

## HELPING OTHERS IS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE

BY ROY ORTEGA

*"Helping People, Changing Lives."* A little-known fact about Project BRAVO is that its creed is deeply rooted in the history of our nation. Long before the founding fathers forged their vision of a government *of the people, for the people*, Americans were already extending a helpful hand to those in need. In 1726, a young Benjamin Franklin described the most important personal characteristics he intended to follow throughout the rest of his life. His most important virtue, he wrote, was charity - a love of one's fellow man. Throughout the early part of the nation's history, Americans were inspired to help each other. The notion of providing sustenance to those without quickly became a part of our nation's collective soul. During the colonial period, assistance was lovingly and willingly extended to a population of impoverished slaves and Native Americans who occupied the lower strata of early American society. During the industrial age, religious groups were often the driving forces behind efforts to pull citizens out of poverty, but they were also joined by wealthy, philanthropic-minded Americans who generously built schools and provided welfare assistance to those who needed it the most. In modern American society, social programs designed to help citizens overcome the destructive nature of poverty were developed and later became the foundation of America's present-day commitment to the health and well-being of all of its citizens. Those programs continue to be based on the ideals of helping Americans in need while at the same time promoting self-sufficiency. No doubt, Americans are proud of their long history of helping their fellow citizens. Pride, patriotism and lending a helping hand go together as easily as hot dogs, baseball, and fireworks. Happy 4th of July!



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# The BRAVO Newsletter

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## Weatherization Program Extended

Project BRAVO officials say a decision by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to extend the program period for the popular Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a positive development. Under the original arrangement, the weatherization program was slated to conclude at the end of August, 2011. Due to Project BRAVO's success in administering the program in a timely and efficient manner, the TDHCA granted an extension to December 12, 2011. "It means we will have more time to weatherize the homes of people who have already qualified to receive the services," said Weatherization Supervisor Maggie Rodriguez. Since the program began in early 2010, the homes of more than a thousand low-income, elderly and disabled residents in El Paso County have been successfully weatherized. The Project BRAVO Weatherization Department expects to weatherize at least 1,700 homes by the end of the program period. Weatherization is part of President Barack Obama's effort to help the country reduce its energy consumption by as much as 30-percent. In 2009, the Congress agreed to fund the program under the Department of Energy



The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a federal effort to help reduce home energy consumption by 20-30%.

(DOE). Project BRAVO was the recipient of \$8.9 million to weatherize homes locally. Weatherization can include installation of insulation, weather stripping, window solar screens and in some cases, replacement of old, inefficient appliances.

## Agency Moving to New Headquarters

After more than two decades at its Montana Avenue location, Project BRAVO's administrative offices will be moving to a new location in early July. The agency has entered into a lease agreement with the La Mujer Obrera Board of Directors to occupy office space at 2000 Texas Avenue. The building, which once housed La Mujer Obrera's administrative and education facility, has been vacant for several months. Under the lease arrangement, Project BRAVO will occupy the office portion of the building. The adjoining restaurant, Café Mayapan, will remain in the hands of La Mujer Obrera. The restaurant remains closed but officials indicate the once-popular eatery may resume operations sometime in the future. Project BRAVO

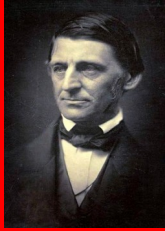


will house its administrative and community services offices at the location along with its Adult Basic Education/ Employment office. Also moving to the La Mujer Obrera Building will be Project BRAVO's Southside satellite center currently located at 716 E. Paisano Drive.

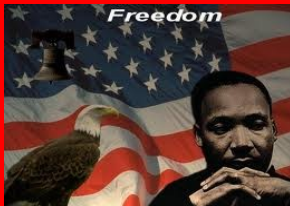
**“Freedom is never given, it is won.” - Unknown**



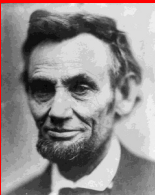
**“America is another name for opportunity” - Ralph Waldo Emerson**



**“Freedom is never given voluntarily by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed” - Martin Luther King Jr.**



**“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves” - Abraham Lincoln**



# Segura Joins Project BRAVO Board

El Paso attorney Bernadette Segura has been appointed as the newest member of the Project BRAVO Board of Directors. Segura took her oath during the board’s regular board meeting on May 31. Ms. Segura brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the board in the area of housing particularly for low-income residents. She currently works as a staff attorney for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. During the last few years, Segura has focused much of her attention addressing issues of affording housing. Previously in San Antonio, she worked tirelessly to help homeless citizens find safe and affordable housing. She is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at El Paso.



## Did You Know...

- that here are 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the USA that annually help 17 million low-income Americans achieve economic security?
- that Project BRAVO provides a pathway of success to thousands of El Paso residents through its Adult Basic Education Program and Employment Services?
- that so far this year, Project BRAVO has helped 56 low-income homeowners avoid foreclosure through its HUD-certified housing counseling services?
- that since the WAP/ARRA program began in early 2010, more than a thousand homes have been successfully weatherized?

## ¿Que ondas?

-Congratulations to Priscilla Montiel who gave birth to little Romeo last month. “I would like to send a thank you note to all of the staff that gave me support. When I delivered my baby, I had nothing since I wasn’t expecting it so early,” said Priscilla.

-Happy Birthday to Rocio Duran!



## From the “Thank You” File”:

It may concern:  
 he is Manuela M. Marquez. I am writing to you to express  
 satisfaction with your organization.  
 In past few months, extensive work was done at my residence  
 nothing but praise for the people involved. From the beginning  
 interviews down to the final inspection, I was treated  
 and courtesy.  
 re the people I (or my daughter) dealt with directly and I  
 gave anybody out:  
 Flores  
 JM (WAP)  
 Martinez  
 Rodriguez  
 Jubillos  
 Director “Q”  
 Thank you again for the wonderful people and the quality work.  
 Marquez

# Happy 4th of July!

