair on August 13 at Thomas Edison High School. School-aged children received a backpack filled with school supplies. Additionally, there were more than 40 community and wellness partners, including the Department of Human Services, providing services ranging from haircuts to dental screenings.



Festivities began early on August 11 as the District 1 office distributed the first 300 of 2,200 backpacks to the Frank Garrett Center and to VFW Post 76, the oldest VFW post in Texas.



“On average, teachers will spend approximately \$500 of their hard-earned money to provide school supplies to students each school year,” Councilman Treviño said. “By providing backpacks and school supplies for 2,200 total students, we hope to save San Antonio area teachers \$55,000.”

## Award-winning mentor program

DHS staff participated in the award-winning Women's Leadership Mentoring Program, which was recognized by the International City/County Management Association for its innovative and successful processes that have significantly affected the City's culture and strategic direction. WLMP matches a City female executive (assistant department director or above) with a professional-level female employee. Running for one year, the program ensures professional growth and development. DHS Director Melody Woosley serves on the WLMP planning committee and as a mentor. DHS participants to date are CisTavie Brooks (Senior



Services), Jessica Dovalina (Director's Office), Deirdre Murphy (Director's Office), Kimberly Bianco (Contracts Management), Edith Merla (Contracts Management), Mica Clark Peterek (Head Start), and Rebecca Boysen (Senior

Services). Program components include speakers, workshops, and panels composed of female leaders from the community, mentors and mentees meeting regularly to work on professional development goals, and

capstone group projects for mentees to apply principles and skills learned through other aspects of the program that benefit the City and community.

## Community outreach focuses on homelessness

The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) sponsored and organized a homeless outreach for the purpose of coordination on August 10.

This year, SARAH will engage with homeless outreach workers and stakeholders directly. As the community changes, it is important to adapt programs to best serve the needs of the most vulnerable.

The outreach summit event, held at the San Antonio Area Foundation on Pearl Parkway, brought together frontline outreach staff and their



*Nancy Williams, Special Projects Manager, chats with a homeless outreach staff member.*

leadership, and community stakeholders.

Outreach teams mapped out their historical areas of coverage, identified homeless

encampments, and pinpointed underserved areas. The meeting also emphasized collecting and sharing important feedback from outreach staff about what barriers the unsheltered homeless in our community are facing.



**Our Mission: To strengthen the community through human services investments, resources, and partnerships.**

Please submit your articles and photos or news tips to Roland Martinez, Public Relations Manager, at [roland.martinez3@sanantonio.gov](mailto:roland.martinez3@sanantonio.gov), 210-207-5920.