



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF McALLEN

THE CLUB
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

Othal E. Brand Center Serves Over 100 Local Teens

Since August 27, 2007, over 100 teens have come through the doors of the Othal E. Brand Center. Our daily attendance averages at about 30 teens per day.

Soccer, weight lifting and the computer lab are the major reason why many of the teens attended in the month of September. We also offer a variety of organized activities such as Karate, boxing, and gameroom tournaments.

Eder Gomez, 15, first came to the center because his parents did not want him to just stay home and watch TV all night. They wanted him to be active and become involved with a program that will benefit him in the future. They found that program in



the Boys & Girls Clubs of McAllen.

Eder plays soccer with the rest of the teens and uses the computer lab to do homework. On September 29, he along with 3 other Brand teens, attended HESTEC at UTPA.



HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

Whether it is one-to-one tutoring, Internet research, or printing services, the Boys & Girls Clubs of McAllen are here to ensure that our teens have what it takes for them to succeed in their studies. The teens, such as Ely Ibarra (right) and Miguel Ramirez (below), utilize the center's resources to complete their assignments.



Othal E. Brand

Young America Acts: Can You See Us Now?




Marcos Cervantes, 17, gives a helping hand by unloading a bus full of clothes and school supplies

This year, the 2007 National Keystone Project is entitled “Young America Acts: Can You See Us Now?” National BGCA wants clubs to showcase the various talents and skills that teenagers have to offer. The Boys & Girls Clubs of McAllen provide local teens many opportunities to be seen. Through community service, tournaments, the arts, and sports, teens are given the chance to shine. This newsletter is testament to that.

The Keystone Club at the Brand Center has been active in both the community and the center. While other teenagers were asleep or just hanging out, the Keystoners were busy helping the community for 3 weekend in a row in September. They volunteered to unload, sort

and distribute clothes and school supplies donated by the residents of McAllen during the “Fill the Bus Campaign.” During football registration, the teens were in force distributing school supplies. They also seize the opportunity to fund raise. The teens kicked off their “One Campaign” by soliciting donations in the form of support cards.

In October, the Keystone Club will nominate and elect their officers. All current members that attend the meetings are eligible to run for office.



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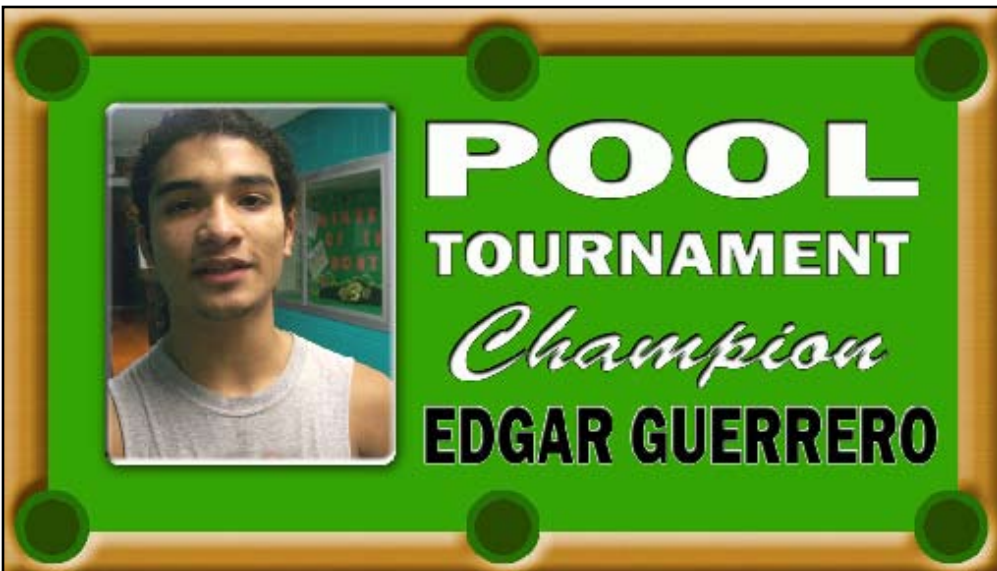


There has been an increase of girls coming daily into the Teen Center. The S.M.A.R.T. Girls program is set to commence in October. Staff member Aissa Treviño has been talking to the girls about the program and they are eager to begin having group conversations about issues and concerns that teens may have.

The girls are instrumental in the Keystone activities. They have not only helped in every event, but often take the lead of the activities sponsored by The Club.



Some of the boys are getting excited about joining the S.M.A.R.T. Girls program, too.





Fitness is a key component of the Teen Center at Brand. Teens can participate in a variety of recreational activities that will challenge not only their competitive nature, but will teach them how to build character, work in teams, and develop their leadership skills. Teens are involved in teaching newcomers how to properly care for the equipment, do basic routines and spot one another when lifting weights. Members can choose organized activities such as Karate, boxing, and weight lifting. On Tuesdays and Thursdays,, staff set up the net and a friendly game of volleyball is played.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Karate Classes: Mondays & Tuesdays
 Boxing Classes: Tuesdays & Wednesdays

- Oct. 5 S.M.A.R.T. Girls & Passport to Manhood
- Oct. 10 Street S.M.A.R.T.
- Oct. 11 Keystone Meeting: Nominations of Officers
- Oct. 12 Pool Tournament
- Oct. 13 Community Service: Reforestation
- Oct. 17 Arts & Crafts: Art Projects for Competition
- Oct. 19 S.M.A.R.T. Girls & Passport to Manhood
- Oct. 20 Red Ribbon Rally
- Oct. 22-26 Goals for Grad: College Week
- Oct. 25 Keystone Meeting: Elections
- Oct. 26 Movie Night
- Oct. 29-30 Arts & Crafts: Halloween Decorations
- Oct 31 Halloween

