

A FIFTY - YEAR HISTORY OF SOUTHSIDE
COMMUNITY CENTER

BY MARY COMPTON

MAY, 1977

WE HEAR

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"'We will not win our war against poverty,' President Johnson said, 'until the conscience of an entire nation is aroused.' But this is just the problem--- How do you arouse the conscience of a fabulously rich nation about the poor?" James Reston

A Christian's answer most certainly would be, "Christ identifies himself completely with every man in every man's need. 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'--- Here the conscience is deeply troubled. For the need of one's neighbor is Christ's own call to Christian faith and work." The Conference Message

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The church is involved as people, individuals, in meeting the needs of people. For fifty years the church has been at work in San Marcos through an agency now known as Southside Community Center. The center belongs to disadvantaged and poor people, actually. But legally, the building and property belongs to the Women's Division of the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church. The community center is much more than a building. And that is what belongs to the people of the poverty neighborhoods, the reason for the center's existence from its beginning.

The Presbyterian Church began working among the Mexicans under the Department of Home Missions about the middle of 1883. The work done by Jose Maria Botello near San Marcos was the first Protestant work among the Mexicans. Rev. J. B. French preached a second service at his church on Sundays in Spanish and with Rev. W. W. C. Kelly received the first Mexicans into the First

Presbyterian Church of San Marcos on July 13, 1884. The Presbytery of Western Texas, with Rev. J. W. Neil serving as Moderator, organized the San Marcos Mexican Presbyterian Church on November 2, 1887. Rev. Elias Trevino and Rev. Walter S. Scott worked in the Mexican mission field for many years.

In 1926 two different surveys of the Latin American population in South Texas were completed, by the Council of Women for Home Missions (inter-denominational) and by a federal education commission, which indicated San Marcos would be a favorable place for a mission center.

Mrs. W. C. Winsborough, of St. Louis, Missouri, helped with one of the surveys and was a member of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions which sponsored the new mission with the Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church of San Marcos. Under the leadership of Miss Mae Garth, president of the Auxiliary and Mrs. Sumner Townsend, secretary of Assembly's Home Missions, a one-room store building at 130 South Austin Street (now Lyndon B. Johnson Drive) was secured for the mission in April, 1927. Mrs. Milton Morris, Austin, was a trained worker sent by the Mission Board on June 20, 1927, to develop the work. She instructed the Presbyterian women in how to set up the work, to be friendly, what to teach, and what topics would interest the Mexican women and girls. She left in August and was replaced by Miss Martha Johnson.

Other local Presbyterian women who helped with the work were Mrs. W. A. Wyatt, Sr., Mrs. P. R. Merrill, Mrs. T. E. Suttles, Mrs. Walter Puls, Mrs. W. D. Talmadge, Miss Belle Collins, Mrs.

H. C. Kreuz, and Mrs. H. K. Eastwood. They were chairman different days and each asked other members of the Auxiliary and students to help with the volunteer work.

The mission was called the Latin American Social Center or Mexican Social Center and was financed for 4 months by the Presbyterian Mission Board. The purpose of the center was to serve the needs of the newly-arrived Mexican immigrants in the area. Classes were taught in cooking, sewing, English, music, and singing. Sometimes parties were given.

Mrs. Crecencio Guerrero, wife of a Presbyterian pastor helped with the work at the Social Center and often reported on the needs of the center to the other women of the church.

Due to financial problems an effort was made to turn the Center into a community project and was supported for the next 3 years by small contributions of the Austin Mission Board, local churches of several denominations, study clubs, and other organizations whose members also helped with the work. When the Presbyterian Mission Board could no longer give support of \$25 a month, the work was taken over by the Methodists.

At first the goals were simple. One volunteer worker related, "The lessons were aimed at teaching the Mexicans how to keep clean and to feed their families good food so they weren't sick so much. Sometimes it was hard for the women to give their time and help. Our husbands didn't want us to take our children down there. They were afraid they would catch a bug and get sick like the Mexican children did so often." The volunteer also voiced her frustrations when she

said, "The Mexicans didn't understand very much. They just sat and stared and giggled. Sometimes the men or whole families came. They stood around or squatted and watched while the mothers had classes. They were curious, superstitious, and suspicious."

Methodists became interested in the work and under the influence of Mrs. T. A. Brown, Austin, and Mrs. J. W. Downs of the Methodist Mission Board of Nashville, Tennessee, arrangements were made to pay the salary of a worker with all other expenses to be met locally.

When the Methodists assumed the responsibility for the work, a deaconess, Miss Mattie Cunningham, was sent to direct the work in September, 1930. Informal adult education programs which related to the lives of the neighborhood men and women were developed. "It is not that simple people like to hear about little things; they want to hear about great things, simply told," was her method. Miss Cunningham and those deaconesses who followed her were helped by volunteers and sometimes by paid program workers. Through clubs, discussion groups, classes, and demonstrations the center tried to open new opportunities of learning and experience.

Sewing was taught by hand because the center had no sewing machines. Sometimes a volunteer would take her own machine to use while she was teaching a class.

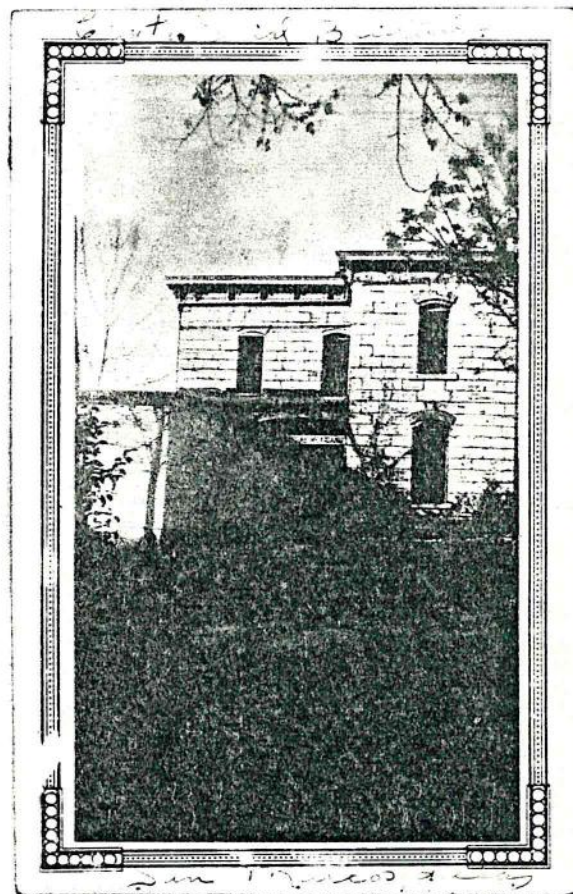
After 4 years service at the center, Miss Cunningham was replaced by Miss Lexie Vivian of the Texas Conference. During this time the center was moved to a nearby building which had

an area that could be used for a playground.

Two years later Miss Willena Henry was sent. The deaconesses who directed the center also lived there. They had private bedrooms and shared the rest of the center with all the neighborhood people. The furnishings were simple, but the deaconesses could make do with whatever they could get. Some furniture was made of orange crates and apple boxes with neat curtains around them. Some of the furniture was cast off from other people's homes.



Miss Willena Henry
Director, 1936-1939



Mexican Social Center in
the old jail building

Hays County built a new jail during the second year of Miss Henry's work at the Mexican Social Center. Permission was given by the county and city for the center to move, rent-free, into

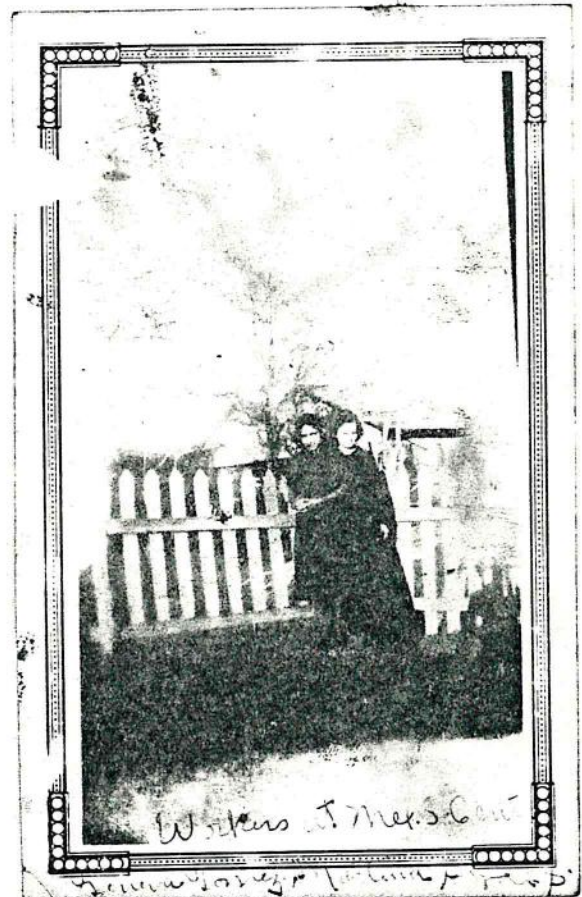
the attractive old jail at 170 S. Fredericksburg Street, a two-story building made of native stone with a large yard and garden. The old cell walls were removed to make a living room. The dungeon provided space for an auditorium.

Since there was no rent to pay, a young Mexican woman, Mrs. Geneva Gomez, was hired to assist with the work. The director was paid a salary of \$75 a month plus room and food allowance. Mrs. Gomez was paid \$40 a month as helper.

Mrs. Gomez quickly learned Anglo ways and did much to expedite the work and spread its influence among her friends and neighbors. She taught them things they needed to know to be good citizens, such as filling out forms, speaking, and holding meetings.

She broke the Mexican tradition and spoke before men's civic groups to tell of the work. She organized the Parent-Teacher Organization in Southside Elementary School and affiliated it with the state PTA.

Public health has long been a concern of those associated with the center and traditionally has played a part in the program. In the early days at the



Geneva Gomez, Martina Hyde
workers at Mexican Social Center

Mexican Social Center the girls and women were taught ways to improve their families' health through better nutrition and cleanliness. Some of the local doctors did much charity work among the Mexicans and Negroes. One who has been cited for this work was Dr. J. R. deSteiguer. But, on the other hand, Mrs. Gomez, who worked at the center from 1938-1940 and was respected by both Mexicans and "Americans", reported that before that time the Southside part of town was not served by sewer lines and the homes all had their outdoor toilets out back. Following a flood she and the worker at the center, Miss Henry, went down to the office of the county health director, Dr. deSteiguer, to tell him of the unsanitary condition of that part of town with the wastes washed by the flood waters out of the pits and on the open ground and to report the many illnesses and two deaths resulting. He refused to go down to investigate, offered no help, and defended his position by saying, "One dead Mexican is one less Mexican."

Incidents such as this have typified the attitudes of much of the population of the white



Mrs. Geneva Gomez wearing Mexican fiesta dress she made in 1939

people of San Marcos throughout the years, and have made the work more difficult and have contributed to a feeling of distrust on the part of the Mexicans.

Miss Hyde and Mrs. Gomez went to Austin to visit Rep. Lyndon B. Johnson and tell him the problem. They were received courteously, but were not promised any help. However, it was not long before sewer lines were extended into south San Marcos and plans were announced for the building of low-rent housing, Cuauhtemoc Apartments, by the federal government.

In September, 1939, Miss Martina Hyde, was sent to San Marcos from St. Joseph, Missouri. She was a trained kindergarten teacher. The thrust of the center soon became the kindergarten, providing a very much needed service for mothers who could then work outside the home. It also prepared the children to enter the public schools with confidence and some group learning experience.



Miss Martina Hyde,
Director, 1939-1940

A Mothers' Club was coordinated with the kindergarten program, although all the members did not have small children. It remained active for a number of years and the members spent much time with fund-raising events and service projects for the center in addition to their informal education program of classes,

lectures, and demonstrations.



Members of the Mothers' Club with their
Kindergarten Children

Mexicans didn't usually finish school. About this time at a graduation ceremony Dr. C. E. Evans highly praised ten students who graduated one year. But he noted that the families of those graduates were also responsible for their accomplishments when he said, "I see the fathers in the fields picking cotton, the mothers breaking their backs over wash tubs and ironing boards."

Nobody cared for the Mexicans' health needs---nobody except the workers at the center and their helpers. And no one cared that the workers at the center had no medical licenses to treat their patients. The workers checked on the people known to be ill. They brought them medicines, food, and warm blankets and clothing. When the workers or volunteers found someone with tuberculosis they arranged for them to be admitted

to the hospital.

Miss Hyde was concerned with public relations in the community. Many times she reminded the members of the City Mission Board, which governed the Mexican Social Center, "Let's don't make the boys mad," referring to the influential men in town. And she made sure there were no political meetings at the center.

Miss Cunningham returned to San Marcos for a second time in 1940. She had been gone six years and came to replace Miss Hyde who had joined the armed forces to help with the war.

Various organizations were still represented on the City Mission Board. One of these representatives made the following report to her church women in February, 1941:

"Mrs. John Morton is our chairman; Mrs. H. H. Goodman, secretary; and Mrs. Emma Bragg, treasurer. Other members are Mrs. W. B. Aubrey, Miss Carrie Cockran, Mrs. J. U. Fox, Mrs. T. C. Johnson, Jr., Mrs. J. M. Roady, Miss Belle Schmidt, Mrs. Rodgers Story, Mrs. W. M. Summers, Mrs. DeWitt Taylor, Mrs. C. C. Wade, and Mrs. Mac Wren. This board is very active in the work of the Mexican Social Center, which is progressing with Miss Cunningham as supt. A good Mexican woman is her assistant and she is paid \$20 per month by the board. This center has a very active Mothers' Club which has made a pretty layette for the Red Cross. It also has a splendid Boy Scout organization. A sewing club large enough to work in 8 sections has an American woman directing its activities. Mrs. Wren is chairman of this department. Their kindergarten has 38 members. Mrs. Johnson is chairman of the kindergarten committee. Mrs. Wade is chairman

of the visiting committee and Mrs. Storey, chairman of playground. The following persons have been on the board continuously since 1930: Mrs. Emma Bragg, Mrs. DeWitt Taylor, Mrs. C. C. Wade, and Miss Belle Waldrip."

Miss Cunningham reported one month that she had attended 44 meetings, conducted 14 meetings, and addressed seven meetings. Two socials were held with 89 people attending. Thirty-four books were loaned.

The workers began getting 2 weeks paid vacation in 1947. Board members took over their work while they were absent. Mrs. J. M. Wiser assumed responsibility for the kindergarten with the help of a Spanish speaking person and was later presented a plant.

When she left San Marcos in 1947, after urging the board to get a new worker and suggesting to the board that a younger deaconess was needed, Miss Cunningham was presented with a farewell gift of luggage at a lawn party.

Living quarters at the center in the old jail were very undesirable in 1947, but were improved before the new deaconesses arrived in the fall.

Miss Elma Morgan and Miss Eugenia Smith were sent as director and assistant director in 1947. In September Miss Morgan reported she had made 116 visits to school, churches, and homes. She had received 324 visits not including playground. She had also attended 16 meetings and had spoken at five. She complained that her work had been hampered very much on account of no telephone, no taxi, and no car.

Reports of the deaconesses to the board were filled with

simple pleasures---the joy of having 2 student teachers from the college help girls in sewing machine work, and in having capes made for the rhythm band by the high school homemaking class, the happiness at having so many children coming to Bible classes.

They must have worked long hours judging by their work reports. Miss Morgan reported attendance at the center for January and February, 1947, was 1,947; 184 calls were made in homes by the superintendent; and 29 calls were made in homes by the assistant, Miss Smith.

Sometimes, as in the fall of 1947, the workers were unable to organize boys' groups because hundreds of neighborhood people had gone to West Texas to pick cotton or to northern states to harvest other crops. Kindergarten registration was often low for several months until the migrants had returned.

Vacation Bible Schools were held in the early part of each summer, usually for two weeks. There were 67 children enrolled in 1948 and many more wanted to come. Most of thirteen helpers were Latin American. The closing program was presented to a packed hall with many more people on the outside looking in. The deaconesses also helped with Vacation Bible Schools later in the summers at the Latin American Baptist and Presbyterian Churches by furnishing supplies and teaching Bible lessons.

There was a religious overtone to the total program at the center. Even the parties seemed to be religious, usually including a program, a praise service, testimonies of thanks and Bible lessons. People who came to the center for counseling

or material help were usually prayed with. The boys using unclean language were not allowed in the center.

The meeting rooms were often used for visiting church groups wanting to tour the center and hold a business meeting and worship program.

The deaconesses would often entice playground groups to come in and listen to Bible stories they told or read from the library books.

The by-laws of the City Mission Board stated the purpose of the center was for furthering spiritual growth of the people in the neighborhood as well as giving aid for material problems. The board meetings always opened and closed with prayer and included a devotional. One such devotional was led by Mrs. J. R. Morton and stressed the fact that appreciation is the beginning of religion and the basis of character. She often used her own poetry in the devotionals.

Board members assisted with work at the center. Some were regularly responsible for specific activities. They all worked when the program called for more volunteers. Some director's reports show that 18 board members assisted with program or with building maintenance during a given month. Examples of work done were seen in every part of the center. Mrs. C. C. Wade and Mrs. Sallie Bagley visited the sick. Mrs. Drewis colored hundreds of Easter eggs. Mrs. J. M. Wiser and Mrs. Bagley carried on kindergarten, sewing school, and Mothers' Club while the workers attended annual Women's Society of Christian Service conference in Kerrville and then continued helping all year.

Miss Brack and others addressed 1000 letters with folders about Week of Prayer Programs.

Volunteers from various organizations including Daughters of the American Revolution, Brackenridge Club, and First Christian Church also assisted. And what did they receive for their work? The minutes of City Mission Board record that Mrs. DeWitt Taylor and Miss Dora Brack received a rising vote of thanks for the work they carried on in the interim of two directors.

Mrs. Morton was elected honorary life member in appreciation of her service and inspiration, when she resigned from the board.

December 2, 1946, the board decided to buy a new site and discussed various pieces of property until May 20, 1947, when the lot at 518 S. Guadalupe Street, owned by Mrs. J. L. Keefer of Luling, was selected. On August 6, 1947, lawyer T. C. Johnson was paid \$10 to bring the abstract up to date and handle the transactions. The property was bought for \$3,000, at \$750 down, \$750 without interest January 1, 1948, and the balance in one year or sooner.

The board had voted to borrow the money from the Women's Division of the Methodist Church, but later decided to raise the money locally. Different organizations were asked to contribute. The Chamber of Commerce was asked to sponsor a fund drive. And the board had its own fund drive with Dr. M. L. Arnold as chairman.

The Mothers' Club at the center gave a \$100 bond and \$50 cash toward buying the property. Board members, director, and many others (see appendix) also contributed. Money from the treasury was used to pay the mortgage and title was transferred to the

Women's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church on May 6, 1948.

Harvey Smith, San Antonio, was the contractor for the new building. His plans were approved by the board and by the Board of Missions. The building contract sent to the New York office in April, 1949, when the work began on the new building was for facilities worth approximately \$50,000. Later it was decided a garage and woodworking shop were needed. A building estimated at \$2,522 if frame or \$2,800 if tile, was added to the plans.

The National Division sent representatives to San Marcos to survey the area, interview the board members, and gather information before approving the plans. The out-of-state visitors expressed themselves as greatly impressed by the attitudes of San Marcos towards its Latin American citizens.

In September, 1948, it was suggested that the board seek a new name for the center to reflect the diversity of the people served.

October, 1948, was extra busy for the center staff and volunteers because the center had been accepted as a recipient of Week of Prayer and Self Denial gifts of Women's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Church, to build the new center. The workers addressed meetings in the area and volunteers sent out letters to WSCS groups in the country soliciting funds which were to pay for the new building.

Reading groups sometimes formed on the spot for the occasion-- as when several boys stayed after recreation to clean the room and asked about one of a stack of books kept near at hand for

just such an opportunity. The worker would stop and read to them, sometimes a Bible story. Sometimes such an experience would get a child who had not been attending to go to school.

Pleas were sometimes put out to various groups for donations of many diverse supplies. One list included sewing supplies, quilt scraps, men's shoes and shirts, children's clothing, and Bibles and Bible study books.

In 1948 a homemakers' club was started with classes in budgeting, home nursing, and other work the women did in the homes. A nurse went out once a week to visit in the homes of children afflicted with skin trouble.

Money donations had been sent to the center from out-of-town churches or WSCS groups as far away as Kansas City, Missouri, for a number of years. In addition to money donations, many boxes of clothing and household articles were received from these groups to keep the sales room supplied.

At times young men were hired at \$5 a month to direct the playground activities for the boys. In 1948, Soto Gomez, a student at Southwest Texas State University volunteered to help with boys' groups. Manuel Juarez, one of the older, dependable boys also helped.

Many volunteers have lost faith with the work or changed their minds about giving their time to help others shortly after agreeing to the volunteer work, creating time lags in the program and in some cases, loss of people served.

In April of that year the board voted to recommend the reappointment of Miss Morgan for the next year. She was re-

appointed to the center in June, 1948.

The Mothers' Club began working on several projects to furnish the new building. The members made items for bazaars to raise money to buy needed items. They learned to hook rugs and made one for the living room.

The workers in 1948 reported that some boys used the library and many boys played ball, but they did not want to come in for meetings. The workers also said some children came to the center to practice piano lessons.

An increasing amount of the workers' time that year went to visiting farm families and those in other communities in addition to the sick and shut-ins in the neighborhood.

Films were sometimes shown on the lawn. Croquet and table tennis were enjoyed by the boys and girls. One time the Kerr Class at First Methodist Church gave 11 watermelons which were served to over 150 people in 6 groups as well as some shut-ins.

It was noted that in February, 1949, more and more people who lived farther from the center were registered in all groups. Some lived 2 miles out the Seguin Highway, but would walk in even on hot days for the program at the center.

Due to a large increase in attendance in kindergarten in early 1949, a helper was employed at a salary of \$16.50 a month. Mrs. Drewis, who had been a faithful volunteer, was hired and Mrs. C. C. Wentworth began as a volunteer with kindergarten and girls' groups. Rev. Jasper Kuehn continued to hold the interest of the boys with his Bible lessons and interesting talks.

During Lent many served by the center were not permitted

by the Catholic Church to come for classes and activities.

In March some families had already begun going north for work and by April many of the most faithful club members were gone.

Besides the excellent cooperation board members gave at the center, such as continuing the program when the "workers" went to conference, they represented that neighborhood on various boards and committees. Mrs. DeWitt Taylor represented the Latin American Community Center on the Community Council. New volunteers were usually recruited by another volunteer or board member. When Mrs. Wentworth moved she recruited Miss Minnie Holterman to help two mornings each week in kindergarten. It was those selfless volunteers, Mrs. Wade and Mrs. Bagley, who interested Mrs. Roberta Carson in the work of the center, an interest strong enough to keep her working on the board for more than 20 years.

The families' interest in the kindergarten was very great too. Kindergarten graduation was a big occasion. For some it would be the only graduation they ever had. Large numbers of family and friends attended. But sometimes all the graduates were not there because of illness or having migrant families.

After a very sick baby was treated free of charge by Dr. Charles W. Scheib, his mother and brother were very grateful to the center and to the doctor. The brother offered his services to the center and to the doctor frequently.

When Latin American women volunteered to help with the work it was most gratifying for the workers, because they felt

their own work was helping people help themselves. In the Vacation Bible School in May and June, 1949, there were 73 children enrolled. Some were Catholics. The two deaconesses had 8 Latin American helpers. One of these was Sara Ortunia of Kyle, who gave her only vacation week to help. Tino Martinez played piano and worked with the boys in wood work. The girls learned sewing. Both boys and girls enjoyed the work so much they did not want to stop for play. They also received the Bible lessons with enthusiasm.

One more Vacation Bible School was held in the old center on Fredericksburg Street. There were not enough chairs to seat the crowd at the closing program, so wooden boxes were used. Also the children had to be told there was not enough room for friends and neighbors and therefore, only families were invited.

The New York office of Women's Division was notified the new building would be ready about the middle of August. There was much to do to get ready for the move. Letters were sent to various clubs in town to give them an opportunity to assist in furnishing the new building. The board asked the vocational school to make furniture for the new center to give opportunity to local boys. Some of the furniture in the old center would be moved. The members of the Mothers' Club cleaned the old chairs to be moved. Miss Morgan and Miss Smith donated their dishes.

All household articles still needed at the new center by October were purchased under the direction of Miss Belle Waldrip. The linoleum on the floor of the old center was given to Rev. Carlos Garcia for the Mexican Methodist Church.

The Methodist women in town were quite proud of the new furnishings which included a large dining table and Fostoria crystal. Dinners were given regularly by the deaconess with guests including Latin American women of the neighborhood and women from other parts of San Marcos, especially women of the First Methodist Church. The purpose of these dinners was for the women of the two cultures to become better acquainted, but it has also been stated that a more subtle purpose was to teach the Mexicans manners.

During all the activity of furnishing the center the regular program and usual parties were held at the old center. A very large farewell party for Rev. and Mrs. Benito Hernandez sponsored by the Mexican Methodist Church was given in June. The Mothers' Club, Mexican Baptists, and Mexican Presbyterians also cooperated with the arrangements.

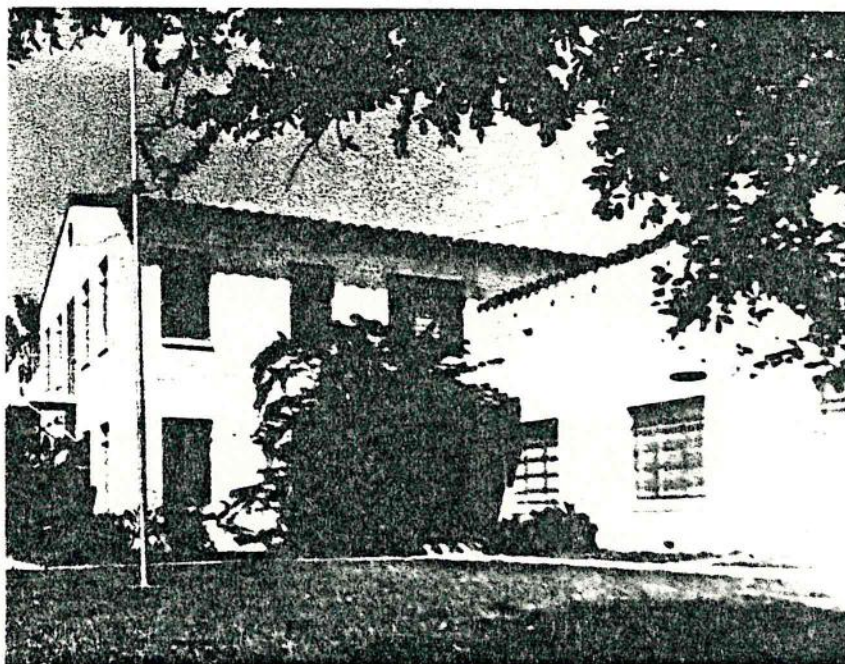
The deaconesses were humble people. On leaving the center in July, 1949, Miss Morgan said, "As we close the old year we thank our Father for the privilege of service and for the fact that others will be with the children. We are also grateful for such a splendid Board."

On October 18, 1949, the City Mission Board met at the new center. A new name, The Community Social Center, was decided as the permanent name of the center.

By November, 1949, the new director, Miss Mary Riddle, had joined Miss Helen Osborne, who arrived in July. Others who assisted her in the next ten years were Miss Mary E. Cameron and Miss Christine Brewer.

The board voted to permanently name the center Latin American Community Center and Miss Riddle was given permission to have a sign painted bearing the new name.

The board held open house in the new center on Sunday, November 27, 1949, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. The refreshment committee included Miss Belle Waldrip, Miss Dora Brack, Mrs. C. C. Wade, and Mrs. Villapanda. Mrs. Dorothy Weatherford had charge of music and, "the Mexican ladies were to help with flowers and decorations."



Latin American Community Center,
Dedicated, January 8, 1950

Cost of the new building was reported as \$55,150.

The dedication ceremony was held on January 8, 1950, at 3:00 p.m., representing the end of more than 10 years of work

on the part of many individuals, organizations, and churches. Mrs. C. A. Barr of Austin, president of the South Central Jurisdiction Women's Society of Christian Service, gave the main address followed by the presentation by Mrs. J. R. Wilhelm, president of the board, and the dedication by Rev. Wood Patrick, Austin District Superintendent of the Methodist Church.

The new center was equipped with showers, a luxury not available in most of the homes of the neighborhood, and all the people were welcome to come to the center to take baths. Many came each day.

Especially during the summer many took advantage of the good books in the center library. Following Mrs. J. R. Morton's death in March, 1950, a plaque was placed on the library door naming the center library in her honor.

Mrs. Morton's sister, Miss Henry McKinnon, was a volunteer and later a staff program worker. She worked with citizenship classes, interest groups, neighborhood work, and clubs.

Roberto Reyna was the first custodian at the new center. He worked there half time and at the First Methodist Church half time until the church needed his services full time.

In 1951 the name of the center was changed to Southside Community Center to reflect the changing pattern of the center's work.

Children's groups wanted to go places and do many things not always available at the center. For this reason and also to provide transportation for adults for various services which were available in other parts of town, a station wagon was

bought in 1957 and replaced twice in later years by a van.

Much staff time has always been given to individual problems, such as finding work, dealing with school truancy or drop-outs, caring for sick people, providing for home repairs, or even finding direction in life.

Volunteers for the center have helped just as actively with all these needs. Emmett Mendoza is one of the neighbors who grew up to offer his own services. He is remembered for more than 40 years of quiet dedication to the people of the community, giving much in service to fund drives, Boy Scout work, classes, and as a member of the board of directors.

Another respected citizen who has helped with many center activities and who was a neighborhood child recalls Southside Community Center as the only place for children to have recreation. Celestino Mendez, Jr. recalls it has always been a part of the lives of community people. The center was synonymous with the advent of television. It was the only place in the area with a television set, and the neighborhood children went there to watch.

Miss Mildred Ralston was sent to direct the center in 1959. She was a good worker and actively participated with the children in their games and groups.

She was assisted 2 years by Miss Becky Cultra who was sent



Emmett Mendoza,
Volunteer

by the Board of Missions in the fall of 1959 from her home in Illinois. Miss Cultra worked with Girl Scouts, Brownies, boys' groups, teen groups, and visited in the homes. She has said that her salary of \$120 plus room, food allowance, and use of the center's car was ample for her needs. She remembered the experience of working at the center with a warmth for the local women who made her feel so welcome. Admittedly, the most difficult part of her job was learning the Girl Scout program. She became integrated into the larger community life by her active participation in Girl Scouting and Women's Society of Christian Service, which groups were both very supportive of her work at the center.

In August, 1959, the first floor of the center was sanded and painted. A high metal fence was erected around the property. New tables and chairs replaced the furniture of the kindergarten. Since then the exterior of the building has been painted, rooms on the second floor have been converted to offices and equipped with office furniture, and more shrubbery has been added to beautify the grounds. New draperies for the living room and rugs for the apartment were bought in 1964. Girl Scout and United States flags were given by the VFW. Woodmen of the World also purchased flags for the center.

Girl Scout troops at the center were served by a very active troop committee during this time. The committee held elections for officers and promoted fund-raising activities such as a tamale sale, Mexican supper, and carnival. Under the direction of Miss Christine Brewer and Miss Becky Cultra



Brownies in the Library

the troops were among the most active in town. The girls had many activities, and learned to be happy and resourceful citizens, becoming self reliant and giving service.

Bible school was still held every summer. In 1961, Miss Anita Howe and volunteers from several local churches were assisted by out-of-state Methodist Youth Fellowship girls and boys attending a work camp at the center.

Several years in the early 1960's Easter morning worship at Southside was conducted by members and pastors from several Black and Latin American churches. Many Blacks were being served and working with the center about that time.

A typical schedule of program at the center follows. It was for 1962-1963, and from it can be seen the center has been a busy place. However, the meager appearance of a center's

program on paper does not reflect all the unscheduled or irregularly scheduled happenings which have, in the case of Southside Community Center, included many kinds of meetings, Bible school, recreation, crafts classes, English classes, citizenship classes, playing the piano, taking showers, using the telephone, watching television, and health clinics.

1962-1963 Schedule of Southside Community Center

<p>Monday</p> <p>9:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten 1:00 - 3:30 Kindergarten 3:30 - 4:30 Singing 3:45 - 5:00 Cub Scouts 3:30 - 5:00 Sewing 7:30 - 9:30 Teen Town groups</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>9:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten 1:00 - 3:30 Kindergarten 3:45 - 5:00 Cub Scouts 3:30 - 5:00 Yanks, Boys' Club 7:00 - 8:00 English class 7:00 - 9:00 Library study 7:30 - 9:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 - 9:00 Girl Scout Troop Committee</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>9:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten 1:00 - 3:30 Kindergarten 3:45 - 5:00 Cub Scouts 3:00 - 4:30 Brownies 7:30 - 9:30 Teen Town</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>9:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten 1:00 - 3:30 Kindergarten 1:30 - 3:30 Mothers' Club 2:30 - 3:30 Citizenship 3:35 - 5:00 Library Check-out 3:55 - 5:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 - 8:00 English Class 7:00 - 9:00 Library Study 8:00 - 9:00 Boy Scout Troop Committee</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>9:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten 1:00 - 3:30 Kindergarten 2:30 - 3:30 Spanish Class 3:00 - 4:30 Brownies 3:30 - 4:30 Sixes and Sevens 3:35 - 5:00 Library Check-out 11:30 - 2:30 Luncheon Club 7:00 - 9:00 Boxing</p>
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The sponsored groups regularly had programs at the center. In 1961 there were 16 groups under staff leadership which demonstrated the work of the center at an open house, and in 1963 there were 20 groups at the open house. Many times all those who came to the programs could not be seated.



A Children's Program in the Center

A revision of by-laws in 1961 provided that membership should include the pastor and wife of First United Methodist Church of San Marcos as honorary members; a representative of each missionary society of the various churches; current president of local Women's Society of Christian Service; executive secretary of Community Centers of Women's Division of Christian Service of Board of Missions of the Methodist Church; and members-at-large.

In February, 1963, representatives of the Women's Division in meeting with the building and grounds committee recommended several changes for improvement of the physical plant. Efforts were later made to buy adjoining property.

Board members in 1963 were elected to serve 3-year terms. Meetings were bi-monthly. Most members were Methodists. New board members were told, "The purpose of the board shall be to enlist interest in, loyalty to, and financial support of the

Southside Community Center and give an interpretation of its purposes, program of activities, and services."

In the fall of 1963, George A. Curry and his wife, Patsy, came as program workers. George had worked a summer in another Methodist community center and they had some religious training for the work.



Staff Meeting, 1963

Staff has been hired by the director with the approval of the personnel committee and has been responsible to the director who is responsible to the board. In early 1963, staff included Miss Delfina Flores, Miss Mary Martinez, Roy E. Briggs, Jr., and Miss Ralston.

As a part of the salary directors and sometimes program workers lived in the center. When Miss Ralston was director, Becky Cultra and Patsy Lee, program workers, also lived there. The Currys came as program workers and lived elsewhere in town. When Miss Ralston left and Mr. Curry became director, he and his wife continued living away from the center. University students have lived in the center since then to help with

security.

Staff workers are sometimes given opportunities for continuing education. Both Mr. Curry and the director who followed him took courses at Southwest Texas State University while directing the center. Mr. Curry took as many as 4 classes, going 5 days a week. Two staff workers attended a physical fitness conference in 1965 with Mr. Curry. Various staff workers have attended workshops related to the center's work to enable them to serve more efficiently and with understanding. The fees and travel expenses have sometimes been paid directly by the National Division of the Board of Missions and sometimes by the center. Della Flores and Eva Martinez attended sessions at Scarritt College in Tennessee concerning kindergarten.

At times the center has been closed for a few days while the director and staff have been attending conferences in leadership, public relations, or administration. Sometimes consultants such as Miss Jean Cleveland, professor of Social Work at Scarritt College, have come to San Marcos to work with the staff and board.

In 1963, woodworking classes and auto mechanics classes taught by Domingo Tobias were added to the services. Swimming classes sponsored by Southside were given at Camp Gary. An employment service was begun on a regular hours basis for part-time or full-time work.

By 1963 more than 800 infants and pre-school children had been treated, many on a regular basis, at the well-child clinic which was started on December 7, 1961. The clinic was continued

until the community realized the need and found a way to take over the program in the county health department.

The clinic was held at the center each Thursday for children referred by physicians and welfare departments. A doctor from Hays County Medical Society staffed the clinic each week on a rotating basis. The state provided the director. The children were examined, weighed, measured, and immunized against tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria, smallpox, and poliomyelitis. Sick children were referred to physicians for treatment and crippled or handicapped children received services from the State Crippled Children's Program. Skin tests to detect tuberculosis and PKU tests were made to detect a form of retardation. Parents were given instructions in feeding, formula making, and proper care.



Well-Child Clinic, 1963

Supplies for the clinic were furnished by the Wesleyan Service Guild of First Methodist Church, and Mrs. Donna Swinney, a registered nurse; Mrs. A. N. Smith; Mrs. Serino Garcia; and Mrs. Alex Tijerina were volunteer workers at the clinic. Doctors Charles Bell, William Moore, Ben Primer, Jr., R. F. Sowell, Jr., and Nilon Tallant gave their services.

Health education for families was stressed through class sessions, private conferences, and free literature and posters. It was later reported that the infant mortality rate had been cut in half.

Some of the other volunteers at this time at the center were Miss Anna Lynn Howe--Cub Scouts and adult language classes; Roy Briggs, Jr.--Boy Scouts, crafts, and free play; Mrs. Roy Briggs, Jr.--Girl Scouts; Mrs. Frank Trowbridge and Ann Trowbridge--Brownies; Celestino Mendez, Jr. and Roy Guerrero--Boy Scouts; Mrs. Charles Rhymes, Mrs. Adella Esquivel, and Mrs. Robert Bowden--sewing classes; and Mrs. Grace Coleman--chorus.

A survey in 1963 showed there were 1300 registered aliens in Hays County. Many others were probably not registered. When the center began there were about 1200 Latin Americans in San Marcos, and by 1963 there were about 10,000. The center continued to help these people with English and citizenship classes. Mrs. Juan Tobias taught citizenship classes for several years. Some students passed the tests in Spanish and some in English.

By 1965 the Boys' Club was one of the main ways of coping with the problems of the neighborhood. The club met four nights a week and had a membership of 52 boys between 13 and 19 years

old. There were several organized groups within the club including the Yanks, Majestics, and Red Club. The latter group qualified by passing rigorous physical tests. Many special events such as a top-spinning contest were sponsored by the club. A harmonica class was instructed for Boys' Club members and a harmonica band was organized by Emmett Mendoza.



Boys' Club Boxing at the Center

A. B. Cantu trained local boxers for Golden Gloves competition. James Flores, Carlos Ruiz, Ralph Gonzales, and Pete Salas were present at each meeting and established an extensive curriculum to interest boys and give them something to do as well as to help develop their general health and physique. The club

also offered a clean, supervised social period. Included in the program was ping pong, checkers and other table games, gym workouts, tumbling, wrestling, boxing, and weight lifting. Mats, punching bag, and other items were purchased for use. Leatherwork, beadwork and other crafts, basketball, and baseball were later included.

In 1967, one hundred boys who played in the 5-team baseball league sponsored by Southside went to see a pro baseball game in the Astrodome. The trip was funded by Community Action and the buses were furnished by Gary Job Corps. Their games were played on the Gilcrease property near the Girl Scout Cottage using backstops donated by H. Y. Price, Jr. They also played teams sponsored by Austin's Pan American Center.

Roller skating was another activity of the Boys' Club at the center. Then the gym floor had to be refinished in 1972.

Boys' Club elected their leaders to offices in 1967 and they were very effective in getting what they wanted. Officers were Eloy Gonzales, Freddie Vasquez, Bobby Romero, Joe Olivo, and Ben Trelles.

Boys' Club members have gone on a number of trips to extend knowledge and experience of other areas. Twenty-one boys received awards for hiking and mountain climbing trips over a 3-year period: Sierra Blanca, 1968; Pulliam Ridge, 1969; South Rim in Big Bend National Park, 1969; Lone Star Trail and Pecos Baldy in Guadalupe Mountains, 1970.

One Negro, 4 Anglo, and 27 Latin American boys registered in Cub Scouts in 1965, thought to be the first year all 3 races

were integrated in troops at Southside.



Boy Scouts Had Award Programs

The National Division of the Methodist Board of Missions provided an extra allocation in 1965 to buy new office furniture and rug for the living room. Items bought included desk, desk armchair, file cabinet, typing table, secretarial chair, and rug. That same year 3 rugs were bought for the apartment with money from the regular budget. To upgrade program a slide projector and a number of items of playground equipment were also bought. A new sign for the center was painted and donated by John Diaz, for Gunnarson Advertising.

A water fountain donated by the Presbyterian Church was

installed in the spring of 1965. Fluorescent lights donated by Wimberley Community Church Guild and installed by Ted Breihan were put into use in the spring of 1967. An outdoor light for the playground was donated by G. I. Forum in May, 1967, and more outdoor lights were donated by Wide-Lite Corporation in the fall of that year. Wonderland Kindergarten donated 18 child-size chairs to the study center in 1969.

A number of work projects for the center have been done by students at Gary Job Corps as part of their training. These have included upholstery of living room furniture, construction and installation of athletic equipment in the gym, refinishing of desks, installation of playground equipment, and tree trimming.

Sometime after Mr. Curry became director the fine dishes, dining table, and most of the equipment that supplied the two kitchens in the center was no longer there. The Methodist women who learned of these deficiencies felt cheated and complained of their losses. But no one seemed to know what had become of the furnishings. An item on the October, 1970, board meeting agenda mentions the disposition of library books, but no one remembers what was done with them.

In 1967, Mrs. C. V. (Roberta) Carson was cited as an outstanding volunteer worker at Southside Community Center. She had served on the board of directors then for almost 20 years and during that time had held offices of president and secretary, besides being treasurer for 10 years.

Mr. Curry wrote letters to Child Evangelism Fellowship International, Grand Rapids, Michigan, to get that program

started at the center. In one he stated, "I am most sincerely interested in spreading the Saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ among the Mexican People served by our Center, and wish to do all in my power to help and cooperate in bringing this about. We are praying much about this and hope that the doors may be opened to this end." A Good News Club of Child Evangelism Fellowship operated at the center in 1965-1966.

Correspondence of the directors of the center until Mr. Curry left reflected feelings of serving God, and showing God to the people they served.

Youth Activities Week, a religious emphasis week for teens, was conducted a number of years before 1967.

The letters to prospective employees during this time emphasized that the positions were to be filled by individuals who could make a good Christian witness. Mr. Curry and others talked and wrote about God to the people they served.

In 1967, Bob Hunter, program worker at the center, established a good relationship with the neighborhood boys, using vigorous sports and an instrumental musical group to gain their interest. He worked closely with the police department, sheriff, highway patrol, county attorney, and county judge, who were all very helpful with him. He often had long, sincere discussions with the boys. He also worked with voter registration.

He summarized his contacts with boys who frequented the center by saying that most of them were loud and unruly in the group, trying to impress themselves and each other with tales of smoking, drinking, and sex. When in small groups or with

a counselor they could discuss fairly intelligently, even though they were obviously insecure with an adult. Most of them had problems stemming from a poor home life and insecurity in school, accounting for the fact that they spent most every night and weekend at the center. They were incapable of forming their own organization even though the leaders of the group were around 17 years of age. They wanted to achieve, but had no idea about how to meet their goals. They stood around in small groups, wrestled, and engaged in rock throwing and loud and obscene talk every night. This was quite a contrast to the behavior allowed of boys at the center when the deaconesses were there.

Mr. Hunter's work with the boys involved counseling with them after they got in trouble with the law too. Many times it meant going to the jail to help one of the neighborhood boys work out his problems. Sometimes Mr. Curry posted bond for the offenders who had disturbances, drunken driving, thefts, assaults, and rapes on their records. The workers were often responsible for their good behavior when the boys were put on probation.

The center was even closed for a while following a fight between one of the recreation workers who was a university student and the older boys' group which had named itself, "The Children." One boy accidentally hit Mr. Curry instead of the other worker, and all the recreation workers quit working at the center. When the center opened again for recreation, the older boys were hired to take the place of the university

workers. Many of the boys came to the center drunk.

After taking the older boys on a trip to Six Flags, Mr. Hunter said that living with those boys a couple of days was the hardest thing he had ever done, but he could imagine how they must feel having to live with themselves day after day. He believed he was building a binding relationship with the boys.

Southside Community Center and other settlements were instructed in the 'sixties to sharpen their focus in order to use limited resources more effectively. The board of directors was told by the National Division that the main goal was to effect community change, rather than to give neighborhood service. This required a board which was committed to change and methods included open community meetings, use of open committees, studies of specific problems, and neighborhood representation in policy-making.

Settlements were also encouraged to support citizen participation and independent citizen organization by turning over some programs to autonomous neighborhood groups, giving technical assistance to groups developing their own programs, by giving staff time to neighborhood organization, and by helping neighbors participate on civic and political bodies.

With a change in the by-laws of the board of directors of Southside Community Center in 1961, a local autonomous board was created which then determined the direction of the center in accordance with the general philosophy of the Board of Missions, Community Center Division. With this new direction the center has provided representation and participation almost

routinely on human relations boards and commissions such as city planning, housing, school board, city council, and Community Action.

Much time was given in early 1971 to the study of neighborhood needs in light of the new directives from National Division of selecting a program focus rather than trying to work in so many areas.

The purpose as stated in 1971 relegated the center to work for social justice, help poor get out of poverty, and enrich lives of neighborhood people in all aspects--cultural, educational, social, and spiritual.

The by-laws were revised again in 1972 to provide for a self-perpetuating board of 18 directors, 6 of which would be United Methodists, 5 from the neighborhood served, and 6 from the community at large. There would also be 6 ex-officio members from district or conference levels of the United Methodist Church. Members would serve not more than two 3-year terms and would have to rotate off the board at least a year before serving again.

Board member orientation and training workshops have been held some years in order to reduce the time required for members to become adjusted to their role and become effective. Consultants with special knowledge of community centers, public relations, human relations, program, fund-raising, and related topics have been recruited. But for the most part, board members have not made the effort to receive maximum benefits from the sessions.

The board has more recently been composed of members who fit in two categories. One category includes persons interested

in the work of a community center, but who visualize their relationship to it in terms of listening to reports at the monthly or bi-monthly meetings or when they can spare the time to attend and occasionally giving advice. The second category includes members who were selected for board membership for specific contributions they could make to the program or needed decisions. This last group have felt used and, therefore, have taken little active part in the center.

In 1965, Mr. Curry applied for Community Action programs in vocational training, homemaking service, neighborhood organization, adult education, and juvenile delinquency prevention to be conducted at Southside. The adult education included baby sitters for the students. The juvenile delinquency prevention program included Boy Scout work and Boys' Club. The grants paid Southside staff for work which was already being done in the neighborhood.

According to surveys cited by Mr. Curry, San Marcos was, in 1966, near the top in the cities of Texas in the rates of delinquency and tuberculosis. The school drop-out rate has continued high. The average income per year per family in the center's neighborhood was \$1,999. Almost nothing was being done by anyone or any agency other than Southside to alleviate these and other problems of the poor.

To begin the Community Action program leaders from the area assembled information on the poverty problem in the neighborhood determining major characteristics and listing priorities. A set of proposals including local resources were developed. An

organization which included government and voluntary organizations, business, and labor was formed. With specific projects and plans of action developed, a proposal was made for financial and technical assistance.

Community Action in San Marcos, a federally funded agency, assumed much of the work previously done by Southside Community Center. The OEO program was readily sought after for San Marcos originally by Southside board members, staff, and supporters. For a number of reasons it was concluded a separate agency could better handle some of the work. More funding could be obtained for the work. Grants could be obtained more easily. Cooperation has always existed between the two agencies. When one needs help the other responds. The director and board of Southside have written grant proposals for Community Action, and cooperated on ways to meet needs of people in the neighborhood without regard for which agency receives credit for the work.

Although the Community Action Program was set up to operate autonomously with its own board and director and from its own headquarters, it has continued to use some facilities of Southside Community Center and has benefited by the close working relationship of its staff under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Herrera and later Mrs. Ophelia Vasquez with that of the center.

At encouragement of Mr. Curry, Mrs. Della Flores and others who were on the Southside staff applied for social outreach work with CAP after it began. The work involved home visits to know the people, determine their needs, and to provide what was needed. Supplying food, clothing, medical assistance, transportation,

advice, and help in securing welfare were all a part of the job which came to be handled by CAP.

Southside also provided office space, workers, and equipment as 'in kind' local support of Community Action.

A New Clothes Program operated out of Southside beginning in 1972 through cooperation with school nurses and Community Action workers housed at the center. Sunday school classes and other groups agreed to provide the clothes on a monthly basis.

Much of the work of Community Action outreach workers was on referral of Southside Community Center.

The Girl Scouts was still a very active group at Southside in 1966 when Patsy Lee was the leader. The troop had bake sales and other sales for earning for troop activities. The girls did service for the center and enjoyed camping and other activities. With the resignation of Mrs. Ormsby (Patsy Lee) in the fall this group and a number of others were able to carry on with the help of many university students and others who volunteered time in afternoons and evenings.

One of these volunteers was Mrs. Moses Goldberg, a former teacher at James Bowie Elementary School, who led a creative dramatics class for children under the age of thirteen.

A Methodist Youth Fund Team came from various parts of the United States in 1965 to help with the summer program. The group worked with day camp, Youth Week, vacation Bible school, and playground activities.

The center has been visited by many other groups to gain first-hand knowledge of the church at work in the community.

Women's Society of Christian Service groups from the local church and from out of town have come many times. Korean missionary and social workers studying social work in the United States came. Boys and girls in out-of-state Methodist Youth Fellowship groups and staff workers with Girl Scouts from Houchen Center in El Paso have all taken part in the program and bedded down at the center while on tours.

Members of Seventh-Day Adventist Dorcas Society gave prenatal classes concerning care during pregnancy and following delivery, and care of the newborn, in the fall of 1967.

In October, 1967, began a series of Dutch treat luncheons which were held monthly at the center for exchange of ideas and information between members of various health and welfare organizations in the county which resulted in the still-functional Interagencies Council.

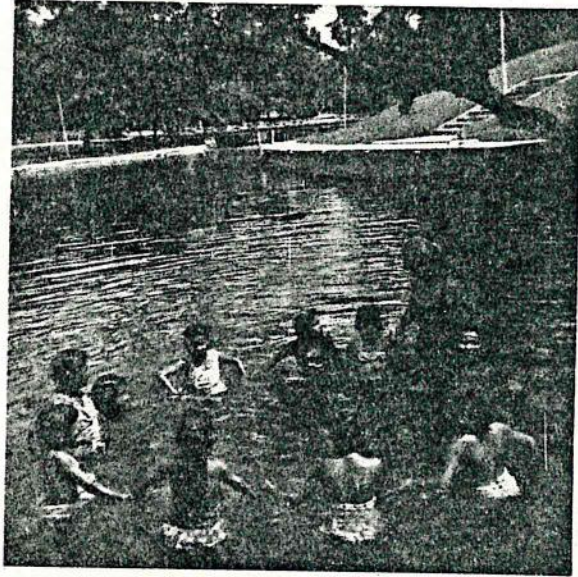
Community singings have been held many times at Southside. One such happening featured the Singing Echoes of San Marcos, and William Mayes and Singers of Gary Job Corps Training Center presented a Christmas songs program on December 9, 1967.

Some program of the center has at times been conducted at other sites for lack of space or equipment. Swimming lessons were given for Southside children at Gary Job Corps. Roller skating has been conducted weekly at Cuauhtemoc Park since 1966. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts sponsored by Southside Community Center have sometimes met at one of the churches in the neighborhood.

Fifty to sixty boys in 1967 participated in flag football and soccer teams coached by Gilbert Lafuente and Thomas Ruiz,

Southwest Texas State University students. A. B. Cantu also worked with this program.

In 1967 a group of trained volunteers under the supervision of Dr. Colleen Conoley organized and used Southside Community Center as a base to provide child and family guidance and counseling. Members of the group were Mrs. Sarah Altenhoff, Mrs. Jonnie Massey, Mrs. Adele Junkin, Mancil Mitchell, and Dr.



Children Learn to Swim

Martin Juel. The principal objective of the group was to set up a program of preventive mental health measures in the community, and was the forerunner of Scheib Center's mental health program and clinic.

Starting in 1968 recipients of surplus commodities were given instructions to better prepare the foods they received. The classes were given by the County Home Demonstration Agent, Mrs. Inez Patton, assisted by Mrs. Ophelia Vasquez, speaking Spanish.

The summer recreation program in the 'sixties was very good. The boys were taken camping and sometimes the girls went camping. There were social activities and sports events. Family nights and continuous recreation at the center gave the young people plenty to do. Baseball teams were organized. In 1967, Bob

Hunter was in charge. Miss Ruth Morrow was program director in 1968. Reyes Nieto and Joseph Mestas, advanced cooking students at Gary Job Corps, cooked and assisted all week at the camp at Bastrop. A team of young people sponsored by United Methodist Youth Service Fund and Interboard Committee on Missionary Education including Allison Wright, Rochester, Minnesota; Linda Ingle, Indianapolis, Minnesota; Barbara Fletcher, Metropolis, Illinois; and Connie Slayback, Erlanger, Kentucky, made the summer program at the center outstanding. They coordinated a day camp for 150 children at Camp Kiawah.

The summer program during these years was funded by a federal grant through Community Action for about \$4500 each summer.

A tutoring program has been held for a number of years at the center. Probably its most successful year was 1967-1968, when 30 to 40 children came each afternoon after school for help with academic studies, and sometimes more importantly, much needed adult companionship. Forty-two volunteer university students under guidance of Miss Margaret Gondor provided these services.

Tutor orientation suppers were held in the center to counsel the volunteers. Tutoring sessions have sometimes been on an individual basis and sometimes in group sessions of about one tutor for each six students. Tutors have usually attended once a week and students attended daily.

The project was an attempt to improve the academic skills of children in the poverty area, keeping them in school longer,

and raise the educational level of people in that area. It began after a survey in 1966 which showed the educational attainment of adults in poverty areas of San Marcos to be an average of 3.5 school years.

In September, 1969, Tim Neilson came from Connecticut to work at the center. He expressed his religious feelings thus, "I trust that in my work Christ would use me to his own end so that Tim Neilson or Southside would not make a great impression on the community, but rather something else about them would--Christ."

In 1969, when Terry and Diane McCabe directed the tutoring program, it was extended to Allen Woods Homes. Miss Audrey Wagner directed 20 to 30 children daily at that center.

The Community Compensatory Education Project set up at Southside in the summer of 1970 brought 3 high school seniors from Peoria, Illinois, to help improve the first grade reading skills of fifth graders at Southside Community Center. After returning home, the out-of-state girls, Janelle Camp, Mary Everhart, and Kim Snyder, reported significant changes in their own lives after working throughout the summer with the educationally and culturally deprived children in the immediate neighborhood of the center.

Project REACH, a tutoring program for junior and senior high students, was begun with Southwest Texas State University student volunteers under direction of Aart and Melissa Millecam in February, 1971. The aim was to lower the high drop-out rate among the Mexican Americans in these levels of school.

In the early 1970's much time and work of the director and some of the board members, particularly Mrs. Wynette Barton, went into writing grant proposals for 2 experimental schools. One was for a pre-school program for 3 and 4 year olds. The other was a tri-ethnic bilingual school for grades 1-6 to operate on a Montessori system. Both of these were to involve parents to a large extent. Changes in the proposals were made many times to conform to different rules, guidelines, and suggestions, but the grants were not received.

In 1970, the center contracted for the services of 2 trainees in the US-2 program of the United Methodist Church. After graduating from college and immediately prior to their assignment they had undergone 7 weeks of intensive training which included sensitivity training; theological interrogation; study of political balances, organization, and power; and exploration of their Christian commitment as envoys of the church in mission. They learned, "to be a missionary means to identify with suffering people to the extent that one's whole life is wrapped up in their struggle."

In letters to the soon-to-arrive US-2 missionaries, Aart and Melissa Millecam, Mr. Curry stated, "You probably already know that you will not be coming to a city in which it is easy to work and the Center's reputation has suffered greatly in the last few months, because of activities and positions it has taken. Prejudice and discrimination are very bad here. Our center is trying to witness to the Gospel of Christ in this situation and to work for those things that are right and fair

and human. . . . The situation between the poor and the affluent, Mexican American and Negro and Anglo, is becoming (in San Marcos) more strained, more polarized, thus making the role of workers in the community centers more difficult--- and more challenging. It is not easy working in San Marcos--- in seeking the fuller realization of the coming of the Kingdom of God in this community."

In September the new US-2 program workers were introduced to the board and they began orienting themselves to the community to find areas in which they could be effective.

Melissa Millecam spent her time at Southside coordinating groups. She was responsible for the Girl Scout troops, but would not serve as their leader, preferring to supervise volunteers who acted as troop leaders. She used much of her staff time working on a bi-lingual newspaper to build solidarity and pride in the neighborhood. She came to San Marcos with the intention of helping to establish such a paper; but, on finding one already at work in the community, she put her efforts into that paper, "La Otra Voz."

Aart Millecam spent much of his time while a full-time staff member of Southside originating a Drug Abuse Program. In March, 1972, a minigrant for a Drug Abuse Program was funded. The program was governed by a board from a cross-section of the community and sought to educate the public about drugs, their abuses, reasons for their use, and drug legislation.

Mr. Grimaldo, the director of the center, had other ideas about use of staff time and the disagreements led to the termi-

nation of employment for both the Millecams after their 2-year contracts had been fulfilled in August, 1972.

The organizational meeting of the San Marcos Welfare Rights Organization was held March 11, 1971, at Southside Community Center. Officers elected were Mrs. Alicia Rangel, president; Mrs. Amelia Perez, vice president; Mrs. Melissa Millecam, secretary; and Mrs. Javita Perez, treasurer. Members studied such things as medicaid, free lunches, government commodities, nutrition, homemaker child care service, aid to dependent children, neighborhood organization, and problems of the poor. Help in organizing was obtained by Melissa Millecam from the national WRO and from chapters in Austin and San Antonio.

As part of the Texas Adult Probation Project, the center was active in probation work in Hays County during and after 1970.

Consumer Education classes were held under the direction of the County Home Demonstration Agent, in 1971. Topics included money savings, credit, loans, shopping hints, family recreation spending, and budgeting.

Neighborhood and city-wide clean-up campaigns have been encouraged and promoted by Southside. One such instance was the one planned in 1969 by members of the ethnic-cooperation group known as Bridge Builders. The purpose of the city-wide clean-up was to rid the area of rats and roaches. All trash and debris was gathered and hauled away by volunteers working in organized groups and as individuals. Householders were urged to spray for pests and put out rat poison during a four-day period to be sure the menacing animals did not just move from one home to

another. Southside volunteers turned out in mass to help with the tremendous job of picking up trash. Any resident could get a supply of rat poison or a volunteer to spray his home for roaches by contacting Southside.

By learning about the problems of the poor, devising solutions to some of them, and conveying information to more fortunate people, the center has hoped to bridge misunderstanding.

Through staff contacts with neighborhood people participating in the program of the center supplemented by surveys and staff studies the center has determined the problems and begun constructive action. Usually it has also been necessary to inform the public with a balance of factual evidence and sensible recommendations for action. Members of the center board not only give direction to the center, but also raise funds and help to interpret the crusades for social justice which result from neighborhood-tested programs.

In the summer of 1971, Manuel Villadares, teaching in a cultural exchange program from Mexico with TEA, initiated a Mexican Folkdance Program at Southside Community Center. About 30 children and 25 adults took part. A benefit performance was staged at the center at the end of August. Benefits to the center in addition to about \$300 profit were increased good will and an awareness of the center in the community. A tangible by-product was the popular dance group, Ballet Folklorico de San Marcos, which had its beginning with these lessons at the center.

While staff and volunteers continued to work for community improvement in such ways as lobbying for the human-relations bill

in the Texas legislature in 1971, the local people did not accept the center's role in the community. One evidence of this fact and the growing criticism was that all funding from the local First United Methodist Church was cut off. However, funds continued to come through United Fund, individual and group contributions, and allocations from the district, conference, and National Division of the United Methodist Church.

With the changing times Southside was called to move beyond service-oriented programs. The Christian alternative was to expand into areas that would bring permanent improvement of the problems of poor people. To that end Southside was responsible for the administration of a Community Development project of the Community Action Program starting in 1968. Its goals were, "to deal with underemployment and unemployment, lack of adequate housing, lack of services by local public agencies, social and economic discrimination, lack of opportunities for the poor, juvenile delinquency, school drop-outs, low educational attainment, poor civic involvement in the target area, poor health services, and inadequate diets and nutrition."

Extensive suggestions, instructions, and directions for community organizing were given from the National Division of the United Methodist Church, as well as the Office of Economic Opportunity. One suggestion from Louise Weeks, consultant, of the National Division, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church, was, "Don't get the top mad before you have the bottom organized."

And from OEO instructions, more explicit directives came. Political activity of employees of delegate agencies, as well

as volunteers, trainees, members of governing boards, and advisory committees prohibited included the use of program funds for partisan political purposes, use of equipment purchased or leased with program funds for any partisan political purposes, candidate meetings sponsored or conducted with program funds, and engagement of employees and volunteers in voter registration or transporting voters while carrying out the program of their agencies.

With assistance of Congressman J. J. Pickle a federal grant was obtained in 1968 to benefit 7 poverty areas in San Marcos through the formation of neighborhood associations and a youth council. A rising rate of delinquency in teen-age and grade school boys was viewed as a result of family breakdown or loss of effectiveness in poverty situations. As an attempt to break the cycle of poverty and ignite social change, the residents of poverty areas would form neighborhood associations to identify their problems, choose priorities from among their needs, develop programs of action, and move on to put these in effect. The associations would provide experiences to help the people learn about and assume their rights and responsibilities. It was hoped the target people would be given the knowledge necessary to participate in an effective way in developing new roles of group planning and decision making. Through increased opportunities and new services the incidence of poverty would be reduced.

After several months of planning by interested citizens, the San Marcos Youth Council was organized with cooperation of

Southside Community Center. Several board members worked for it and George Curry was the chairman. Purposes of the Council were to promote studies of community needs regarding prevention of juvenile delinquency, to focus community attention on those findings, to support existing community agencies designed to strengthen child services, and to work with those agencies to provide new programs needed by the community.

Wherever they have been found the poor people have also been the ones who have little or no share in the social power of the community. So long as they remain powerless it has not been possible for them to overcome poverty. Without social power it has not been possible to make decisions in the community.

Traditional response to rationalizations of the powerful concerning the poor has been religious concern for the powerless through service. The manner in which service is done often lowers self-esteem of the poor and contributes to feelings of superiority in the powerful.

It is easier for the powerful to render services than it is for them to share their power with the poor. Suspicion and hostility are aroused in the power group when leadership is developed among the poor. To make a significant contribution to the poor, it has been said that churches must be willing to promote organization so that the poor can help themselves to share in influencing, determining, and controlling the allocation of community values and resources.

The first director of the project was not able to initiate much, but did arouse the white community by his outspokenness.

Jose Hinojosa, a government instructor at Southwest Texas State University was a new member of the Urban Renewal Board of Commissioners in the spring of 1969, and was a training consultant for the workers. In April he became acting director for Neighborhood Organization at Southside Community Center. He taught a class in community government at the university and his students interned in the Southside area and at the center for class credit.

Mr. Hinojosa taught his students that they should not project their ideas on the neighborhood people. The workers should identify the boundaries of the neighborhoods to be organized and find out who the resource people and natural leaders are. He told his students to let the natural leaders do the organizing, influencing them to get others in the organization. Just getting the people of an area together so that they discovered others had the same problems they had, was the key to neighborhood organization.

If a leader couldn't be spotted, they were told to develop one by choosing one who is honest first. Then look for humbleness, sincerity, independence, caution, and ability to think. That person should be taken to meetings to see leaders in action.

Each neighborhood worker was encouraged to use his own approach in educating the people. He was told to start organization on a small scale by influencing one at a time and participating in activities of the community---even in the work being done by one man when contacted by the organizer.

The students were admonished that they should love people.

Mr. Hinojosa told them, "Christ was the best organizer there ever was. I don't believe you could find a better example or better teacher."

After locating or developing leaders, the workers were told to meet with them informally. Then they should ask leaders to bring one more person. The process of each one bringing one more person was to be continued and each person was to be given recognition at the meetings. Then the councils would start identifying neighborhood needs.

Much progress was made with the the neighborhood councils, but Mr. Hinojosa was pressured by the university to quit his Southside job. Jerry Flores became director and Mr. Hinojosa stayed with the work as an unpaid consultant.

Mr. Hinojosa learned in January, 1970, that his contract would not be renewed at the university. He resigned and ran for county judge. School board and county commissioner races also saw Black and Mexican American candidates backed by the New Democratic coalition. A new political organization of conservatives called Involvement offset their campaigns. Since the center had a policy of permitting groups to use its facilities for meetings, several forums were held to which all candidates were invited. Anglo candidates met much opposition before their Mexican audiences. Southside Community Center was labeled "headquarters" for Hinojosa, and the neighborhood organization workers were charged with political activism, a violation of OEO policy.

After investigations by both the regional and national OEO

offices, no substance was found to these charges. However, this author has recently found proof that some of the charges of violation were well founded.

Mr. Curry with the backing of the Southside Community Center board rehired Mr. Hinojosa.

The county commissioners attempted to stop the program, but only succeeded in getting it taken from the center or from any other agency so as to have control over it. They also succeeded in getting two neighborhood workers, Pete Alvarado and Tony Molina, fired, but their suspensions were claimed to be for other reasons than political.

The Neighborhood Organization Program, later called Community Development Program, although no longer delegated to Southside, continued to office at the center and in a nearby building. The nature of the program was toned down, but remained essentially the same with the services offered, social meetings arranged, and classes taught.

The actual work of the neighborhood organizers was quite different from the public image of it. The organizers visited in the homes---much like the deaconesses of an earlier day--- to find out what services were actually needed and to know the people better. They interested neighborhood youth in joining clubs sponsored by Southside as an attack on juvenile delinquency. They secured names of people in the neighborhood who were willing to serve on the board and take an active interest in the direction of the center, not merely the services. They secured food, clothing, medicine, jobs, transportation, and

other necessities for the poor neighborhood people. They held meetings to interest people in helping themselves and to help them learn how to help themselves.

Along with community development, a number of comprehensive studies were made by the Southside staff. These included a study of problems with the community encountered by directors of public works agencies, a park development project study, an analysis of the San Marcos Mexican American labor force and the skilled-job market in the community, and a study of the problems of municipal governments in cities under 25,000 population concerning consulting firms.

In the fall of 1973, Southside's program planning and development workers, Miss Velma Ybarra and Charles Chapman, worked on a study of revenue sharing money misuse in preparation for the center's solicitation of \$30,000 in 1973 for compensatory education and other social services. The after school study center and GED classes were included in this thrust. The Community Marketable Skills Program to teach trades, the River Development Project to teach business skills, and a recreation program were also to benefit by the revenue sharing.

The people doing studies were receiving credit for political science courses from Southwest Texas State University and were being funded from various grants for their work for the center. Sometimes the grants were supervised by the City of San Marcos and sometimes by Southwest Texas State University. CAPCO also funded and supervised some study at the center.

Due to much opposition and political pressures from the

community and general apathy within the neighborhood the neighborhood councils ceased to be very active by 1971. Although a bi-monthly newsletter was published for a short time beginning the last of October, 1970, it was not widely distributed. An admitted mistake of the center concerning the political activity or neighborhood organization was that church leaders were not brought into the process more. Therefore, they and the community at large were skeptical of the good the neighborhood organization was doing.

The formation of the Hays County Independent Party to replace the New Democratic Coalition was not a Southside function, but the party was largely made up of Southside constituents and workers and kept some records at Southside Community Center.

A building use policy (see appendix) has provided guidelines for use by individuals and groups not sponsored by Southside Community Center. A fee has been charged to help cover utilities.

The center's seemingly mild function of providing a meeting place for groups, has created problems and controversy for the center within the community. The building has been used through the years by all kinds of groups. Families have used it for birthday parties, wedding receptions, showers, and dinner parties. The neighborhood has used it for Bible school, club meetings, movies, and group meetings. Whatever was planned was just naturally held at Southside. The center was the gathering place of the neighborhood---the place the people came in times of trouble, in times of happiness, in times of relaxation, and in times of excitement.

Director Pedro Grimaldo Receives Funds



One group which had sometimes used the center for meetings was Mexican American Youth Organization, MAYO. Political meetings do not violate the building use policies and have sometimes been held at the center. Sometimes there have been small planning sessions and sometimes big rallies. Sometimes they have been for Republicans, Democrats, Independents, La Raza Unida, and sometimes for a particular local candidate. At times the political meetings have caused criticism of the center and have cost the center loss of favor.

In April, 1972, a public school boycott was said to have been spearheaded by MAYO. This idea, coupled with the fact that some of the boycotting students migrated to Southside, their

usual gathering place when not at home or at school, gave many townspeople the feeling that Southside Community Center planned and sponsored the boycott. The board of directors met to discuss the problem and issued a statement to disclaim any involvement with the boycott.



The Center Is Used for Group Meetings

La Raza Unida Party, a new political party which began in 1970, in south Texas, was designed, "to offer Chicanos and other disenfranchised people meaningful participation in the political process." A leader of the party has said, "To made sure that democracy works for all people, not a privileged few, Raza Unida Party intends to get political control of those institutions which have decayed and succumbed to corruption by electing controlling majorities to local governmental bodies."

Activists in the local La Raza Unida organization included: Ruben De La Rosa, precinct 6; Joseph Lockwood, precinct 10; Jesse Gonzalez, precinct 12; and Hector Chavana, precinct 14.

From notes of La Raza Unida organizers who were Southside staff members, it has been determined that political organization intended to take over the center and its monies, but did not succeed. It has also been determined that those staff members were violating OEO policies.

Southside staff members who worked for La Raza Unida on staff time included Joe Zapata, Joe Morin, Yolanda Trevino, and Aracelia Rodriguez. These people also worked for Association of Mexican American Students, and the Independent Party on staff time, as well as doing voter registration on staff time.

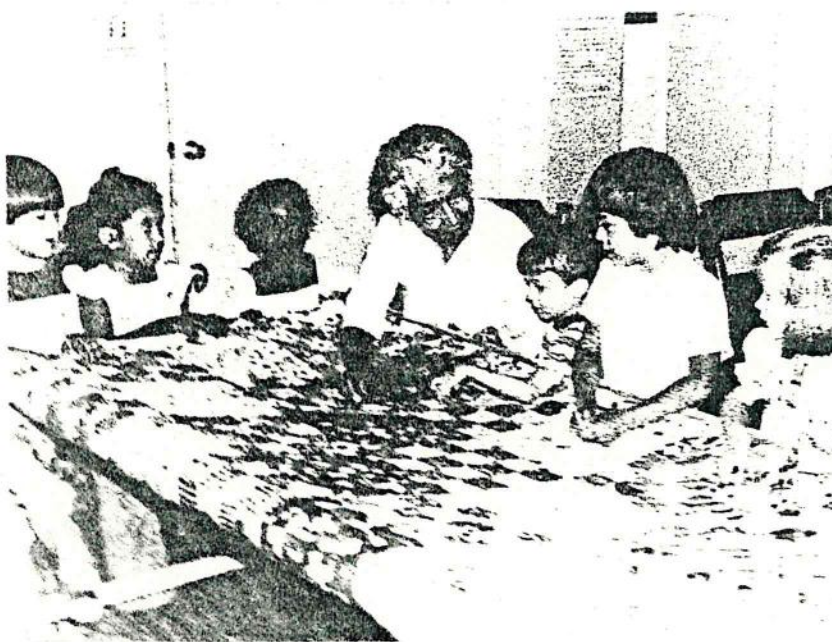
September 8, 1972, La Raza Unida offices were moved from Southside to La Otra Voz office at 101 N. Guadalupe, according to notes in the file of Aracelia Rodriguez.

In 1971, Southside Community Center obtained a grant from the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund, Commission on Race and Religion of the United Methodist Church for community organization. The aim of the proposal was to educate and convince neighborhood people to vote, but it was not a partisan activity. The commission would not let the Southside Community Center board be responsible for it. Instead, the commission authorized the chairman of the board at the time, Celestino Mendez, Jr., to appoint a committee to name the organizer and to direct his work through policies made by the committee.

The committee appointed included Nora Ovalle, chairman;

Ruben De La Rosa, Augustin Lucio, Johnny Arredondo, and Pedro Grimaldo. Juan Palomo was hired by the committee as neighborhood organizer.

The Senior Citizen Program had long been active at the center. When it outgrew the center it was taken over by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Marcos in 1971, and moved into its own building in the Southside part of town at 701 Georgia Street.



Senior Citizen Program Was Part of Southside

Christmas parties at Southside have changed from the simple ones that used to be organized and hosted by the deaconesses and a few volunteer women. By 1971, the parties were planned to include 400 to 500 children. New toys were so-

licited the preceding month from organized groups, from businesses, and from individuals. Many organizations helped to collect large quantities of gifts. Activities at the parties included refreshments for all, cartoon movies, group singing, pinatas, visit from Santa Claus, and giving of the gifts.

Southside Community Center has traditionally been the place to which people fled in times of disaster. One such time was in September, 1967, when hurricane Beulah lashed the Texas coast and sent residents of that area inland seeking refuge. Many people bedded down at the center; others were referred to other public buildings in town. The center also served as a clothing distribution center.

The floods that have hit San Marcos have always caused heavy damage in the Southside area. And the people have come to Southside Community Center. They have come for comfort from fright. They have come for consolation from sorrow. They have come for relief from their losses in the form of emergency food, clothing, and furniture. They have come for help from volunteers in cleaning mud out of their homes or repairing flood damages. They have come for information or other types of help such as transportation to another part of town to ask Red Cross for help when Southside's resources were depleted.

There have been others who have come to help the flood victims. Individuals and organizations have brought bags and truckloads of clothing, cleaning supplies, furniture, and food. People who felt gratitude for their own safety came to volunteer their services in distributing the goods, providing transporta-

tion, and cleaning the muck from the flooded homes of the area. Some volunteers have also helped the flood victims fill in the lengthy questionnaires required by Red Cross of potential aid recipients.

Southside has often been used as a registration place for other agencies. Texas Employment Commission has registered potential employees at the center. Red Cross has set up headquarters in the building for getting registrants for swimming classes and for taking applications from flood victims for emergency aid.

Workers at the center have known that one very important key to opportunity for neighborhood people is knowledge of the English language. Being able to speak, read, and write the language of the country is not only helpful in every day living, but also provides security in better jobs, more income, and community prestige.



Adult Education Class in the Center

Adult education classes have almost always been a part of the program at the center. Sometimes the students have learned isolated subjects such as English or sewing. But in 1972, some students began working toward a high school equivalency certificate (GED).

Some work was done at the center by Aracelia Rodriguez in 1972-1973 to interest minority youth in furthering their education and to find financial and admissions assistance in various colleges and universities.

A juvenile probation program was officially operated at the center for a while. By 1972, that service had another home, but many probationers still voluntarily came to the center for counseling and friendship.

In the midst of the political upheaval in the city, Mr. Curry resigned as director of the center. The work was continued by the staff and volunteers. John Elder and Aart Millecam were acting directors until January, 1972, when Pedro Grimaldo was hired by the board of directors to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Grimaldo came at a most difficult time, but has proved to be a good choice in many ways. He fulfilled the direction from the National Division for the board to give strong consideration to a Mexican American applicant. He has been a strong advocate of good public relations in the community and has been able to soothe the neighborhood people as well as the local church and community at large.

His training was not church related, but he has gone to many conferences to learn the workings of the church and com-

munity centers. He has continued taking courses at Southwest Texas State University in government and social work.

Mr. Grimaldo has been quite successful in obtaining grants in aid from the church organization and from state and federal sources to expand and continue the work of the center.

He has also trained two people for similar positions as directors of community centers. Miss Sylvia Covarrubias, a school teacher from Corpus Christi, trained while working as assistant director from 1974-1976, and her salary was paid by a grant from National Division, Board of Missions from the Call to Prayer. Ruben Perez has been in training this year. His salary had been arranged to be paid from a state grant which failed to materialize on a technicality of his being hired before the grant actually started.

Leon Herndon, from Detroit, Michigan, was hired as a program worker at the center under the US-2 program of the home missionaries of the National Division of Board of Missions. Under this program all costs for orientation and training including board, room, materials, and travel from home to training to assignment were paid by National Division. The sponsoring group (Southside Community Center) paid the worker \$150 per month plus living expenses including board, room, utilities, and laundry. This was paid with a grant from the National Division. Mr. Herndon's assignment as a staff person at Southside was to coordinate educational programs and to organize the poor.

Whereas, the neighbors used to join the center and register for the different classes and activities, paying dues and registra-

tion fees, by 1973, all of the center's services and programs were free of charge and open to anyone in need. This new method of operation made it very difficult to determine how many were being served by the center and has encouraged erratic attendance.

The center has always cooperated in programs initiated by other groups which help the people. One instance was the time Southside had collected Texas Gold stamps during Christmas holidays, pasted them in books and presented them to Scheib Opportunity Center in February, 1973, to help buy equipment for that center. Director Pedro Grimaldo stated, "Una mano no se lava solo," (One hand does not wash itself alone).

Papers for incorporation were drawn up in 1972, at the direction of the National Division. And under a new ruling from the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church, the property was leased to Southside Community Center in 1975.

Youth Services Bureau was planned and grant proposals sent in to the Criminal Justice Coordinator for the Capital Area Planning Council in the spring of 1974.

A 3-year, \$120,000 grant was approved in 1975. The funding completely supports the Bureau which operates at the center but separately from Southside Community Center with its own budget, own director (Ms. Helen Camps replaced Ms. Beverly Archer, who was the first director), and a secretary, 3 interns, 2 counselors, and 15 to 20 tutorial and recreational volunteers. The program has a high rate of success and has been highly praised by the city council, which body initially sponsored the grant application.

The program was designed to work with high school drop-outs

of 8 months or more in an effort to give vocational education and business management experience by providing on-the-job training outside the public school system. A paddle boat concession stand in City Park was the business which helped the youth learn to meet the public, to handle customers, to do business transactions, and to keep books. The training was intended to prepare the youths for other jobs in the area.

The Youth Services Bureau works with youth and families of youth referred by the county juvenile probation officer, police department, and truancy officer of the local schools after first and status offenses to ease the juvenile delinquency problem in the city.

In 1976, the after school tutoring offered Monday through Thursday was again expanded to include children at another site. Volunteer tutors began taking tables, chairs, and materials to the Wallace Addition Triangle Park to operate the second tutoring program.

The San Marcos Boys' Club no longer operated by 1974, but was replaced by a group of boys who called themselves the Blue Socks Juniors. They were interested in going camping and making trips and raising money in several ways to finance their activities. They made ceramics, sold watermelons, and did work around the center. Besides making money, other skills were subtly worked into the program, such as basic arithmetic used in measuring, buying new materials, figuring costs, and selling the goods; and vocabulary development as the boys learned the names of materials and processes.

Blue Socks and Pioneers, social organizations which began a few years ago as sports groups, have been very supportive of the center. Their service and influence have helped the community and their funds have been utilized at the center.

A program administered by Texas Employment Commission called JOBS Optional Program was initiated at Southside Community Center in 1974. It offered employers the opportunity to hire and train people, some of which were disadvantaged, for permanent employment in jobs providing opportunity for advancement. The federal government paid extraordinary costs of adequate training and the business had a well-trained employee. A number of local businesses took advantage of the program which gave advancement to trained employees.

The WIN program found mothers who wanted employment, gave them training on the job, and paid their salary. It was handled through Southside Community Center for a year.

A study was made at Southside in 1974 on Poverty in Elderly Ethnic Groups in preparation for implementing a Meals-on-Wheels Program. The center received \$5,000 funding from the National Division for the Hunger Proposal Project in December, 1975.

The Home Economics Multi-Program saw students at Southwest Texas State University volunteering in 1975-1976 to give counseling and lessons in all areas of home living. Cynthia Southmayd, assisted by Mary Helen Smith, taught sewing lessons, budgeting, tips on lowering food bills, home decorating, child discipline and care, and other topics of interest to parents, and grooming health care, sewing, and personal relations to teen-agers.

The center cooperated actively in planning for the Child Welfare Program for Hays County in 1976.

Since 1973, the City Parks and Recreation Department has paid the summer recreation program staff at Southside. The 1976 summer recreational program at Southside was very successful in city competitive events. More than 75% of all first place ribbons given in San Marcos that year were won by Southside children. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the children's program was their own original creation of a 3-act play that won first place in its category. In conjunction with the recreational program was a summer feeding program sponsored by the USDA. The federal grant paid for lunches at a reduced price from Ralph Gonzales' Pic-a-Taco Restaurant near Southside Community Center. An average of 81 children ate daily.



A Box Hockey Tournament

The feeding program coordinated with the summer recreation program for 1977 has been scheduled to be operated at Bowie Elementary School.

A Children's Community Garden Project was operated in 1976 and 1977. Seeds were donated for the program. Children under the direction of Tom Kelm and Nan Keyes learned to establish and tend vegetable gardens which were grown on vacant lots in the neighborhood. The project enhanced the appearance of the area, taught valuable skills, provided activity for children, provided food for the family tables, and gave the children a sense of worth.



Children Learn Gardening at the Center

A branch library at Southside serves many children and adults who would never go to the main library, but feel comfortable and find it convenient to use these facilities.

In connection with the library, which is furnished with shelves, tables, chairs, desk, and carpet belonging to the San Marcos Library, an adult education program is operated 5 days a week. This program which began in 1975 is approved by the Veteran's Administration and offers classes in GED, basic education, English as a second language, and Spanish to Spanish speakers. Child care is provided for parents while studying at the center. The Adult Learning Center is funded by a grant obtained through the cooperation of the San Marcos Public Library and librarian, Miss Eden Moseley, and the Ten-County ACE Co-op. It began under the direction of Miss Margarita Laveaga, a Mexican national who came here as an intern to complete a master's degree from Scarritt College.

When Miss Laveaga's visa expired she went back to Mexico and the classes continued under the direction of Miss Alicia Martinez, who had until recently been director of Senior Citizen Center.

Due to ineffective building plans, the flood waters and other standing water could not evaporate sufficiently from under the center. In 1976 it was discovered that the substructure had deteriorated to such an extent that the floor had fallen through in several places. The National Division of United Methodist Church agreed in April, 1977, to fund repairs to the building, which may be as much as \$19,000.

Many times the boys using the center have had no regard for the equipment and property at the center. Sometimes the very ones who have torn up things or vandalized the building have

also agreed in group discussions that behavior of that type was wrong.

Mr. Grimaldo and Mr. Perez have conducted research and made plans to install solar energy collectors on the center's roof to minimize the utility bills. Later advice may be given to neighborhood people about installing similar equipment in their own homes.

Since Miss Ralston destroyed the records when she left the center it has been difficult to determine the facts about many items of interest concerning the center.

Income in the 1940's came from local organizations' donations as well as from the National Division and donations of money and goods from many out-of-town churches and WSCS groups. The revenue from the sale of clothes practically balanced all running expenses of the center. One such box from WSCS of Mt. Vernon Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas, in 1967 included boys' tennis shoes, Girl Scout uniform, Boy Scout handbooks, Cub Scout uniform parts, and gym clothes.

The National Division of the Board of Missions, located in Philadelphia until 1967 when it was moved to New York, has, at times, made extra allocations to the Southside budget. One of these came in June, 1968, for \$1600 and was undesignated. Another was \$5,000 towards the cost of repairs in June, 1968. An extra allocation for budget needs of \$3600 came in 1962-1963. In 1963, \$5,000 extra was allocated for additional property.

The appropriation from National Division for 1947 was \$15 a month. It was \$11,000 for 1962-1963, \$12,600 for 1963-1964,

and \$14,000 for 1964-1965.

It has never been the policy of either the Woman's Division or the National Division to completely finance any project. Local support must supplement the larger allocations from National Division. In recent years when it has been necessary for funding to be cut drastically or altogether an many Methodist related community centers around the country, Southside has fared very well. The funding group has been pleased with the program carried on at the center, the changes that have been made as the community changes, and the results that have been manifested. Approval has been shown in the continuous funding which has been given.

Southside had been funded about \$5,000 yearly by United Fund until 1970, when lack of interested workers and givers forced the United Fund to be abandoned. The United Fund Drive was sometimes held during the years after that and sometimes not. Mr. H. Y. Price, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. William Crook and other individuals have made generous donations to the center at various times when the need has been great.

Sometimes donations have been designated for particular purposes such as kindergarten scholarships or equipment for Boys' Club, but more often they have been for the general budget.

Other means of raising local funds have been tried to supplement the larger amounts received from National Division, and the gifts of individuals and organizations in the area. In 1949, a silver tea was held to raise funds for the center. Carnivals and Mexican suppers have been held many times as fund raisers.

A Green and Silver Tea at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Flowers in 1963 netted \$274.80. In April, 1969 a sale of used appliances, draperies, and furniture at the First United Methodist Church Turner House benefited the center. In June, 1970, a fiesta was held on the Southside grounds.

In August, 1971, a dance festival at Cuauhtemoc Park following Mexican folkdance lessons brought money into the center treasury. A carnival at Victory Park in June, 1972, and another at Martindale in August brought smaller amounts of money. After paying \$25 for a dunking booth which has been used many times since, the Martindale carnival netted \$46.39. A television raffle was held in 1973. New shoes donated by an Austin shoe store which had gone out of business were sold for \$3 a pair by staff and volunteers.

The center staff assisted by a few board members and volunteers have held rummage sales on an irregular basis through the 'sixties and early 'seventies to raise money for specific needs.

The most recent fund raising efforts for the center have been a radio-thon by staff and volunteers on April 2, 1977, which netted \$4090.63 and a barbecue dinner on May 14, 1977. The barbecue was planned and coordinated by Ralph Gonzales and netted about \$5,000.

The dynamics of working in neighborhoods to solve the problems of neighborhoods is as sound now as it was during all the years when the center was the only agency that kept faith with social action. Southside Community Center has never been

affluent, but it faces more and more money problems as it goes about the work of the community.

A lengthy agency reporting instrument is completed by the board committees and the director each year and sent to the National Division offices to summarize various aspects of the center (make-up of board, racial make-up of people served, characteristics of program, budget, personnel practices, evaluation procedures, staff, board training, staff training, leadership development, program focus, etc.) and justify requests for financial support from the National Division of the Board of Missions.

Financial record keeping and auditing have sometimes presented problems to the center. As recently as 1950, there were two bank accounts and two sets of books kept for the operation of the center. One, kept by the deaconess, usually had a balance of several hundred dollars, and the other kept by the board treasurer, had a balance between \$1000 and \$2000. During the tenure of Mr. Curry all the money was kept in one account with check-writing and bookkeeping done by Patsy Curry and signed by the board treasurer. After the Currys left the center there has not always been someone on the staff qualified to do the financial work and board treasurers have usually been unwilling to spend the time with it. A certified public accountant was hired to prepare monthly financial statements in addition to the yearly audit. Many board members have been dissatisfied with that solution, believing it costs the center more than it should afford for the amount of work done, and that there is

really no internal control and check on the monies received and disbursed.

There are a number of community centers in this area of the country, indicating the scope of commitment of United Methodist Church to the poor of the Southwest. There is often a lack of communication between local churches and their national mission fields. Local churches need to be made aware of what the national church is doing, because these missions have contributed much to help America's poor, and there is much still to be done.

After 50 years of service to the community by being aware of the changing needs of the neighborhood and establishing direct service programs to meet the needs, Southside Community Center still provides a wide range of services in 1977. They include counseling, after school tutoring, clubs, emergency aid, job referrals, assistance to transients, adult learning center, Brownies and Girl Scouts, nutrition classes, recreation, juvenile delinquency prevention, and home economics classes. Southside is still initiating programs to help troubled people and finding other agencies to take over some of the work.

So long as there are people in the community with needs and others in the community who care, there will be a purpose for Southside Community Center.

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A Field of Dreams

Frances McKinnon Morton

I'd like to leave behind me when I go
A little field of dreams to grow, and grow;
Just lovely dreams I've gathered here and there,
And then sent out on shining wings of prayer
That somehow God, and I, and you who caught
The fragile dreams, and cherished what they taught
Might nurture them with so much love and grace
They'd help to make our world a better place.
I wish I knew more perfectly the art
Of planting dreams within another's heart.

APPENDIX

Staff Members

Southside Community Center and Forerunners

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Milton Morris | 47. Robert Wayne Haley |
| 2. Miss Martha Johnson | 48. Lupe San Miguel |
| 3. Miss Mattie Cunningham | 49. Joe Tobias |
| 4. Miss Lexie Vivian | 50. Peter Torres |
| 5. Miss Willena Henry | 51. Johnnie Ponce |
| 6. Mrs. Geneva Gomez | 52. Genry Garza |
| 7. Miss Martina Hyde | 53. Joel Martinez |
| 8. Miss Mary Riddle | 54. Constance Slaybeck |
| 9. Miss Mary E. Cameron | 55. Annette Fuqua |
| 10. Miss Helen Osborne | 56. Haynes Baumgardner |
| 11. Roberto Reyna | 57. Rueben Michael Smith |
| 12. Miss Isidra Verver | 58. Mary O. Flores |
| 13. Miss Christine Brewer | 59. Sylvia Villanueva |
| 14. Miss Henry McKinnon | 60. Michael Alvarado |
| 15. Miss Catherin Wheeler Hahn | 61. Antonia Perez |
| 16. Domingo Tobias | 62. Samuel Devon Johnson |
| 17. Mrs. Willie C. Kluck | 63. Miss Patsy Lee (Ormsby) |
| 18. Sabino Rubio | 64. George A. Curry |
| 19. Mrs. Crecencio Guerrero | 65. Mrs. Patsy Curry |
| 20. Alejandro Ramirez | 66. Miss Anna L. Howe |
| 21. Pedro Romo Salas | 67. Miss Eva Martinez |
| 22. Roy Briggs, Jr. | 68. Allan Grenadier |
| 23. Miss Ruth Garza | 69. Jesse Rubio |
| 24. Mrs. A. M. Hall | 70. Miss Velma Ybarra (Vela) |
| 25. Evaristo Hernandez, Jr. | 71. Charles Chapman |
| 26. Emmett Hubbard Sherman | 72. Roscoe Morgan |
| 27. Victor Resendez | 73. Robert A. Hunter |
| 28. Juan Manual Martinez | 74. Miss Becky Cultra (Lowman) |
| 29. Gerald J. Henry | 75. Joe Zapata |
| 30. Melba Jean Rios | 76. Joe Morin |
| 31. Miguel de la Cruz | 77. Miss Yolanda Trevino |
| 32. Miss Beatrice G. Rios | 78. Miss Aracelia Rodriguez |
| 33. Miss Janie Cantu | 79. Miss Gay Paul |
| 34. Oswaldo D. Cantu | 80. Mrs. Charlie del Cueto |
| 35. Gilbert Lafuente | 81. John Elder |
| 36. Ismael Samaniego | 82. Miss Gloria Leonard |
| 37. Eloy Rocky Gonzales | 83. Miss Esperanza Juarez |
| 38. Daniel Navarro | 84. Aart Millecam |
| 39. Nobuhino Nagase | 85. Mrs. Melissa Millecam |
| 40. Gilbert C. Resendez | 86. Timothy C. Neilson |
| 41. James Richard Campbell | 87. Miss Gloria Longoria |
| 42. Juventino G. Gamaz | 88. Miss Josefina Tobias |
| 43. Mateo Rodriguez | 89. Miss Julia Avalos |
| 44. Barbara Willard | 90. Pete Alvarado |
| 45. Sam W. Allen | 91. Jerry Flores |
| 46. Cecelia Torres Rodriguez | 92. Mrs. Della Flores |

93. Mrs. Margie Hale
94. Toby Molina
95. John Murphy
96. Willie De La Rosa
97. David Liggins
98. Charles Besinaiz
99. Gino Gomez
100. Juan Torres
101. Thomas Ruiz
102. A. B. Cantu
103. Miss Margie Villalpando
104. James Flores
105. Harvey Miller
106. Pedro Grimaldo
107. Marcos Hernandez
108. Miss Julie Quintero
109. Miss Margarita Laveaga
110. Miss Linda Schultze
111. Eddie Riddle
112. Miss Maxine Hubbard
113. Miss Audelia Gonzales
114. Miss Susie Esquivel
115. Miss Rose Marie deLeon
116. Leon Herndon
117. Miss Sylvia Covarrubias
118. Rick Stolley
119. Mrs. Diane McCabe
120. Raymond Natal
121. Johnny Valdez
122. Miss Margaret Gonder
123. Miss Alicia Martinez
124. Mrs. Margaret Costa
125. Miss Rosie Molano (Solis)
126. Gilbert Jaimez
127. Oscar Olivas
128. Miss Jane Daniels
129. Miss Beverly Archer
130. Miss Helen Camps
131. Thomas Kelm
132. Ruben Perez

Members of Board of Directors
Southside Community Center and Forerunners

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Miss Mae Garth | 49. Rev. Carlos Garcia |
| 2. Mrs. Sumner Townsend | 50. Mrs. V. F. Drewes |
| 3. Mrs. W. A. Wyatt, Sr. | 51. Charles Rhymes |
| 4. Mrs. P. R. Merrill | 52. Mrs. Charles Rhymes |
| 5. Mrs. T. E. Suttles | 53. Mrs. Victor Bowers |
| 6. Mrs. Walter Puls | 54. Mrs. W. H. Skaggs |
| 7. Mrs. W. D. Talmadge | 55. Mrs. Truly |
| 8. Miss Belle Collins | 56. Rev. W. E. Thomas |
| 9. Mrs. H. C. Kreuz | 57. H. Y. Price, Jr. |
| 10. Mrs. H. K. Eastwood | 58. Pete Mercado |
| 11. Mrs. J. R. Morton | 59. A. B. C. Dean |
| 12. Miss Emma Bragg | 60. Mrs. A. B. C. Dean |
| 13. Mrs. J. M. Wiser | 61. Rev. Milton Dare |
| 14. Mrs. W. B. Aubrey | 62. Mrs. Gene Scrutchin |
| 15. Miss Kate McWilliams | 63. Mrs. Martha Kirchoff |
| 16. Mrs. Theo Mahler | 64. James Farmer |
| 17. Miss Belle Waldrip | 65. Ted Breihan |
| 18. Mrs. C. C. Wade | 66. Mrs. Bob Bowden |
| 19. Mrs. A. N. Hinrichsen | 67. Mrs. R. F. Sowell, Jr. |
| 20. Mrs. H. H. Goodman | 68. Mrs. Maurice Erickson |
| 21. Mrs. M. L. Arnold | 69. Mrs. Millard Fleming |
| 22. Mrs. T. E. Suttles | 70. Claudio Flores |
| 23. Mrs. DeWitt Taylor | 71. Mrs. A. M. Hall |
| 24. Mrs. Herbert Finnie | 72. Bert Hernandez |
| 25. Mrs. M. M. Wren | 73. Mrs. Bert Hernandez |
| 26. Mrs. C. V. Carson | 74. Frank Hilton |
| 27. Mrs. Isbell | 75. Miss Florence Kone |
| 28. Mrs. C. E. Chamberlain | 76. Henry Kyle |
| 29. Mrs. Buford Williams | 77. Mrs. Carmen Miranda |
| 30. Mrs. T. C. Johnson, Jr. | 78. Mrs. Rafealla Rubio |
| 31. Rev. A. M. Fielder | 79. Rev. Maynard Rich |
| 32. Rev. Troy Hickman | 80. Mrs. J. G. Flowers |
| 33. Miss Dora Brack | 81. Dr. C. W. Scheib |
| 34. Rev. A. N. Hinrichsen | 82. Mrs. C. W. Scheib |
| 35. Rev. Benito Hernandez | 83. Mrs. Sophie W. Smith |
| 36. Dr. M. L. Arnold | 84. Mrs. R. B. Todd |
| 37. Mrs. Fidela Villalpando | 85. Gilbert Villalpando |
| 38. Mrs. J. R. Wilhelm | 86. Chester Wentworth |
| 39. Mrs. Will Joiner | 87. Mrs. Chester Wentworth |
| 40. Miss Willa V. Tinsley | 88. Charles Ramsey |
| 41. Miss Ruby Henderson | 89. William Miller |
| 42. Miss Alma Lueders | 90. J. G. Obenhaus |
| 43. Mrs. Claudia Johnson | 91. Jack White |
| 44. Mrs. Nan Mitchell | 92. Jrs. W. F. Galbreath |
| 45. Mrs. Gladys Caley | 93. Miss Carrie Cockran |
| 46. Mrs. Alfred Nolle | 94. Mrs. J. U. Fox |
| 47. Mrs. Winter Logan | 95. Mrs. J. M. Roady |
| 48. Judge J. R. Wilhelm | 96. Miss Belle Schmidt |

97. Mrs. Rodgers' Storey
98. Mrs. W. M. Summers
99. Mrs. Grace Coleman
100. John G. Flowers
101. W. A. Scrutchin
102. Miss Lucille Bott (Shabowich)
103. Mrs. Sallie Bagley
104. Dr. Leroy Young
105. Dr. Helen Campbell
106. Mrs. Fred Feltner
107. Woodrow Stephenson
108. Mrs. Woodrow Stephenson
109. Eddy Etheredge
110. Mrs. Billy Miller
111. Rev. Jose Flores
112. Mrs. Jose Flores
113. Rev. A. T. Harris
114. Mrs. A. T. Harris
115. Rev. J. R. Sandoval
116. Mrs. J. R. Sandoval
117. Rev. Leroy Russell
118. Mrs. Leroy Russell
119. Mrs. Clara Johnson
120. Rev. Richmond McKinney
121. Mrs. Charles E. Ellis
122. Emmett Mendoza
123. Clara Suarez
124. Mrs. William Kolbe
125. Mrs. Ross D. Compton
126. Howard Yeargan
127. Mrs. Bob Barton, Jr.
128. Rev. David Chavez
129. Onesimo Mendoza
130. Rev. Ellis Thomas
131. Rev. Alphonso Washington
132. Mrs. Edward Scull
133. Mrs. Jose Nanez
134. Mrs. I. B. Huston
135. Rev. Jose Nanez
136. Rev. H. T. Franks
137. Dr. Elmer J. Heirholzer
138. Rev. Jose Gonzales
139. Rev. T. R. Watkins
140. Mrs. C. A. Barr
141. Mrs. Concita Cantu
142. Miss Lillie Wilson
143. Mrs. E. L. Crow
144. Mrs. Alicia Ramirez
145. Miss Anita Whitfield
146. Ralph Gonzales
147. Mrs. E. F. Kluck
148. Mrs. Henry Contreras
149. Joe Luna
150. Luciano Flores
151. Forrest Manjang
152. Mrs. R. M. Beechinor
153. Sam Bowers
154. Rev. Hugh C. Busby
155. Frank Contreras
156. Mrs. Peggy Byas
157. Mrs. J. P. Muse
158. Mrs. Josefina Perez
159. Oscar Henicke
160. Jerry Flores
161. Mrs. William Crook
162. Mrs. Alicia Hurtado
163. Mrs. Janie Rayos
164. Dr. Louis Moloney
165. Augustine Lucio
166. Bruce Harper
167. Sergio Jaimez
168. Dr. C. S. Leffingwell
169. Ms. Alicia Martinez
170. Ms. Rosemary Suniga
171. Mrs. Jerry Flores
172. Mrs. Bob Cooper
173. Mrs. Elmer Hixson
174. Mrs. Florence Isaacs
175. Jim Broussard
176. Miss Carmen Hernandez
177. Miss Ardelia Brennan
178. Albert Sierra
179. Frank Arredondo
180. Rev. Harold Goodenough
181. Mrs. La Nell Bilbro
182. Jimmy Luna
183. Mrs. Rachel Gaitan
184. Alex Tijerina
185. Joe De La Cruz
186. Miss Mary Blanche Guerrero
187. Miss Princess Ybarra
188. Juan Ramon Palomo
189. Mrs. Wallace Dockall
190. Rev. Bob Goodson
191. Dr. John Donaho
192. Abraham Martinez
193. David Dietert
194. Ernest Morgan
195. Rev. Jerry Smith
196. Ms. Merry Fitzpatrick

Policies Governing the Use of the Facilities of the
Southside Community Center

1. The facilities of the Southside Community Center are destined first and foremost for the needs of the programs offered by the Center.
2. The auditorium and meeting rooms of the Southside Community Center are available without charge for meetings of other organizations and agencies, providing that there is no conflict with the purposes of the Center as set forth in Article III of the By-Laws and the on-going program of the Center.
3. The auditorium and certain other rooms of the Southside Community Center are available for a small charge for private meetings, parties, receptions, showers, and weddings, providing that there is no conflict with other scheduled uses of the facilities in the areas of number 1 and 2 above.
4. It shall be understood that all organizations and individuals using the facilities of the Southside Community Center will do so in a manner fully in harmony with the norms of public decency and decorum.
5. No intoxicating beverages and no games of chance will be allowed on the premises of the Southside Community Center.
6. All groups and individuals who make use of the facilities of the Southside Community Center must make it explicitly clear in their publicity who is sponsoring the activity and that the Southside Community Center is only the place of meeting and not involved in the sponsorship of the activity.
7. No reservations for the use of the facilities of the Southside Community Center may be made more than one month in advance by organizations and individuals.
8. No on-going or permanent use of the facilities of the Southside Community Center can be made except by specific authorization of the Board of Directors of the Center.
9. The Executive Director of the Southside Community Center shall be charged with the responsibility for scheduling the use of the facilities according to the principles enunciated herewith, including the fees mentioned in No. 3 above.

Contributors to Fund for New Center

1. Miss Mattie Cunningham	\$200.
2. Miss Dora Brack	10.
3. Mrs. J. M. Weiser	10.
4. Mrs. W. B. Aubrey	10.
5. Mrs. Emma Bragg	10.
6. Mrs. DeWitt Taylor	50.
7. Mr. and Mrs. Theo Mahler	25.
8. Mrs. T. E. Suttles	10.
9. Mrs. C. V. Carson	10.
10. Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Arnold	100.
11. Latin-American Mothers' Club	144.90
12. Ross Arnold	25.
13. Frank Arnold	25.
14. S. R. Beecroft	25.
15. C. M. Decker	10.
16. Henry Kyle	25.
17. Charles Ramsey	10.
18. Mr. Long	25.
19. Buckner Publishers	50.
20. C. C. Wade	25.
21. Jack Gary	10.
22. Gene Scrutchin	50.
23. Paul Rogers	10.
24. B. Wildenthal	10.
25. unnamed donor	16.75
26. Dr. Alfred Nolle	10.
27. C. S. Smith	10.
28. Miss Alma Lueders	50.
29. L. E. Derrick	10.
30. Claude Elliott	10.
31. H. E. Speck	7.50
32. Allen Misgrave	2.50
33. J. Lloyd Rogers	7.50
34. D. F. Votaw	7.50
35. Miss Mary C. Brogdon	5.
36. Miss Ethel Davis	3.
37. T. C. Reardon	2.
38. Dr. Lancaster	50.
39. Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wilhelm	50.
40. C. H. Bass	10.
41. Dr. Vernon Cook	10.
42. Dr. A. A. Grusendorf	10.
43. Southside TPA	15.
44. Latin American WOW	25.
45. Brackenridge Club	25.
46. WSCS	50.
47. Dr. J. G. Flowers	20.
48. Mrs. May Kyle	5.
49. Mrs. Medie Kyle	2.50
50. Miss B. Malone	5.
51. Karnes City WSCS	5.
52. Mothers' Club	50.

By-Laws

Southside Community Center
San Marcos, Texas

ARTICLE I. NAME AND IDENTIFICATION

The name of this organization shall be Southside Community Center.

It is one of the non-profit charitable projects related to the National Division of the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church. It operates under the policies and administration of the National Division.

ARTICLE II. PROPERTY AND SUPPORT

Section 1. Property

Title to the property is held in the name of the Women's Division of the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church, with headquarters at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.

Section 2. Support

Contributions for support of this Center are made by the National Division of the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church. The basic sources of these funds come from the Women's Division and World Service. Other major sources of support are Hays County United Fund, churches, private contributions and special grants.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

Southside Community Center is an agency of social concern committed to the development of the neighborhoods of San Marcos. It operates on the belief that a neighborhood organized around its own interests can do much to enhance personal dignity of the individual and restore the democratic principle of self-determination. To achieve this purpose the Center is engaged in a program of direct services and social action.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Name

The Southside Community Center shall be governed by a Board of Directors which shall exercise all the powers of the Corporation unless herein otherwise indicated.

The corporation membership and the membership of the Board of Directors are one and the same. In this Board of Directors shall be vested the authority for governing the agency.

By-Laws continued

Section 2. Membership

The Board of Directors shall be composed of eighteen elected plus six ex-officio members with vote.

a. Elected members

At least 1/3 from the neighborhoods served--nominated or recommended by them--ecumenical.

The remaining members are to be equally divided between:
 (1) men and women from the United Methodist Church and
 (2) the larger community.

b. Ex-officio members

President of the Conference Women's Society of Christian Service or her representative.

President of the District Women's Society of Christian Service or her representative.

One representative from the Conference Board of Missions.

One representative from the District Board of Missions.

District Superintendent or his representative.

A member from the General Board of Missions, if living in the area and willing to serve.

Section 3. Tenure and Rotation

a. One-third of the elected membership shall be elected annually to serve a three-year term.

b. Elected members may serve two consecutive terms and are not eligible for Board membership again until they have been off the Board for at least one year.

c. Term of membership begins at the close of the session when elected to the close of the Annual Meeting at the end of the term to which he/she was elected or until a successor is chosen.

d. Members filling unexpired terms are subject to the term to which they are elected.

e. Ex-officio members or their representative shall serve only during their term of office.

Section 4. Inactive Members

If a member elected by the Board becomes inactive, misses three consecutive meetings without excuse, the Board shall declare his position on the Board vacant.

By-Laws continued

- c. Time and place of regular meetings shall be determined by the Board.
- d. Prevailing parliamentary law shall be used unless it is not in keeping with these by-laws.
- e. One-third of the total board membership, including ex-officio, constitutes a quorum. (Eight members.)

Section 7. Executive Director

The executive director shall be responsible for carrying out the program of the agency under the policies and directives of the Board and shall give staff leadership to all meetings of the Board of Directors. The executive attends all Board meetings, but does not have a vote. The executive or a staff member designated by the executive shall have staff leadership to all of the committees of the Board.

Section 8. Board Members

Board members shall not accept employment as staff in the agency or payment for services rendered.

ARTICLE V. THE ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1. Annual Meeting

There shall be an Annual Meeting of Board of Directors in the month of May. Date and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Its purpose shall be primarily to elect the Board of Directors, the officers, and the nominating committee, to hear reports of the work of the agency for the preceding year and to hear plans for "new directions" for promotion and interpretation purposes.

Section 2. Membership

The voting membership shall be that as defined in Article IV., Section I.

Section 3. Quorum

The quorum shall be that as defined in Article IV, Section 6.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers shall be elected from the membership of the Board and shall serve as officers of the Annual Meeting of the corporation and the Board of Directors. The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

By-Laws continued

Section 2. Duties

Duties of the officers shall be those usually performed by such officers.

Section 3. Term of Office

Term of office shall be one year with three consecutive terms being the maximum time of service. The term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting when elected and shall continue until the close of the next Annual Meeting or until successors are elected.

ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Committee Composition and Term of Office

A Nominating Committee of five members, the majority of whom shall be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, for a term of one year, with the eligibility for re-election for two additional terms. The quorum of the Nominating Committee shall be at least three.

The Nominating Committee shall analyze the composition of the Board, nominate new members, officers, members of the Nominating Committee and make nominations for vacancies. Their consideration should include men and women from inside and outside the neighborhoods served, in various age groups, lay and clergy, and nominate because of their individual qualifications, such as ability, interest, knowledge of the neighborhoods, professional experience, interest in the church and its outreach, and willingness to serve and to help effect change.

Section 2. Slate of Nominees

A slate of nominees, willing to serve as Board members, officers, and members of the Nominating Committee, with one designated to be its chairman, shall be submitted to the voting members of the corporation with the call to the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Other Nominations

Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the person being nominated, or through submission of a petition signed by five voting members of the Annual Meeting to the president or the secretary with the consent of the person being nominated.

Section 4. Election

Election shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting. A majority vote shall elect.

Section 5. Notification of Nominees

The Nominating Committee is responsible for notifying all nominees after the election.

By-Laws continued

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Statement Concerning Committees

Committees are primarily responsible for the formulation of recommendations and policies to the Board and for carrying out responsibilities assigned to them by the Board. It is in the work of the committees that Board and staff work together as partners in analyzing the problems of the organization. After the formulation of a recommendation, the Board votes. After an affirmative vote, the staff executes or administers.

Committees help in sorting out the issues, in studying the facts involved in the alternative solutions, and in formulating recommendations to be considered by the Board. Policy recommendations shall be circulated to voting members at least a week prior to voting. Voting shall be by ballot.

Persons from neighborhood and wider community should be placed on committees as non-board members as a means of keeping close touch with the community and of developing potential board members.

Section 2. Standing Committees .

- a. Executive Committee
Shall consist of the officers and two additional members of the Board elected by the Board. This committee shall have power to act between meetings of the Board, to make recommendations to the Board, and to carry special responsibilities assigned to it. Authority remains with the Board of Directors. Any interim action must be ratified by the Board at its next meeting. The president chairs this committee. When the matter to be considered is the concern of one of the committees, the chairman shall attend.
- b. Program Committee (Direct services and social action)
Shall assist and advise the staff in studying neighborhood needs and resources and in planning and carrying out programs of direct services and social action to meet those needs in the most effective way. It shall advise the Board on staff and budget required to carry out this program. It shall take recommendations to the Board on broad policies concerning the services and action of the agency.
 1. It is responsible for keeping up to date on the quality and quantity of services being offered.
 2. It shall advise the Board on neighborhood or community action required to alleviate conditions and meet needs which can not be met through the resources of the agency.
 3. It is in this committee that the social conditions affecting life in the neighborhoods served and/or

By-Laws continued

the total community are studied and appropriate actions recommended. The Program Committee brings them to the Board for action.

The responsibility for staff leadership on this committee may be assigned by the executive director to an appropriate staff member or the staff member concerned with administering the program of the agency.

c. Personnel Committee

Recommends to the Board, policies to be followed in staffing the agency. Its duties include:

1. To recommend hiring and, if necessary, dismissal of the executive director, and to evaluate the director periodically, unless this function is assigned to a special committee by the Board.
2. To give consultation to the executive director, when major staff positions are being filled.
3. To develop, review annually and recommend to the Board a code of Personnel Policies governing employment conditions in the agency, including grievance machinery to hear appeals of employees against any violation of Personnel Policies, and a schedule of staff positions with responsibilities, ranges to be paid for each person selected by the executive director. When these policies are formulated, a person elected by the employed staff shall be included on the committee.
4. To establish standards and practices for volunteers (program and administrative).

d. Building and Grounds Committee

Shall recommend to the Board broad policies and methods for maintenance of agency property, so that it is safe, functional and attractive.

e. Finance Committee

Shall recommend to the Board policies which will govern the management of the financial affairs of the agency and provide adequate funds for carrying out the program of services and action approved by the Board. It shall participate in the formulation of the budget unless this has been delegated to a Budget Committee with representation from the Personnel, Program and Buildings and Grounds Committees. It shall oversee the investment of capital funds unless this responsibility is delegated