



Horizons

Publication of the Volunteer Services Council of the
San Antonio State School

www.sastateschoolfriends.org

APRIL 2007

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Efforts to Improve Fiesta Underway

Can you believe it is Fiesta time? We can't either! With less than two weeks to go, we are hard at work preparing for our annual State School Fiesta Event. The booths are ordered, the BBQ pits are in place and the decorations ready. Please bring your family and friends to the event Saturday, April 21st.

This year, we are excited to have radio personality, Hot Henrietta of Jammin 94.1 as our Parade Grand Marshall. The parade begins at noon and will be filled with music, floats and Fiesta Commission Royalty. Among the entertainment line-up is crowd favorite, Patsy De Klown and Kazamba, a colorful dance troupe that regularly participates in the Flambeau Night Parade. Little Miss SASS Fiesta winners will be announced and take part in a cere-

mony before the parade.

Food booths will sell turkey legs, hamburgers, roasted corn, sno-cones, Frito-Pie, hot dogs and much more.

Publicity for the event has been stepped up. A colorful banner now hangs outside the facility on the fence and ads will run in the Southside Reporter and La Prensa one week prior.

Also improved is an extended children's area that will have a duck pond, moon bounce, ring toss, tattoo/sticker booth, face painting and basketball hoop game.

"We had this request from parents last year," said Irene Chavez, Community Relations Director, "so we did it. We want to improve to keep getting bigger and better."

Milan Students Adds Style Before Ball



Thirty individuals received free services from students.

Students from the Milan Institute of Cosmetology came to the SASS Volunteer Pavilion on February 9 to help individuals served by the State School look their best for the Sweetheart Ball.

Six students and one instructor provided hair cuts and styles for men and women and

make-up and nail polish application for the women in just the right shade to match their outfits for the dance.

Thirty consumers received at least one service and some received as many as three.

The services provided totaled an in-kind donation value of \$303 at the already reduced prices normally charged by the cosmetology school. At the dance, several individuals happily flaunted their new styles and received compliments from others.

"At first, we didn't know what to expect," said Chance Bert, student. "I really liked the guys I did. We will definitely be back."

Many thanks to instructor, Deborah Green and students Jessica Guerrero, Maria Frias, Chance Bert, Leticia Restivo, Nicoli Elliott, and Joanne Troché for their time and talents on behalf of the people we serve.

5K Run/Walk Planned for September

Date
Sat., September 8, 2007

Registration
Early registration ends August 15.
On-line: www.iaapweb.com

You may also make check and mail registration to:
Volunteer Services Council,
6711 S. New Braunfels, Ste. 500,
San Antonio, TX 78223

Individuals
Early Registration \$20
Race Day \$25
Corporate Team, Team of 5 \$200

Events
5K Run/Walk—8:00 a.m.
Kids Run—8:30 a.m.
Medals to all kids—special prizes for top 3 finishers.

The State School is a local hot spot for cross-country runners who enjoy the large open area on campus. During the year, the facility plays host to several runs, including the Antonian H.S. Preparatory Invitational which boasts more than 2,000 participants.

This year, the VSC is hosting their second 5K Run/Walk to benefit individuals served by the State School.

The run/walk is set for Saturday, September 8 and will begin in front of the Developmental Center. The race course runs past the lake and straight through the State Hospital.

The VSC has selected IAAP to coordinate the run for the event. IAAP is a local company who recently coordinated the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure and the Spurs 5K Walk/Run.

“It’s a beautiful course that is gaining popularity among runners,” said Jose Iniguez, IAAP Race Coordinator. “We hope to highlight the campus and the cause.”

The event will also feature a kids run that will be broken up in age brackets. Kids will receive medals for their efforts. Goodie bags and t-shirts will be passed out to all participants.

Corporate teams of five members are \$200 and include special parking, food, team photo and their company name on the t-shirt. For more details, please call

531.3729.

“We hope this will provide an opportunity to renew those resolutions of good health that many have and support the VSC,” said Irene Chavez, Community Relations Director. “It’s a win-win situation.”



VSC Rummage Sale SASS Volunteer Pavilion

Friday, June 15
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
and
Sat., June 16
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Want to donate items? Call us to arrange a pick-up time—531.3729

Last Chance for Memorial Garden Bricks!

We will be taking orders for bricks to be placed in the Memorial Garden from April 15th—May 4th. Bricks are \$50 and can include up to 4 lines of text, including spaces (10 characters per line). New engraving techniques will make them look a little different than the ones already in the garden. For question and placing orders, please call 531-3729 or email irene.chavez@dads.state.tx.us

Fiesta Royalty Selected

The Coronation Ball will be held on Friday, April 13th at 6:30 at the Developmental Center Gym and will include dinner and dancing.

2007 Miss Fiesta San Antonio, Samantha Garcia will be our special guest of honor and will crown Kings and Queens on stage.

SASS Royalty represents the home on which they live and each receives a crown and handmade sash which they wear during the parade. During the Saturday Fiesta event on April 21st. Royalty will ride on a special float and wave to the crowd. The Court of Royalty are:

Home 670 -Sylvia S., Home 766 - Lydia N., Home 665 -David R., Home 671- Jose Briones., Home 672—Robert M., Home 668—Cheyne H., Home 673-Trini G., and Esther S and Home 674 -Steve A and Joan L.

For more information on attending or volunteering for this event, please call Nancy Mifflin at 531.3728.

MR Month Celebrated with Tour, Luncheon



100 individuals were honored for their employment efforts at the luncheon.



Ms. Rix was awarded "Employee of the Year" by SASS Employment Services Staff.

What is the San Antonio State School?

Choose the correct answer.

- A. Home for 300 individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities
- B. Major economic engine employing 600 staff on the Southside
- C. Residential facility with many programs, including a sheltered workshop encouraging independence through work
- D. All of the above.

The correct answer is D.

This information distributed via postcard to over 4,000 business and community partners in March, inviting them to tour the State School. Unfortunately, we did not have many people show up to tour the facility. While disappointing, it also brings us perspective on the amount of work still needed in the area of public awareness that we must do.

Awareness was spread in the form of blue ribbons in recognition of Mental Retardation Awareness Month (March). Ribbons were

made available and worn by staff, family and friends. Several bunches of ribbons were made by Betty Cunningham, VSC Board Member, in her spare time.

Every year, we receive proclamations from the City and hold special ceremonies to highlight MR Month. On March 31st, Employment Services and the VSC hosted a luncheon honoring the employment efforts of staff and consumers. The event highlighted achievements of consumers and recognized those local businesses that provide the consumers the opportunity to work.

SASS has standing contracts with Bolner's Fiesta, Accu-print, Oblate Missions, San Antonio River Authority and several others.

"We made a film detailing what we do," said Martin Garcia, Director of Employment Services. "There was a lot of clapping and cheering as consumers recognized themselves on the screen."

Recognition was also given to staff. Among the awards were "Trainer of the Year" given to Garnett Williams and "Special Recognition for Contracts" to John Brown who has secured over 110 contracts for consumers since Nov. 2005. Congratulations to everyone!

Fiesta doesn't just happen. It takes a team effort, coordination and funds. With your donation, the VSC can continue to provide tickets to the Fiesta Flambeau Parade and Battle of Flowers Parade, provide funds for snacks on outings, help with our Fiesta event and much more. Will you help us?

I will make a donation for Fiesta in the amount of:

__ \$25 __ \$50 __ \$100 __ Other \$ ____

I can help with either time (volunteering at the event on April 21st) or with in-kind goods for Fiesta. Please contact me soon.

Name _____

Address, City and Zip _____

Phone and/or Email _____

Please make check out to the Volunteer Services Council of SASS

State School Fiesta Event

Sat., April 21st
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Volunteer Services Council of San Antonio State School
6711 S. New Braunfels, Suite 500
San Antonio, Texas 78223

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Father**
Barbara Jones