

This Month:

Pharrmers Mkt.
Humanitarian Relief
LRGV Birding
JDA Class of 2016
BGC Summer Camps
Adopt A Cat
Wishes In Wonderland
Salvation Army Partnerships
Remembering Laurie P. Andrews

IN PRINT, ON-LINE & ON FACEBOOK

The Valley Spotlight

**FREE
TAKE ME HOME**

June 2016

The Little Paper You'll Want To Keep & Share

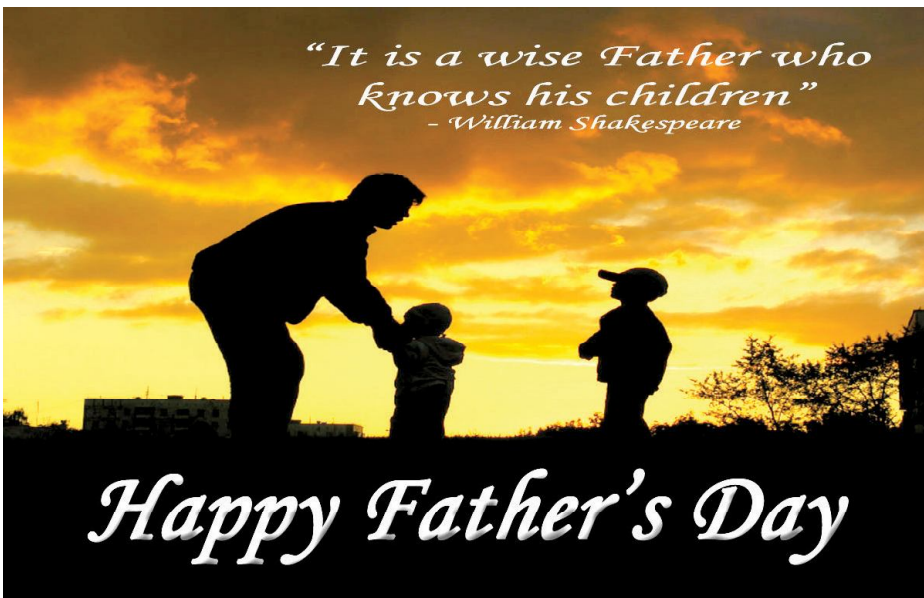
Vol. 3 No. 1



This Kitten Has Nine Lives ...

None of them should be spent
in a rescue shelter!

**June is
ADOPT A CAT MONTH**



**June is
National
Aquarium
Month**

It Happened in June ...

June 14, 1775 - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.

June 5, 1783 - The first sustained flight occurred as a hot-air balloon was launched at Annonay, France, by brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier.

June 6, 1872 - Pioneering feminist Susan B. Anthony was arrested, tried and sentenced to pay \$100, for voting in a presidential election at Rochester, New York.

June 25, 1876 - Only one scout and a single horse survived 'Custer's Last Stand' on the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana.

June 19, 1885 - The Statue of Liberty arrived in the U.S. in 350 pieces and packed in 214 crates.

June 14, 1922 - Warren G. Harding became the first U.S. President to broadcast a message over the radio.

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France.

By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their

accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953.

June 19, 1953 - Having been found guilty of espionage, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They were the first U.S. civilians to be sentenced to death for espionage and were also the only married couple ever executed together in the U.S.

June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded. He died at 1:44 am, June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children.

June 30, 1971 - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, lowering the voting age of American citizens to 18 years or older.

June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space, beginning a six-day mission aboard the space shuttle Challenger, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

June 11, 1994 - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended.

June is Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Month!

by Omar I. Rodriguez
Manager of Communication & Advocacy, Food Bank RGV

What better way to celebrate the abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables that are grown here in the Rio Grande Valley than to visit our Pharrmers Market each Thursday from 10am to 1pm at the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley? The Food Bank RGV is much more than a charitable organization committed to feed hungry families here in the South Texas, it also has a mission to educate our community on how to eat healthier. One way is through our Community Garden and Pharrmers Market.

The Pharrmers Market is a weekly farmers market featuring chemical-free fruits, vegetables, herbs and baked/prepared goods. Other vendors also sell handcrafted items that you just can't find anywhere else!



Chris Bueno, Community Garden Manager

The market sells produce grown at the Food Bank RGV's community garden with gems ranging from carrots and kale to beets and strawberries.



Even clients who take gardening classes can sell their yield at the market in order to learn business skills and find economic self-sufficiency. Other classes include gardening for seniors and veterans.

There is almost too much to tell in one column when it comes to the benefits of eating fresh, chemical-free fruits and vegetables . . . you really have to come and taste for yourself!

The Pharrmers Market is located in the front parking lot of the old Valley Fruit Company, 724 N. Cage Blvd., Pharr, Texas.

We accept SNAP and WIC vouchers.

Find out more at: www.foodbankrgv.com
The Pharrmers Market is ending its 3rd season at the end of June to re-open in Fall.



Providing help
Creating hope

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

Families That Need Our Help

By Alma Seong

Joe Longoria has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for several years and is an active volunteer with the Humanitarian Relief Effort in the Respite Center at Sacred Heart Church in McAllen.

With a passion to help those less fortunate, he has helped to collect clothes, food gift cards, phone gift cards, and other various in-kind items needed daily at the center. He has brought ten truckloads of these items from East Texas all the way to the Rio Grande Valley.

Joe has also served as a volunteer in the center on many occasions sorting and folding clothes.

Upon hearing of his relentless service to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV), I asked him; "Joe, why do you continue to help?" In answering my question he relayed to me this story which had deeply touched his heart.

One day while he was volunteering at the center, a little girl about 4 years old kept gazing at him. He could not help but look back and smile at her as she giggled. She beckoned him to come over to her, which he did without hesitation. He then knelt down to see what the little one wanted to say or do. She took off the necklace that she was wearing, her only possession, and put it around his neck. She smiled as if saying "thank you, this is all I have but I give it to you as a token of my gratitude." The little girl's mother saw her daughter's interaction with Joe and gave him a teary-eyed smile. This brought tears to his eyes as well and at that moment, he felt encouraged to continue to help the refugee families.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

With this June 2016 issue, The Valley Spotlight celebrates the beginning of our third year of publishing. We gratefully acknowledge all of the RGV businesses who have helped to make this possible through advertising with us over the past two years.

We look forward to continuing to present you, our readers, with interesting and informative stories regarding life in the

From that moment on, Joe has never forgotten the little girl or her mother. He prays for them and expresses this incredible experience to his fellow Knights, family, and friends asking them and others to assist the center in whatever way they can.

Joe says "These people come to us with nothing; they are families that need our help."

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of the refugee families arriving in the Valley, there are several ways you can help Catholic Charities of the RGV continue with the mission to assist them.

CCRGV has made a wish list at Amazon.com where you can purchase item(s) needed to assist refugee families at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas.

To use this wish list, go to www.amazon.com. Go to the "List" tab Click on "Find a List or Registry" Type in Catholic Charities RGV Then click on the "Search" button. (see diagrams to the right)

beautiful Rio Grande Valley!

As we continue with our mission to raise community awareness about programs and services provided to enhance the lives of RGV residents, we invite you to submit suggestions for stories to be told. We also invite you to send us something you have written pertaining to the RGV lifestyle for consideration.

Send all communications to:
rod@rgvaff.com



Immigrant Families at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, TX
Photo provided by Catholic Charities of the RGV

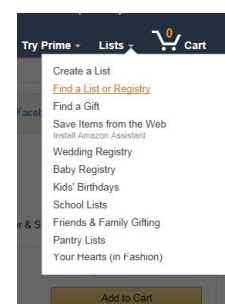
When you purchase item(s) please select the Humanitarian Respite Center (In-kind) address listed for the shipping.

If you would like to give financial support, please send a check payable to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley 700 N. Virgen de San Juan San Juan, Texas 78589

In the side note or memo, please indicate that it is for the Humanitarian Relief.

If you are interested and able to serve as a volunteer at the center, please contact Luis at volunteercoordinator@cdob.org.

Thank you and God Bless.



Find a List or Registry

List Catholic Charities RGV

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True Tales of a Valley Birder

by Keith Hackland (alamoinn@aol.com)

Forty Countries' Folks Meet Forty Bird Species . . .

The lure of birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley is strong. It amazes us, but really should not, that birders from so many countries hear about the Valley and make their way here, binoculars and cameras in hand.

During April we at Alamo Inn B&B, Gear and Tours had a busy month, typical of spring time. A young couple showed up in early April from Japan. Shy and full of smiles, they knew all about birding the Valley, and enjoyed a great time. They were out early and back late, filled with bird sightings and stories of loving it.

Early in April our group of 8 highly focused German birders made the Valley their home for a while. We guided them to see 265 bird species, many of them migrants, and returned the birders to Houston's International Airport for their flight home.

Darren, a notable artist from Scotland guided a tour from Great Britain. His tour seemed relaxed and to move at slower rate, but appearances can be deceptive. By the time they were done and returned to Houston via the Texas Hill Country, their bird species count was 300, a remarkable number.

In mid-April thirteen birders from Denmark checked in and took over one wing of our hotel. They were very interesting people, and also very successful at spotting birds. We enjoyed getting to know them. Our staff birding guide, Mary Beth, and a mutual friend Pat, provided them with top-notch guiding particularly identifying unseen but heard birds by their calls. The Danes loved eating Texas steaks and Tex-Mex foods. Their memory banks were packed full when they drove north from the Valley, full of our birds and food and laid back culture.

Called Up To Pitch

Two 90-year-old women, Bertha and Betty, had been friends all of their lives. When it was clear that Bertha was dying, Betty visited her every day.

One day Betty said, 'Bertha, we both loved playing softball all our lives, and we played all through high school. Please do me one favor: when you get to heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there.'

Bertha looked up at Betty from her deathbed and said, 'Betty, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you.'

Shortly after that, Bertha passed on. A few nights later, Betty was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, 'Betty, Betty.'

'Who is it', asked Betty, sitting up suddenly. 'Who is it?' 'Betty -- it's me, Bertha.'

'You're not Bertha. Bertha just died.'

'I'm telling you, it's me, Bertha,' insisted the voice. 'I'm in heaven and I have some really good news and a little bad news.'

'Tell me the good news first,' said Betty.

'The good news,' Bertha said, 'is that there's women's softball in heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before me are here, too. Even better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always Springtime and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired.'

'That's fantastic,' said Betty. 'It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?'

'You're pitching Tuesday.'



Birders from Norway, Maine, Washington, Canada, Texas, California, and a dozen other U.S. states stayed with us during April for anything from one night to two weeks each. They loved the fall outs of small birds on South Padre Island.

These fall outs occur when winds blowing from the north blow out into the Gulf of Mexico. The song birds that migrate over the Gulf, flying into head winds all night become exhausted. They flop down onto any land they see, which often turns out to be South Padre Island. Here birders love that they can see these beautiful birds close up (ten to thirty feet).

Because the birds are exhausted, they drop

out of the sky to rest in shrubs and trees, becoming instant celebrities to the gathered photographers and birders. Water and food are provided by kind South Padre Island and Port Isabel birders.

The birds start arriving about 11 am and stay one to three nights, gathering their strength to continue their journey to our Northern states and Canada, where they go to nest.

The Valley welcomes birders, having recorded visitors from forty different countries including places like: Sweden, France, Netherlands, South Africa, Australia, Moldova (look it up, adjacent to Ukraine), Bulgaria, and New Zealand. We similarly welcome birds from Central and South America, little hummingbirds and tanagers, cuckoos and orioles, as well as raptors such as Broad-winged Hawks and Mississippi Kites. Probably a good forty species for a birder who spends a week at peak migration counting species at fall outs.

All these bird species and birders from all those countries meet up in the Valley in spring. What a party. What excitement. Local birders post to Facebook on a site called Rio Grande Valley Birding. It is fun monitoring the site through the spring as excited birders post their notes and photos of brilliant birds at their best in breeding plumage.

It is fun to read all about it Facebook, surpassed of course by the fun of experiencing it. Make a plan to go out birding next April and May. If you cannot make it to South Padre Island, any patch of Valley trees is likely to support its share of migrants. As you photograph and admire the forty abundant, tame bird species, listen to the accents of the birders from forty different countries and from forty different states . . .



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Juan Diego Academy Announces Top Academic Honors for Class of 2016

Juan Diego Academy Catholic Regional High School in Mission is pleased to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2016.

Leading the way as Valedictorian is Matthew Mercado, 18, son of Drs. Allan and Gladys Mercado. Born in McAllen and raised in Edinburg, Matthew attended St. Joseph Catholic School prior to attending Juan Diego Academy (JDA). While attending JDA, Matthew helped organize and lead the liturgical ensemble, assisted in leading the basketball team to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 1A State Semi-Finals, and participated as the Vice President of the National Honor Society among many other extracurricular activities and accomplishments.

Matthew has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America since 8th grade and recently received the rank of Eagle, scouting's highest honor. Additionally, Matthew participated in the Texas Music Teachers Association Theory Exam and received a Superior mark from the National Piano Scholars Association numerous times.

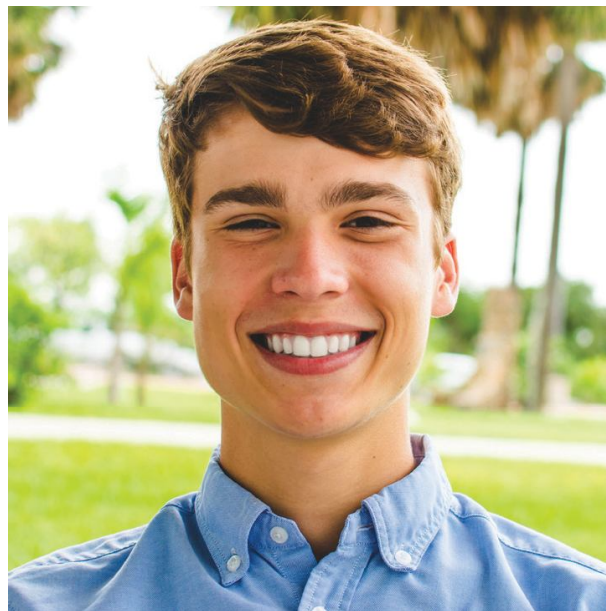
The second salutatorian in JDA history is Matthew Joseph Lee, son of Mr. Thomas Lee and Mrs. Kristie Lee. Born in McAllen, Texas, he was raised there all of his life and went to school in the Sharyland ISD through eighth grade. Hearing about JDA through his home parish of St. Paul in Mission, he decided to give the school a try. He was shocked at first to be in such a small school community, but he has never looked back. At JDA, Matt participated in Soccer, Basketball, and Track, earning many individual and team honors such as TAPPS First Team All-State for Basketball, back-to-back District MVP in Basketball, and First Team All-District for Soccer. He led the basketball team to two district titles and the TAPPS 1A Basketball State Semi-Finals in 2015.



Matthew Mercado 2016 JDA Valedictorian

Reflecting on his high school experiences, Matthew states, "Juan Diego Academy has really cultivated me into the strong individual I am today. By attending this institution, I feel that I'm prepared to face the world and strive toward my future goals. My four years at Juan Diego Academy taught me perseverance, patience, and prudence. There have been countless instances in which I was tempted to give up. I will always cherish my experiences at JDA; those experiences have really shaped me and will propel me to success."

Matthew will be attending UTRGV this fall and will study biomedical sciences under the A-PRIME TIME program. Matthew's advice to current high school students is to, "Always keep the intrigue. Search for what you are passionate about and pursue it wholeheartedly. One of the greatest gifts a human being has is their freedom to chase their dreams. Work hard and never stop trying."



Matthew Joseph Lee 2016 JDA Salutatorian

He graduates as the school's all-time leading scorer. Among his other extracurricular activities and accomplishments, Matt has participated on several retreat teams and is a senior class officer. He is also a member of the National Honor Society. In his parish, Matt participates as an altar server and as a team member with the Catholic Youth Renovation Project. Matt enjoys spending his time assisting others and participating in his community as much as possible. Matt will attend Texas A&M University in the fall, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Matt leaves his JDA community with these words of wisdom for future graduates, "Don't be lazy. Laziness can hinder one's full potential as a student, athlete, or minister. Always push yourself to be the best you can be."

Plain Chachalaca ... Hardly !

by Christine Donald, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Santa Ana NWR

The Plain Chachalaca (chah-chuh-lah-kuh) is a large chicken-like bird in the family Cracidae whose origins are in Mexico and Central America. Here in the United States they can only be found in Southern Texas.

However, calling the Chachalaca plain just isn't right!

There is nothing at all plain about these fascinating birds which I call "Chachies". If you get bored watching them, then you aren't really paying attention to what's going on. They are cuckoo! No pun intended. When you come to Santa Ana NWR in the morning, they will greet you with their loud raucous calls that seem to be in surround sound. Peering up into the trees you will see several of these birds calling out to others all around the refuge.

To some this may be an annoying cacophony, however, to me it is the "Chachie Symphony" which greets me as I arrive to work each morning. Not classical music, but definitely one of the wondrous sounds of nature which I always enjoy when I am outside.

Morning feeding time always brings in the Chachies, like somebody ringing a dinner bell, here they come. Chachies get use to people quickly. They will walk right up to you impatiently waiting to be fed. If you are a little slow to get the chow out for them they often come right up to the window and look into the building as if to say, "Hurry up, you're late, we're hungry!"

If they could knock on the door they would.

They are intriguing to watch during breeding season.

Chachies' tempers fly as the males chase each other and fly all over the place, often in an ungraceful manner. I had one almost run into me in its frenzied attempt to get away from another one.

Sometimes these large birds, up to a pound and a half, will land on tree branches too thin to fully support their weight. It is comical to watch them bobbing and bouncing low to the ground while the thin branch struggles to hold them.

My favorite time of the year is approaching when I see the young poults out with their mommas.



The hen stays very busy trying to keep her chicks hidden in the shrubs and bushes away from hungry hawks.

Another generation of chachies born who will live on the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge adding to the natural beauty of the site.

Come on out to Santa Ana NWR to enjoy the Chachalacas, but please ...

Don't Call Them Plain!

Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay
Alamo, TX 78516
956-784-7500

Remembering Laurie P. Andrews

Animal Advocate Honored In Naming Of New Animal Adoption Facility

By Amanda A. Taylor - Executive Assistant, The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center

With the grand opening of The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center on May 5, many have asked who exactly Laurie P. Andrews is and what she stood for. The woman behind the name of the new center was a strong advocate for animal wellbeing and displayed compassion for all creatures.

Laurie Andrews was born on May 31, 1946 in Mission and grew up in the Rio Grande Valley. Animals had always been a passion for Andrews, and they fascinated her throughout her life. "Animals have always been a huge part of her life," said daughter Ginger Hanna. "Ever since she was young she had horses and dogs. Both my parents had always cared for animals and they kind of instilled that in my sister and I, so we have lots of pets too."

After a long battle with cancer, Laurie P. Andrews passed away a little over two years ago.



Laurie P. Andrews

Andrews served on the board of directors back when Palm Valley Animal Center was called the Upper Valley Humane Society. As vice president of the Andrews Family Foundation, it was important to Andrews that various local animal organizations were recognized and given donations.

"Every year when the Andrews Family Foundation would decide which organizations to donate to, my mom always made it a point to include animal charities," said Hanna.

"She would even gather up towels and other things on her own to donate to different shelters."

Hanna recalled the many times her mom would find a stray cat or dog on the side of the road and not hesitate to render aid. "There were so many times we'd be with my mom, and she'd find a dog," Hanna said. "We'd take it to get vetted and find a good home for it. I do that now with my daughter, too. There's always a cat or dog that needs help."

The opening of the PAWS Center on May 5 would have been a huge honor to her, Hanna said. "She'd be absolutely ecstatic that this was happening, and she'd be so honored that this center is in her name," she said. "The most important things to my mom were her faith, her family and her pets. Those were the top things for her, so this would be huge to her."

It is because of Andrews' passion and dedication to animals in need that the PAWS Center bears her name. She will be remembered as a voice for the voiceless and will remain an important figure in the ongoing journey for animal welfare.

Palm Valley Animal Center would like to thank the Andrews Family Foundation for their generous contribution to The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center.



The community is invited to come out to the Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center to take a look at the new facility and adopt a forever friend.

The facility is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, closed Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The center is located at 2451 N. U.S. Expy. 281 in Edinburg. For more information, call (956) 720-4563.

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Boys & Girls Clubs Summer Programs




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Registration Begins:
April 11, 2016
Monday - Friday
8:30am-6:00pm

Summer Camp Dates
June 2nd - August 12th
Summer Camp Fee: \$100
Ages 6-12

Junior Staff Program
June 2nd - August 12th
Ages 13-18
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF McALLEN

Summer Camp 2016

Registration Begins:
April 12, 2016
Monday - Friday

Brand Center Summer Camp Dates June 1st - August 12th 7:45am-5:30pm Camp Fee: \$100 Membership fee: \$25 Ages 6-12	Roney Center Summer Camp Dates June 1st - August 14th 7:45am-5:30pm Camp Fee: \$110 Membership fee: \$25 Ages 6-12
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Brand Center - 956.682.5791 • Roney Center - 956.687.3910
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PHARR

Registration Begins:
Monday, May 2, 2016
Monday - Friday
Membership Fee: \$20

Main unit 10:30am-2:00pm 3:00pm-7:00pm	South Pharr Unit 1:00pm-7:00pm
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Session 1 \$50 (May 30 - June 21)
Session 2 \$50 (June 27 - July 22)
Session 3 \$50 (July 25 - August 12)

Main unit - 956.781.5437 • South Pharr Unit 956.787.6869
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MISSION

Summer Camp 2016

Registration Begins:
May 8, 2016
Monday - Friday
8:00am-5:00pm

Main Unit Summer Camp Dates June 6th - August 19th 7:45am-5:00pm Monday-Friday Camp Fee: \$150 Ages: 5-12	W.V. & Bannworth Sites Summer Camp Dates June 6th - July 29th 12:00pm-5:00pm Monday-Friday Camp Fee: \$75 Ages: 5-12	Jensen Unit STEM PROGRAM Summer Camp Dates June 6th - July 14th 9:00am-2:00pm Monday-Thursday Camp Fee: \$50 Ages: 5-12
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Main Unit - 956.585.3606 Like us on Facebook!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WESLACO

Summer Camp 2016

Registration Begins:
May 2th - 13th, 2016 &
Late Registration: May 23rd-31st, 2016 (*\$25 late fee)

Monday - Friday Summer Camp Fee: \$150 Summer Hours: 7:30am-5:30pm June 1st through July 29th Camp Fee: \$50 August 1st through August 19th Grades k-5th	STEM Program Arts & Crafts Books to Movie Healthy Habits Triple Play Tech Lab	Library Dance Social Games Room Aggies Summer Camp
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Patriot Dog says ...

Hey Kids!

Have fun this 4th of July

but

BE SAFE!



- Don't hold fireworks in your hand while lighting them!
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush and dry grass!
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can!
- Don't use fireworks near your pet, they don't like them!

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A Relationship of Mutual Convenience

Cats and humans have enjoyed an interdependent relationship for thousands of years.

The wildcat is the ancestor of the domestic cat. Evidence suggests that domestication of Old-World wildcats began approximately 7500 years BC in the Fertile Crescent region of the Near East. The association of wildcats with humans appears to have developed along with the growth of agricultural villages during the Neolithic Revolution.

When the first agricultural societies began to flourish these wild cats would wander into town to prey on rodents in and around grain storage facilities.



The wildcat is a small cat native to most of Africa, Europe, and Southwest and Central Asia into India, western China, and Mongolia.

The cats were delighted by the abundance of prey in the storehouses and people were delighted by the pest control.

It was a Win-Win situation!

It is believed by some that the cats sort of domesticated themselves. The cats invited themselves in, and over time, as people favored cats with more docile traits, certain cats adapted to this new environment, producing the dozens of breeds of house cats known today.

In the United States, cats are the most popular of house pets, with ninety million domesticated cats slinking around thirty-four percent of U.S. homes.



Hug Your Cat Day

Have you ever been sad until you got a hug? Physical contact alone raises spirits, and hugs release those good-feeling endorphins that help chase away the blues! So next time you're feeling melancholy, pick up your cuddly cat and give them a gentle, loving squeeze. Who knows, you may be lifting their spirits, too!

Of course National Hug Your Cat Day (June 4th) is a wonderful excuse to show your cat extra affection, but it's best if you practice it year-round. And if you don't have a cat, then now is your chance to consider adopting one.

Bring The Outdoors In To Make Your Indoor Cat A Happier Cat

Whether your cat has always been indoors or was once an outdoor kitty, try giving him as many of the joys of the outside world as you can, suggests cat trainer Alice Rhea in her book *Good Cats, Bad Habits*.

Plant a few pots of cat grass and catnip in a sunny window. Or create a jungle of cat-pleasing plants in pots big and small. Be sure the plants you offer are cat-safe. Many greens can be toxic to cats, including amaryllis, chrysanthemums, English ivy, iris, lilies, tulips, and more.

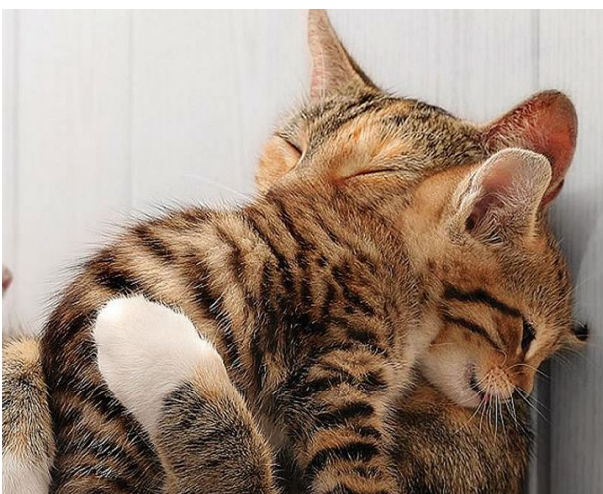
Mount bird and squirrel feeders outside a few windows so kitty is entertained by his furry and feathered neighbors.



Offer lots of perches by windows, on shelves, and via cat trees so kitty can keep an eye on the wildlife outside.

Create a secure outdoor enclosure so kitty can get even closer to the birds, breezes, and squirrels. The enclosure can be an existing one, like a screened porch, or you can build one kitty can reach through a cat door or window. To make the enclosure safe, be sure it has walls and a roof -- think something that looks like a chicken coop you can build with wire or plastic fencing. Or you can make a roofless enclosure as long as the walls are at least seven feet high and capped with a one-foot high fence angling inward.

June is Adopt A Cat Month



There are a lot of myths about cats living in animal shelters, like claims that they're damaged, feral or broken in some way. In fact, the vast majority of rescued animals are happy, healthy and well-adjusted, they just need to find a loving forever home. Cats are especially great companion animals for people who don't have the energy or ability to care for a dog, but still want someone around the house to keep them company.

Adult or Kitten?

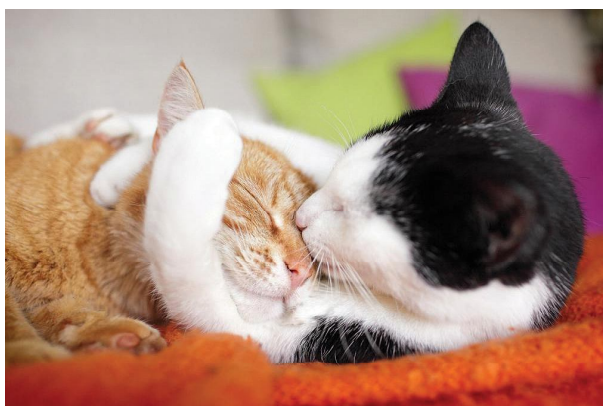
Shelters are usually overflowing with kittens, especially during spring kitten season. If you are thinking of adopting a kitten you should consider a few facts. A cat's average lifespan is 14 - 16 years. Some cats have even lived to be 30 plus years old.

Are you ready to make this kind of long term commitment? Kittens also require much more attention than adult cats.

Consider the time that you have available for play, litter training and bonding when making this important choice.

If you want a cat in your life but you don't have a lot of time for teaching a kitten how to use the litterbox, stay away from the toilet paper roll, and stop wreaking havoc on your shoes, an adult cat is definitely for you.

Adult cats already know the lay of the land and they tend to settle into routines quickly, making them great housemates. And if you travel a lot, consider adopting cats as a pair so they can keep each other company.



A shelter often has a pair of cats whom they'd love to see go out together because they're relatives or they've developed a close bond.

If you're looking for a cat to accompany an older adult or someone who's not as mobile, a mellow older cat might be a great fit.

Shelter cats are ready to go!

They're spayed or neutered, immunized, dewormed, microchipped and assessed for behavioral issues by the skilled staff at the shelter. They've also been trained to use the litterbox in most cases, so you don't have to worry about an awkward and potentially smelly transition to living at your house. Many also come with a certificate for a free first visit to the vet, and some shelters have a take-home package with food, toys and other goodies.

You're all set up for your first year of pet ownership, and your pet will be healthy, because the shelter has a vested interest in keeping its animals happy and healthy.

Come and find your purrfect companion at The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center.

**2541 N Expressway 281
Edinburg, TX
956-720-4563**

The Fascination of Aquariums

Aquariums are magical and scientific all at the same time. They provide lots of educational opportunities for your children as well as life-time memories for the family.

Since most of us will never become deep sea divers, aquariums such as the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi are our only opportunity to experience, up close and personal, the wonders of the undersea world.

At the aquarium, we can stare into the cold black eyes of the Great White Shark, watch a Piranha feeding frenzy and enjoy the smooth flight-like movements of a Stingray.

June is National Aquarium Month and a family day trip to the Texas State Aquarium will prove both exciting and educational for your entire family.

Check it out at www.texasstateaquarium.org

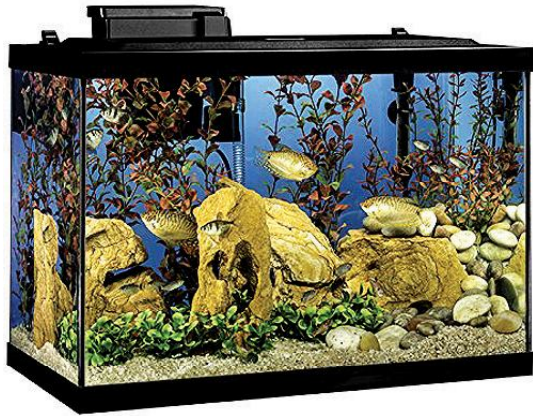


Enjoying Aquariums On A Personal Level

More and more beautiful, relaxing aquariums are found in offices, in restaurants, and proudly showcased as part of home décor.

It is reported that there are health and emotional benefits that come from having a fish tank or aquarium.

Owning and caring for an aquarium offers the chance to bring the calming effects of nature right into the home.



Once an aquarium is established and decorated with rocks and plants, watching fish swim around is beneficial in reducing stress and anxiety. The gurgling sound of the bubbles add to the therapeutic effect. Also relaxing are the colors of the fish, decorations, and background inside the tank.

Studies show that observing an aquarium can help to reduce blood pressure and emotional agitation. That is why they are displayed in such diverse places as dentist offices, nursing homes, restaurants and doctor offices.

Aquariums are also an excellent hands-on teaching tool in the classroom or at home.

Establishing an aquarium offers children of all ages the opportunity to learn directly through experience. Caring for the aquarium kindles a sense of responsibility, achievement, and a genuine desire to learn.



The therapeutic effects of observing aquariums make them an excellent addition to doctor's offices and nursing homes.

The Grotto in San Benito

1801 West Expressway 83 (3rd House Down from The Longhorn)



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		4	2		9	1		7
2		7		1			5	9
	9				8			3
6			9		1			2
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9		2		8		3		

Sudoku No.: 10589

				7		3		
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Sudoku No.: 37486

3								5
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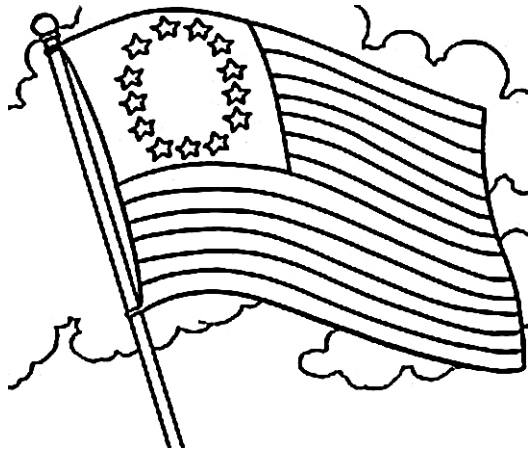
Sudoku No.: 61753

Fill in each square with one digit, using only the numbers one through nine | Numbers cannot repeat within an individual box of nine squares
Numbers cannot repeat down a column | Numbers cannot repeat across a row

For Kids Only

No matter how old you are!

Have Fun and Learn while you solve these puzzles and practice your coloring skills

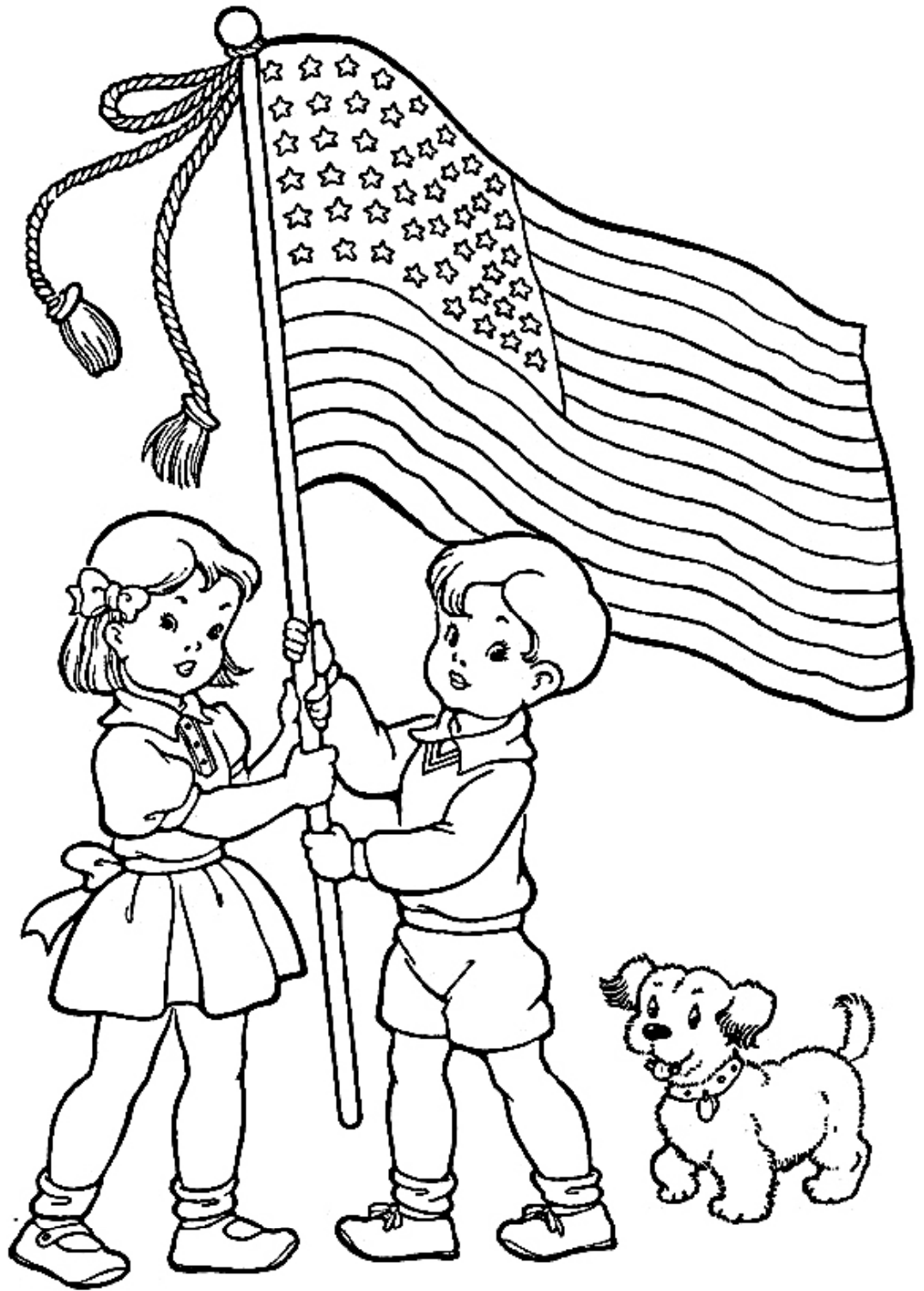


On June 14 in 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white” and that “the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

The national flag, which became known as the “stars and stripes,” was based on the “Grand Union” flag, a banner carried by the Continental Army in 1776 that also consisted of 13 red and white stripes.

With the entrance of each new state into the United States, new stripes and stars were added to represent new additions to the Union. In 1818, however, Congress enacted a law stipulating that the 13 original stripes be restored and that only stars be added to represent new states.

On June 14, 1877, the first Flag Day observance was held on the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the American flag. As instructed by Congress, the U.S. flag was flown from all public buildings across the country. In the years after the first Flag Day, several states continued to observe the anniversary, and in 1949 Congress officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance.



Flag Day is June 14th

J N H E A T B C R P T Z H D K V G I A
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 A B J P A J M O I H C C L J K E W B N
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 Y G S X T N N N O I A M N K V T S P T
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 E Q Z E Q K N Z I I Y E S I B L T A F
 R A Q O Y A X G N T T D K J H O Z Y H
 S Y G G U M Y B G Y M K Y V D S X Y B

The **SUMMER SOLSTICE** heralds the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. The timing of the summer solstice depends on when the Sun reaches its northernmost point of the equator. In 2016, this occurs on June 20 at 6:34 am EDT.

In the puzzle at the left, find these words we associate with Summer:

- AIR CONDITIONING
- BASEBALL
- BEACH
- BOATING
- CAMPING
- HEAT
- HUMIDITY
- ICE CREAM
- INDEPENDENCE DAY
- MUGGY
- OUTDOORS
- PICNIC
- PLAY
- POPSICLE
- SOLSTICE
- SUN
- SUNSCREEN
- SWIMMING
- THUNDERSTORM
- TRAVEL
- VACATION
- VISIT
- WATERPARK

Down Down The Rabbit Hole We Went ...

Wishes in Wonderland

was the theme for the

17th Annual Glass Slipper Ball

presented by

MAKE-A-WISH®

Rio Grande Valley

This year's keynote address was given by Veronica Bishop. Here is some of what she had to say ...

"When Trent and I first attended a Wish Makers reception three years ago, we did not know what to expect. In fact, if I am honest, I thought it might be uncomfortable to visit with the children and their families. What if I said the wrong thing? What do I say at all? I had no experience with this sort of thing.

"What I have learned since then is that these amazing young human beings do not want or need my pity. In fact, they have proven time and again to be stronger than most people I know, able bodied or not. I am amazed by their strength, talent and their positive attitudes to persevere through their challenges.

"What does it feel like to have a life-threatening medical condition? Most people do not know the answer to that question. And when I stood in this room three years ago for my first Gala, I did not know, nor did I ever want to know EXACTLY what that felt like. But all of that changed on November 5, 2015. You see, although I know most of you thought I was doing my best impression of Sinead O'Connor, the fact is that I am battling breast cancer myself. And although tonight is not about me and my battle, I can tell you as someone who was at the peak of health prior to my diagnosis, battling a life threatening medical condition is tough. I wouldn't wish it on anyone. It sucks. It's not fair. I hate it. But I am an adult. I have the privilege of having lived many years healthy.



Trent and Veronica Bishop
Veronica is currently serving as president of the board of Make-A-Wish RGV

"My adult brain can process medicine and shots and chemo and hair loss and aches and pains and surgery and all kinds of tests and scans. Can you imagine a child undergoing all of this without the ability or means to process exactly what they are going through and why? As the mother of healthy children, I cannot imagine my child going through the process that I am going through right now. But it is happening. It is happening every day to children right here in the Rio Grande Valley.

"So when we talk about granting wishes, we are talking about providing some sort of escape from this reality that they have grown to know as their "normal" life. We are talking about providing these wonderful children with a dream, a hope, a reason to wake up and keep fighting their individual battles. We are talking about moving their dotted line in an upward direction. And none of this can happen without the generosity of you, our local businesses and community."

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

Albert Einstein

"Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven."

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher

"Every child you encounter is a divine appointment."

Wess Stafford, President Emeritus of Compassion International

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Nelson Mandela

"The soul is healed by being with children."

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Russian novelist and philosopher

"Children make your life important."

Erma Bombeck

"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."

John F. Kennedy

"Hugs can do great amounts of good, especially for children."

Diana, Princess of Wales

"It's the greatest poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

Mother Teresa

"We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy."

Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children between the ages of 2 ½ to 18 years who have life-threatening medical conditions.

Last year, ninety-three cents out of every dollar donated to Make-A-Wish RGV went directly to fulfilling wishes.

We continuously strive to keep all other costs at a minimum. All donations stay in the Valley to help grant wishes for our area children.

The board of directors is extremely grateful to these sponsors who helped to make this years Glass Slipper Ball

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Rio Grande Valley

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Fruitful and Meaningful Partnerships

by Eloise Montemayor and Crystal Bennett

“The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.”

Our mission motivates us to serve the less fortunate through our church, social services, shelter, soup kitchen, and store. But carrying out this mission has also involved partnering with other community-driven agencies and businesses. These partnerships have given us the opportunity to serve others in ways we would have never imagined.

One example of a continued partnership is that of The Salvation Army (TSA) and Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Since June 11, 2014, TSA has had the privilege of cooking and delivering to Sacred Heart’s Parish Hall over 69,000 bowls of chicken soup for refugees and volunteers. We believe that no one, regardless of race or nationality, deserves to go hungry. We have also shared our shower units, laundry equipment and tents for day and night lodging so that refugees can get better rest before departing on bus to their destination.



By the grace of God, thousands of refugees have been through the respite center at Sacred Heart and we thank Him for allowing us to take part in this collaborative effort. While our long-term partnership continues with Catholic Charities, we have also enjoyed the fruit of other recent collaborations.

One of the biggest smiles we have recently seen came from one of our former clients, Blanca Treviño. Treviño suffered from partial blindness for over a year due to a cataract in her right eye. She did not realize the seriousness of her condition, though, until she participated in a health fair at The Salvation Army.

At the health fair, the McAllen Lions Club conducted a free eye exam and sent her to optometrist Dr. Scott Helgeson to check what was making her eye sight fuzzy. At the appointment, she found out she needed eye surgery to remove her cataract. But she also knew she did not have money to pay for it. She then went back to TSA to find out if there were any resources available for her to make the surgery possible. While waiting to hear back from TSA, she started to lose belief that everything would be OK. She had already started earning less money at her commission-based job since she was not able to read necessary paperwork. But the day TSA called Treviño with an update was the day a burden was lifted from her shoulders. She received news that her surgery would be completely paid for.

The McAllen Lions Club and Dr. Helgeson



contributed monetarily towards the expenses and the anesthesiologist and Dr. Peña at Peña Eye Institute also provided their services free of charge to Treviño. At TSA’s Behind the Red Shield luncheon during National Salvation Army Week, Treviño was able to share with guests her experience and her gratitude towards TSA, the McAllen Lions Club, Dr. Helgeson and Dr. Peña for coming together to help her see again.



Dr. Raul “Raulito” Peña, Blanca Treviño, McAllen Lions Club President Eddie Williams, and Captain Luis Melendez

The Salvation Army continues to meet the needs of the less fortunate with the help of community partners mentioned above and many others. In fact, Channel 5, H-E-B and The Salvation Army will partner once again in July to carry out the 5 Fans for Friends program, which makes it possible for individuals and families in need to stay cool during the hot summer.

We invite you to partner with us in helping others. Please call us at 956.682.1468 for more information about our programs and/or partnership opportunities.

We are located at
1600 N. 23rd St.
McAllen, TX 78501

To give a monetary donation, you may send a check payable to The Salvation Army to the following address:

PO Box 4766
McAllen, TX 78502

Thank you for your support!



A good story always contains Who, What, Where, How and Why.

- Here are some questions from the ages.
- WHO built the first floating zoo?
- WHAT did Jesus feed the crowds?
- WHERE did God blind the sorcerer?
- HOW did Jesus walk on water?
- WHY did the whale swallow Johah?

To find the answer to these questions come to
**Vacation Bible School at the
First United Methodist Church
1101 Doherty
Mission, TX**

June 20 to June 24 from 1pm to 4pm.

There will be lots of music, games, skits, story time and of course super snacks. Come and join us - it’s a cool place to be.

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