

# Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter

HUD Recognized "High Performer"

*"The Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Love." - Angelique Gonzalez, Age 12*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"What Christmas Mean to Me in Harlingen, Texas" is a Christmas card activity that encourages the Family Learning Center students to think about the meaning of "Christmas". The students are given the opportunity to draw and write their ideas about Christmas. These Christmas drawings and quotes are featured as our 2018 Housing Authority Annual Christmas Cards. Six (6) drawings and ten (10) quotes were selected and featured on the 2018 Christmas Cards. Gift cards are awarded to the students that were selected to be featured on the Christmas Cards. Below are the Christmas quotes by the students.

- **Ismeny Atkins Age 16** "Christmas equals to family, smiles, love, and live. All these amazing words complete the puzzle pieces to have a perfect Christmas"
- **Isabella Cruz Age 6** "Christmas to me is happy and fun time. I also get to visit Santa Clause and open gifts. I also like the snow. I get to eat my favorite food that my mom makes."
- **Dana Cuellar Age 18** "Christmas a perfect time to not only celebrate the get together and tamales, but also the birth of Jesus Christ. Many get distracted with the all the lights and decorations that one forgets the real meaning. Christmas to me is a time to remember the "gift" and not the gifts."
- **Ashley Del Angel Age 11** "Christmas means to me when my family is together celebrating. We eat a lot of food together, play games, drink hot chocolate, and decorate the Christmas tree. We also get to see a movie and eat popcorn. We get presents, in the bottom of the Christmas tree. We even get to see our family that we don't get to see that much."
- **Angelique Gonzalez Age 12** "The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of love. It's something that you can't buy, it's something from up above. It also means to me a season of sharing and giving with friends and family. When Christmas time draws near, we think of joy and Christmas cheer with Santa and his eight reindeer."
- **Brianna Jonguitud Age 10** "Christmas means family to me. I love when everyone has a smile on their face. My favorite part about Christmas is when we all get together as a family and open our presents. But Christmas doesn't mean opening presents, because not everyone gets presents on the day of Christmas. Christmas means having fun and seeing everyone together as a family."
- **Ramiro Maldonado Age 10** "Christmas to me means family. It brings me joy, happiness, cheerfulness, and is totally awesome. I like to see someone from my family open presents and gifts. I don't care how many present I get. The real joy is we are celebrating Jesus' Birthday."
- **Cristo Moreno Age 7** "My family spends Christmas with each other. We don't have a lot of money, but mom and dad try to get us presents. I Love Christmas."
- **Yazmin Vega Age 17** "Christmas is not always about receiving or giving gifts. It's not always about food or the hot chocolate. Christmas to me means being together and gathered with your loved ones. It's a beautiful time of the year to thank God for the gift of family. Not everyone gets gifts on Christmas but that's not the importance of it because the greatest gift you could ever get is the opportunity to have your loved ones right next to you."
- **Amber Villanueva Age 16** "Christmas is the time of year that brings me joy. Hearing the laughter of my family while preparing the meal, smelling the cookies in the oven while my mouth starts watering. Christmas is a day that you get to be worry free, while enjoying the presence of your family."

The Christmas card drawings are featured on the following page. Please visit our website at [www.harlingen-ha.com](http://www.harlingen-ha.com) for the latest news about our Agency.

Yours Truly,

*Hilda Benavides*

Hilda Benavides  
Executive Director



# WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME



By: Ismeny Atkins (age 16), Le Moyne Gardens



By: Dana Cuellar (age 18), Bonita Park



By: Amber Villanueva (age 16), Bonita Park



By: Brianna Jonguitud (age 10), Sunset Terrace



By: Yazmin Vega (age 17), Sunset Terrace



By: Cristo Moreno (age 7), Los Vecinos

## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER / SECTION 8 NEWS

The Harlingen Housing Authority held its 12th Annual Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 Landlord & Homeownership Conference on Friday, November 2, 2018 at the Le Moyne Gardens Apartments located at 3221 N. 25th Street in Harlingen, Texas.

The focus of this Conference was to inform the Harlingen Community of our new HCV/Section 8 Homeownership Program. This new HCV/S8 Homeownership Program will allow HCV/S8 families to use their voucher to purchase a home and continue to receive a monthly Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) for Homeownership. HCV/S8 families must qualify for the new program.

Requirements are as follows;

- Income and Employment must be consistent for at least two years
- Elderly & disabled families are exempt from Income and Employment requirements
- VASH & Veteran participants may qualify
- Family must be a first-time home-buyer
- Homeownership Counseling classes and certification
- Other requirement may be needed for eligibility

The Presentations during the Conference were given by, the Brownsville Community Development Corporation, Habitat for Humanity and BBVA Compass Bank. These agencies informed our participants of the different Homeownership Programs they offer. Contact information for presenters is below.

For more information or questions on the HCV/S8, VASH or Homeownership Programs, please contact Ms. Diana Perez, HCV Program Administrator at 956-428-4026 Ext. 126 or email her at dperez@harlingen-ha.com



**Diana Perez**

HCV Program  
Administrator



*Ms. Claudia Kowalski - Counselor at  
Brownsville Community  
Development Corporation  
901 E. Levee St. - Brownsville, Texas  
956-541-4955*



*Irene Benavides - Mortgage  
Lending-VP, Community  
Development Mortgage Banking  
Officer for BBVA Compass Bank  
629 E. Elizabeth - Brownsville, Texas  
956-547-3822*



*Hansel Ibarra - Director of  
Mortgages & Family Services  
for Habitat for Humanity  
507 N. 1st Street - Harlingen, Texas  
956-686-7455*

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2019

### MS. NANCY GARZA

Congratulations on being selected the "Employee of the Quarter", for the months of January, February, and March 2019.

You have taken the lead in the Admissions Department and you train other employees on unit offers and move-in procedures for the Low Rent Program. The on-line application process for both programs runs smoothly due to your knowledge and understanding. Your positive attitude and willingness to help others is a great asset to our Agency.





# PUBLIC HOUSING & MODERNIZATION UPDATE

## A NOTE FROM THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM:

We have overcome another year, thank you 2018. Welcome 2019 and all the good tidings that you will bring. Through our Community partnerships, our programs continue to prosper.

Listed below are updates of our ongoing activities:

- The Learning Centers are open from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at all communities. We have 14 young mentors that work directly with the children at the Learning Centers. This program is in partnership with Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD). The mentors assist the Master Teachers in guiding and leading our children with homework needs. We have also partnered with the HCISD Nutrition Dept. to offer a snack meal for our children at each of our communities. 25 meals are being served at each site.
- Our Annual Resource Fair, offered to our residents, was held on October 25, 2018 at Le Moyne Gardens. Over 50 agencies and vendors offered information on services to our residents.
- The Recycling Program is active in all our communities; recyclables are received twice a month.
- The Community Gardens at Le Moyne Gardens and Los Vecinos are blooming. This is a partnership with Healthy Harlingen's Nutrition Work group (part of the Mayor's Wellness Council), Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation, Yawhew Farms, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Program and the Food Bank. Our children and families are planting and harvesting their own organic vegetables to cook healthy meals. There are 7 families participating at Le Moyne Gardens and 9 at Los Vecinos.
- Our Book Rich Environment (BRE) Reading Initiative Program is a partnership with the United States Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and the Dept. of Education and is a program of the National Book Foundation. The program makes an impact on our children's education. Our community partners and the Housing Authority help promote reading skills to the children in our communities. A new book is introduced every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The books are read at the Family Learning Centers, the NINOS Head Start, the Boys and Girls Club, and neighboring HCISD schools. We also had a "Polar Express" BRE event held on December 13, 2018 at Le Moyne Gardens featuring guest speaker Edward Sandoval, Assistant Cameron County District Attorney. He read a Polar Express summary and all children received a bag full of books.
- Little Free Libraries in partnership with HCISD are being used daily at Los Vecinos, Bonita Park, Sunset Terrace, and Le Moyne Gardens. 15 to 20 books are being replenished weekly.
- All our communities have Active Tenant Associations, they are fundraising to raise funds for events and possible scholarships for our high school seniors. Thank you to all who serve on our associations.
- We currently have 3 police officers housed at our Public Housing Communities and have security patrol to ensure our residents' safety.



**Cynthia Lucio**  
Public Housing  
Administrator

## REVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ALL OUR COMMUNITIES

### LOS VECINOS

- Santiago Espinoza remodeled apt. #225. This job is 100% complete.
- Fast Signs replaced signs in the community. This job is 100% complete.
- Hurricane Fence replaced the fence in all areas. This job is 100% complete.
- Santiago Espinoza is remodeling apt. #151 and #152. This job is 70% complete.

### BONITA PARK

- Harlingen Water Works installed a water meter for irrigation. This job is 100% complete.
- Santiago Espinoza remodeled apartment #62. This job is 100% complete.
- Rudy De La Cruz repaired a water leak underneath the building of Apt. #99. This job is 100% complete.
- Computer Network Group is installing a wireless antenna and adjusting the phone connections at the shop area. This job is 65% complete.

### SUNSET TERRACE

- Grunert Construction, LLC. remodeled the Learning Center. This job is 100% complete.
- Rudy De La Cruz remodeled apartment #17. This job is 100% complete.

### ARAGON DUPLEXES

- No Contracts at this time.

### ARROYO VISTA COURT

- Rudy De La Cruz replaced ceramic tile in unit C and D. This job is 100% complete.

### LE MOYNE GARDENS

- Rio Sprinkler System landscaped the common areas. This job is 100% complete.
- Garcia Fence replaced partial fence in the east and south side. This job is 100% complete.
- Fast Signs replaced signs in all the community. This job is 100% complete.
- Rudy De La Cruz remodeled the Management offices. This job is 100% complete.
- Santiago Espinoza remodeled Apt. #42. This job is 100% complete.
- Park Place is installing a new playground. This job is 85% complete.
- GS Electric installed new exterior lights at the shop. This job is 100% complete.

### FLC APTS., WASHINGTON APTS., SONESTA DUPLEX AND 209 / 209-1/2 JACKSON ST., COCC

- Sharpline Coatings re-surfaced our parking lot next to 219 E. Jackson. This job is 100% complete.
- Holmont Construction installed a chimney cap on 209-1/2 E. Jackson St. This job is 100% complete.

Thank you to all our residents for your patience and also for helping keep all our communities safe and beautiful. May you continue to be blessed and may your house always be a loving and nurturing home.

# CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



*Bonita Park Warehouse and Awning*



*Bonita Park Exterior Door Replacement*



*Le Moyne Gardens Playground*



*Le Moyne Gardens Pavillion*



*Los Vecinos Basketball Court and Landscaping*



**Manager:**  
**Cynthia Aguilera**

## LOS VECINOS

We hope you and all your family had a Christmas filled with lots of laughter and memories. This holiday season we hoped our residents enjoyed spending time with their your family and friends. *"The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us."* Terri Marshall

On October 25, 2018 Le Moyne Gardens hosted the 5th Annual Resource Fair and it was a great success. Many social service agencies were there to answer any questions and offer their services. As an added bonus some of the agencies provided treats to all who visited their booth. We would like to thank the Le Moyne Gardens Tenant Association for happily serving all our families nachos, hotdogs and frito pies. It's great to see energetic attitude and beautiful smiles serving our community.



**Asst. Manager:**  
**Melissa Guajardo**

On November 30, 2018, Los Vecinos Tenant Association held their 1st Annual Friendship Feast of Sharing Thanksgiving Appreciation luncheon for all Los Vecinos residents. The ladies prepared up a feast consisting of turkey, mash potatoes, corn and much more. Residents enjoyed the meal and mingling with their neighbors. Please support all fundraisers by the Tenant Association. The money raised goes towards the Los Vecinos 2019 Scholarship Fund. People working together in a strong community with a shared goal and a common purpose can make the impossible possible.

On December 5, 2018, we had a very special visit from Santa Claus himself. Children enjoyed sitting and taking pictures with Santa as he asked them if they were naughty or nice. Seeing all the children smiling from ear to ear was a wonderful experience. On December 13, 2018, the Family Learning Center at Le Moyne Gardens had a special speaker Assistant Cameron County District Attorney, Mr. Edward Sandoval. The children sat quietly in their chairs as they listened to the Christmas story "Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg being read. After the story, the children watched the movie "The Polar Express" while enjoying some hot chocolate with cookies.

With the change in weather we have seen many kids enjoying the cooler days by riding their bikes, playing basketball or just running around in the playground. As many kids are enjoying the outdoors so was Ms. Julia Benavides from Los Vecinos. Ms. Benavides takes great pride and dedication in making her yard look exceptional. Congratulations and thank you Ms. Benavides, we appreciate you!

The Staff from Los Vecinos would like to wish every one of our residents a Happy New Year! May this New Year bring you hope, new opportunities, adventures and new ways to give and love.

### COMMUNITY UPDATES:

You may now submit your rent payments on line at: [harlingen.housingmanager.com](http://harlingen.housingmanager.com) or you may visit our Harlingen Housing Authority website at: <http://harlingen-ha.com>

Parking permits expired on December 31, 2018. Please come by the Le Moyne Gardens office to get your new parking permit.



*Gomez family celebrating Christmas*



*Los Vecinos children*



*Los Vecinos Learning Center Coaches and Students*



*Ms. Julia Benavides has beautiful landscaping.*



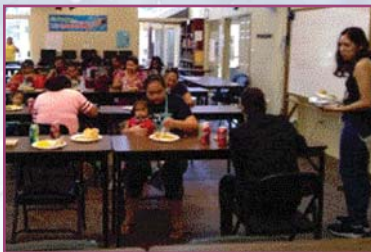
*The Los Vecinos Tenant Association held a Raffle in late November 2018. Ms. Rodriguez was the winner of a brand new crock pot. Ms. Xochilt Amaya, Tenant Association Treasurer (right) presents the winner with her prize.*



*Los Vecinos Mentors visit with Santa.*



*The Saldana family enjoying the community garden.*



*The Los Vecinos Tenant Association enjoying a meal with friends and neighbors at their 1st Annual Friendship Feast.*



*The Lucio family enjoying the outdoors.*

## BONITA PARK, SUNSET TERRACE, ARAGON & ARROYO VISTA COURT APARTMENTS



**Manager:**  
**Anna Morales**

Season's Greetings to one and all. This is the time for joy and cheer. The Bonita Park staff would like to wish each and every one of our residents and surrounding communities a joyous Christmas and an even happier New Year.

On October 25, 2018 the Harlingen Housing Authority held its 5th Annual Resource Fair at Le Moyne Gardens. Many social service agencies along with several local restaurants participated to provide valuable

information and answer any questions the community had. Each station handed out pamphlets, brochures, or various treats (i.e. pens, stress balls, note pads, and candies) for the residents. We also had several games that our families enjoyed. Our biggest success was the Cake Walk. Food was also provided to the guests in attendance. We had hot dogs, nachos, chips, waters and sodas. On behalf of Bonita Park, we would like to thank Le Moyne Gardens for hosting our event. We would also like to thank our residents that donated items, their time and effort to make our event a great success.

On December 5th and 6th our communities received a special visit from Old Saint Nick himself. Families anxiously waited for Santa to come to our community center. Children and adults enjoyed meeting and greeting with Santa Claus. Families were able to take memorable pictures to last a lifetime with their children and Santa Claus. Children received gift bags that had books, pencils, stickers and candy canes.



*Mr. Enriquez - Photo by Ernie J. Garrido*

On December 13, 2018, the Harlingen Housing Authority celebrated their 2nd Annual Polar Express event at Le Moyne Gardens. The guest speaker for this years event was the Assistant Cameron County District Attorney Mr. Edward Sandoval. Mr. Sandoval read the children a popular Christmas Story named "Polar Express" written by Chris Van Allsburg. After the story was read, Hope the Happy Home rewarded the children with gift bags. Students were able to eat cookies, drink cocoa, and get candies as they watched the movie "Polar Express".

This edition's resident corner would like to acknowledge the Henriquez family. The family is great community citizens that are humble and love lending a helping hand. When they see a family in need, without question they assist with any means possible. Thank you Henriquez family for being awesome community members. Mr. Henriquez was showcased in the Valley Morning Star.

### REMINDERS:

Pest Control is done monthly and dates are listed on your monthly calendars. Please post calendars in your home for referencing.

You may pay your rent online using the following link:  
[harlingen.housingmanager.com](http://harlingen.housingmanager.com)

For updates you may also check the Harlingen Housing Authority website at: <http://harlingen-ha.com>



**Asst. Manager:**  
**Elizabeth Zavala**







*Santa visits Bonita Park residents.*



*Bonita Park children are happy to see Santa.*



*Bonita Park Mentors - Kassandra Guillen, Amber Villanueva and Dana Cuellar*



*Some of our Student Mentors dressing up as characters for the Resource Fair.*



*Our Learning Center teachers, Mrs. Aguirre, Mrs. Cavazos and Mr. Leal, reading to some students.*



*Manager Anna Morales reading to some students during the Resource Fair.*



**Asst. Manager:  
Patricia Vega**

## LE MOYNE GARDENS

Christmas is here and Le Moyne Gardens is full of cheer! We hope each of our wonderful residents treasured and enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

The Le Moyne Gardens community was pleased to host the 5th Annual Resource Fair on October 25, 2018. The fair was a wonderful success! Several social service agencies and local authorities came to our site. Some brought treats and prizes for our residents but most importantly, helpful resources. The Le Moyne Gardens tenant association cheerfully served nachos, hot dogs, frito pies and soft drinks. Children enjoyed

taking pictures and playing games, especially the cake walk! Families also enjoyed our reading corner where their children received a bag of goodies and books. We sincerely, thank each and everyone who donated and volunteered for this event. Thanks for helping us make a difference!

Although we experienced very cold temperatures on November 9, 2018. Livingway Family Church members came to the Le Moyne Gardens community to distribute much needed groceries. They went above and beyond making sure our families received a box full of goodies for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Families received rice, beans, cereal, bread, ham and much more. Thank You, we truly appreciate all your kindness!

Santa was here! On December 6, 2018, The Le Moyne Gardens Family Learning Center had the privilege of sitting with Santa for a bit. Children cheerfully sat next to Santa with a bright smile for a quick picture. What a fantastic experience! Another great experience was on December 13, 2018. The Le Moyne Gardens Learning Center children and their families had the honor of listening to a representative from the Cameron County District Attorney's Office Edward Sandoval read the classic Christmas story "Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. Families listened attentively while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate. Thank you to Mr. Edward Sandoval your company is always welcome.

Exceptional service is what the Le Moyne Gardens community receives from Livingway Family Church. They enjoyed our company so much that they came back to our community on December 14, 2018 for a Christmas Celebration. The church members handed out food, sweet treats, and toys. Our children were particularly happy with that. Thank You once again Livingway Church! Your congregation truly inspires our community to serve others.



**Manager:  
Mary Prieto**



*Livingway brings Christmas to Le Moyne Gardens.*



*Le Moyne Gardens celebrates it's 1st Annual Friendship Feast.*

### COMMUNITY UPDATES:

Convenience is just a click away. Are you out of town or stuck at work? You may now submit your rent payments on line at: [harlingen.housingmanager.com](http://harlingen.housingmanager.com) or you may visit our Harlingen Housing Authority website at: <http://harlingen-ha.com>

Parking permits expired on December 31, 2018. Please come by the Le Moyne Gardens office to get your new parking permit. There is no fee!

Finally ... the staff at Le Moyne Gardens would like to wish every one of our wonderful residents a Happy New Year! May each day of the coming year be vibrant and full of new beginnings. Happy New Year!



**Asst. Manager:  
Norma Serino**

WINTER  
WonderLand



*A group of Folkloric dancers performed at our Resource Fair.*



*Fall planting in the Community Garden.*



*Our residents played Loteria while enjoying a light meal prepared by our Tenant Association and staff.*



*Residents enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast.*



*Elizarrarraz Family receives food donations.*



*Santa visits Le Moyne Gardens Learning Center.*



*Food donations received by Ms. Araguz and Mr. Posada.*



# FAMILY LEARNING CENTERS

## GREETINGS TO ALL!

First of all, I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season. It is hard to believe that fall has already past and we are now in the middle of winter. We have been very busy with many wonderful and exciting school activities. The Family Learning Centers opened September 8th to very eager students.

We continue to follow the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District's calendar and work very closely with the Parental Involvement's New Directions program. We are very fortunate to have such hard-working and dedicated teachers and student mentors for the 2018-19 school year. Together we can make a difference in our resident's lives.



**Beatriz Rodriguez**

Education  
Coordinator



*Elizarrarraz Family visit with Santa.*

We had a special appearance from Santa Claus at all our centers. Our students got the opportunity to take a picture with Santa, received a goody bag, and lots of books. Another very special guest visited our center for our Polar Express event at Le Moyne Gardens; Cameron County Assistant District Attorney, Mr. Edward Sandoval. He read the plot summary of the "Polar Express" and the children got to enjoy the movie and some hot chocolate.

Last but not least, we continue to enjoy our after-school meal program from HCISD. The students love it! Come and be part of this wonderful experience at any of our four centers. Can't wait to see you there!

On behalf of all the Master Teachers and myself, I would like to invite everyone that is in school to take advantage of the Family Learning Centers. We are open Monday-Thursday, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. We will make your 2018-2019 school year a great success!

*Develop a passion for learning.  
If you do, you will never cease to grow.*

— Anthony J. D'Angelo

## SENIORS WANTED

Looking for seniors! Please contact me if you wish to apply for any of the scholarships listed below. Email me at [brodriguez@harlingen-ha.com](mailto:brodriguez@harlingen-ha.com).

SCHOLARSHIPS:	MY DUE DATE:	DUE DATE:
PHADA	01/18/2019	01/25/2019
TX NAHRO	02/15/2019	02/22/2019
Harlingen Affordable Housing Corp.	03/08/2019	03/15/2019
Sunburst Rotary	04/01/2019	04/08/2019
HAVE-STR	03/28/2019	04/11/2019
NELROD	05/21/2019	06/03/2019



*Santa visits the Family Learning Center.*



*Children doing Christmas crafts*



*Acrylic Painting of a Snowman*



*Residents riding in the Christmas Parade float*



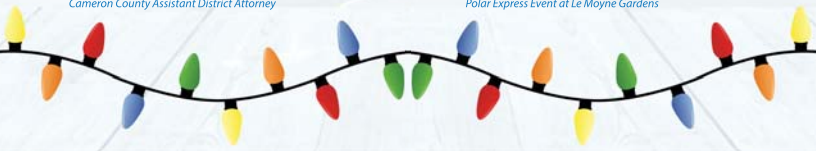
*"Polar Express" themed Christmas Parade float*



*Mr. Edward Sandoval,  
Cameron County Assistant District Attorney*



*Ms. Benavides and Ms. Lucio with children at  
Polar Express Event at Le Moyne Gardens*



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Angie Rodriguez**  
Resident Events  
Coordinator

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our terrific residents! May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be with you during this holiday season and throughout the New Year. Our Tenant Associations from Los Vecinos, Bonita Park, Sunset Terrace, Le Moyne Gardens, Arroyo Vista Courts and Aragon participate in several outstanding events and gatherings monthly. The Tenant Associations are very active.

Our 5th Annual Resource Fair was held on October 24th at Le Moyne Gardens. The fair brought together community organizations and resources in one location. Molina Healthcare, Driscoll Healthcare, Denta Quest, Rodeo Dental, and the Harlingen Public Library were some of many that participated. This year, 51 vendors participated and were able to provide helpful information to our 367 registered guests. We humbly thank all our volunteers, vendors and the Harlingen Housing Authority Staff for helping us make this event a great success!

On October 31st, we participated in the City of Harlingen's Halloween on Jackson Street event. The staff decorated the Main Office located on Jackson Street with a cemetery scene, scary trees and pumpkins. Candies were given out, while we enjoyed all the smiling faces in different costumes.

On November 7th, we participated in the HEB Feast of Sharing event. HEB's Annual Feast of Sharing, brings together families, friends and neighbors while also showing appreciation to it's customers. Thousands of families were served a meal. The Harlingen Housing Authority Staff is very proud to have volunteered along side our residents serving our community.

On November 30th, the Los Vecinos Tenant Association held their 1st Annual Friendship Feast of Sharing. The Friendship Feast of Sharing is a way to fellowship amongst the residents of Los Vecinos. A total of 40 families were served. The residents enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal while they played a game of Loteria.

On December 7th, we participated in the RGV Jaycees Christmas Parade. The theme for this year's float was "T'was the Night for Christmas Movies". We had the train from the "Polar Express" movie as our float. We are very proud of the outstanding participation from all our communities.



*Los Vecinos Friendship Feast*



*Community Garden participants*

We are pleased to announce that our community vegetable gardens play an important role in helping our communities maintain a healthy lifestyle. Los Vecinos and Le Moyne Gardens have planted several yummy veggies like cauliflower, habanero chile, purple onion and many more. Planting and harvesting vegetables has helped residents distinguish the difference between store bought vegetables and organic vegetables. If you would like to participate please contact me at [aquezada@harlingen-ha.com](mailto:aquezada@harlingen-ha.com) or at 423-6213.

As I mentioned earlier our Tenant Associations are very involved in the communities. I would like to encourage all our residents to join the associations. Monthly tenant association meetings are held for each site on the following days:

- Los Vecinos residents meet every 1st Wednesday of the month.
- Sunset Terrace residents meet every 2nd Monday of the month.
- Bonita Park residents meet every 3rd Thursday of the month.
- Le Moyne Gardens residents meet every 4th Wednesday of the month.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our residents for shining bright. You help keep our communities safe and beautiful.



*Sandra with Superior Health Care  
attends the 1st Annual Friendship Fest and Loteria*



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



Great food at the Resource Fair.



Resource Fair offers lots of entertainment.



Great turnout for the Resource Fair.



Children enjoyed face painting at the Resource Fair.



## CRIME PREVENTION

Our Crime Prevention Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at Le Moyne Gardens.

Attendees were Harlingen Housing Authority Management and Administration, In-house Police Officers, Valley Metro Security, and Public Housing residents.

A presentation was held by Ms. Guadalupe Trevino and Ms. Daisy Board with Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas. They presented on the importance of talking and listening to our children regarding bullying. We participated in an activity that focused on Communication.

The crime statistics for each of our communities were reviewed and ideas were shared on how we



October 2018 Crime Prevention Meeting

can improve safety measures amongst our residents. Working as a team, we can ensure our communities continue to be a safe and comfortable place to live.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at Los Vecinos at 10:00 a.m.



Harlingen Police Department Christmas Toy Drive



P.O. Box 1669 • Harlingen, Texas 78551  
 Phone: (956) 423-2521  
 Fax: (956) 425-0455  
 Aragon Apartments  
 1810 & 1814 Aragon Drive  
 423-2341  
 Arroyo Vista Court Apartments  
 505 Arroyo Vista Court  
 423-2341  
 Bonita Park Apartments  
 601 South Rangelville Road  
 423-2341  
 Le Moyne Gardens Apartments  
 3221 North 25th Street  
 425-4248  
 Los Vecinos Apartments  
 702 South M Street  
 423-6213  
 Sunset Terrace Apartments  
 1401 N. Sunset Drive  
 423-7353

# Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter

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Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter - Issue 65

The Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter informs residents of current and upcoming events and enhances communication between residents, the Harlingen Housing Authority staff, and friends of the Authority.

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## Thanks

Hilda Benavides  
*Executive Director*

Brendan Hall  
*Legal Counsel*

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Vanessa Serna  
*Chairperson*

Carlos "Charlie" Perez  
*Vice-Chairperson*

Julio Cavazos  
 Maria I. Borjas  
 Carlos Muñiz

Special Thanks To:  
 The Honorable  
 Chris Boswell, Mayor  
 City of Harlingen

*Boys and Girls Club  
 Executive Director:  
 Gerald Cathright*

## Family Learning Centers Staff:

Beatriz Rodriguez  
*Educational Coordinator*  
 Jose Luis Cavazos, Ph.D.  
*Parental Involvement Director*

Norma Cavazos  
 Bonita Park  
 Julia Aguirre  
 Sunset Terrace  
 Jesse Leal  
 Le Moyne Gardens

Alma Becerra  
 Los Vecinos

## Tenant Council Representatives:

Angie Rodriguez  
*Resident Event Coordinator*  
 Bonita Park  
 Maria C. Garcia  
 Le Moyne Gardens  
 Elvira Martinez  
 Sunset Terrace  
 Mari Cruz Fernandez  
 Los Vecinos  
 Patricia Aguilar

## HHA Staff

Cynthia Aguilera  
 Hilda Benavides  
 Esmeralda Castillo  
 Arturo Cuin  
 Dalia De Lucio  
 Margarita Garcia  
 Ruben Garcia  
 Nancy Garza  
 Melissa Guajardo  
 Carlos Lopez  
 Omar Lozano  
 Cynthia Lucio  
 Rosalinda Lucio  
 Adolpho Maldonado  
 Norma Menchaca  
 Jose Montoya  
 Anna Morales  
 Jorge Olivares  
 Luis Ortega  
 Diana Perez  
 Mary Prieto

Angie Rodriguez  
 Beatriz Rodriguez  
 Ben Sabado  
 Oscar Sandoval  
 Elijio Sanchez  
 Cruz Sosa  
 Norma Serino  
 Ariana Valle  
 Patricia Vega  
 Elizabeth Zavala  
 Joe Zepeda

**HARLINGEN**



Housing Authority