



COMMISSIONER SERGIO “CHICO” RODRIGUEZ, PCT. 1

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NEWS

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Commissioner Rodriguez Presents Grant Funds to three Local Non Profit Agencies for Youth Programs

Commissioner Chico Rodriguez presented a total amount of \$50,000 in grant funds to three local non profit organizations that work to provide programs for at-risk youth. The Martinez Street Women’s Center received \$25,000; the San Antonio Sports Foundation received \$12,500; and the Por Vida Academy received \$12,500.

The grant funds were made available through the Sequor Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to promoting youth development of at-risk children. The Foundation assists community initiatives that are proven successful and focus on after school recreational and educational programs.

“Our most precious resources are our children,” said Commissioner Rodriguez. “These funds will allow these programs to remain in operation so that young people can strengthen their development and grow into productive adults. I am so pleased to award these funds to these deserving agencies,” he said.

The Martinez center will use the \$25,000 to run “Girl World,” an after-school and summer program for girls ages 10-14. Girl World aims to nurture the growth and development of girls using communication, creativity, self-esteem, healthy sexuality, leadership, and positive relationships as themes. Some activities Girl World participates in include: College planning, financial workshops, poetry writing, and computer graphics workshops. The Commissioner presented the funds to the Martinez Center at 10 AM on Monday, July 25th.

The San Antonio Sports Foundation will use their grant award of \$12,500 to enhance the “Dreams for Youth” program targeted at disadvantaged youth in San Antonio. The Dreams for Youth program is an intervention and prevention targeting at risk activities such as drugs, gang involvement, violence, teen pregnancy and school attrition. The Southside ISD has approximately 4,600 children enrolled in Dreams for Youth. Project Goals include: providing positive reinforcement to help build self esteem and self-confidence, holding students accountable for maintaining passing grades in order to participate, and reducing and eliminating truancy.

The Por Vida Academy is a public campus dedicated to helping alternative students succeed. They will use the \$12,000 in grant funds to run “Project Stork,” which will provide scholarships for daycare services to student mothers attending Por Vida Academy Charter High School. Project Stork aims to reduce truancy for school age parents, reduce the drop out rate and encourage good academic standing.

The Commissioner presented the funds for both the San Antonio Sports Foundation and the Por Vida Academy at 6 PM on July 25th at the Southside ISD board meeting. The Commissioner was able to address the board.

“This is about providing solutions,” said Commissioner Rodriguez. “These deserving organizations are working to turn the tide and return hope to the hopeless by offering kids a chance to become leaders.”

By partnering with private, non-profit, government agencies such as SEQUOR, Bexar County is able to provide the necessary programs to develop strong willed and ambitious youth for tomorrow.

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