



Volunteers aid SA Food Bank, distribute food packages

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The San Antonio Food Bank distributed produce from the campus parking lot to community residents in need of food on Oct. 19.

More than 100 students from five organizations volunteered their time from 8-11:30 a.m. to help the food bank organize and distribute food packages.

Volunteering organizations included Fashion Club, the Air Force JROTC, Gifted and Talented and Avid. Teresa Cuellar was the organizing administrator.

The San Antonio Food Bank provides food and grocery products to more than 500 partner agencies in 16 counties throughout Southwest Texas. The food bank's goal is to fight hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education and advocacy.

"Inexpensive food is usually not very healthy, such as ramen noodles or instant dinners, so we're trying to make a difference in taking care of some folks by giving them healthy choices," CEO and president of the San Antonio Food Bank Eric Cooper said. "Everything we brought out is fresh produce and vegetables, just some really good stuff so we can make a difference in the health of the community."

The free food packages included fresh limes, cabbage, onions, asparagus and pears. The Food Bank relies on the generosity and support of local businesses, churches, foundations, corporations, government, civic groups and individuals in order to successfully continue serving Southwest Texans who are at risk of going hungry.

— Continued on page 4



Sorting tomatoes, juniors Elissa Herrera and Johnny Alvarado make food packages to be distributed to community members in need. Herrera and Alvarado were two of almost 100 students to volunteer for the San Antonio Food Bank Oct. 19. *Photo by Allie Goulding*



Inside the national C-SPAN Mobile Learning Center, Texas Senator Jose Menendez explains the challenges of starting and running a political campaign to Stevens seniors Exal Cisneros Tuch, Andrew Padron, Charles Waterson, Andrew Lopez and Christopher Swinney. The boys are all students in Meg Irwin's AP U.S. Government and Politics class. Irwin was the faculty host for the visit. *Photo by Brittanie Zuniga*

C-SPAN 'Road to White House' peaks students' political interests

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C-SPAN's "Road to the White House Tour" arrived on campus Oct. 20 to promote political awareness and to provide resources for students to learn about political events.

"Our mission is to be a window to Washington," C-SPAN marketing representative Sarah Zou said. "C-SPAN wants to provide resources to our audience who want to be politically active."

Student Resources

The tour bus provided computers with C-SPAN's website loaded, along with information about congressional events, political information regarding speakers, and updates over presidential candidates and their campaigns.

"I think [the channel] is interesting," senior Cody Vallance said. "It can help, and it's nice to get [students] politically involved."

C-SPAN hopes to bring a view into congress to the masses and to show politics as it truly is.

"Our job isn't to tell kids what to think of politics," Sarah Zou said. "We want to give them information and resources to make their own thoughts and decisions."

Political Awareness

C-SPAN is an independent company funded by the cable company and dedicates its channels to political events and outlets. C-SPAN 1 focuses on the House of Representatives, C-SPAN 2 emphasizes Congress, and C-SPAN 3 covers congressional hearings.

"I like C-SPAN because it directly

shows you what's happening in Congress," social studies teacher Meg Irwin said. "They're able to show it without putting a crazy spin on it or inflating it."

Tour Bus

C-SPAN's bus annually tours across the country to 38 states and 140 cities. After the stop on campus, the bus will stop at St. Anthony Catholic school, and then will drive to Houston. Irwin coordinated the exhibit's campus visit.

"The students are pretty impressed with

and issues that come our way."

State Senator Jose Menendez paid a visit to the bus, explaining his experience in Congress, while providing insight into politics for students.

"I'd love to see more young people, like students, to be a part of the change," Menendez said. "Pretty soon they will be the ones deciding what happens to our country."

Sarah Zou and Chellie Zou presented clear explanations of politics in their address to students on the bus.

"There are resources out there to help them make decisions," Chellie Zou said. "We want students to know and be prepared."

Senator's Visit

Menendez shared his struggles when starting and promoting his campaign, from competing with opponents to getting chased off voters' porches by their dogs.

"You get it all. You get all sorts of weird stuff," Menendez said. "It's more good than bad."

C-SPAN's arrival, along with Menendez's visit, attracted popular attention from channel outlets to the school.

"I think C-SPAN is a great resource, and more people should know about it and use their resources," Vallance said. "It's an awesome thing for them to come down to our school."

Because Congress can alter every outlet in society, political awareness has been promoted across the country, especially to the younger generation.

"Politics is in everything in your life," Menendez said. "From sales taxes to education, it affects and influences everything."

“Considering we’re the next generation, we have to be politically aware, so we can fix our problems and our issues that come our way.”

— Cody Vallance
senior

the bus," C-SPAN marketing representative Chellie Zou said. "They ask a lot of great questions, and they seem very interested when it comes to politics."

C-SPAN's arrival encourages students to be involved in politics and to be informed enough about candidates and issues to make their decisions.

"Considering we're the next generation, we have to be politically aware," Vallance said. "So we can fix our problems

This Issue

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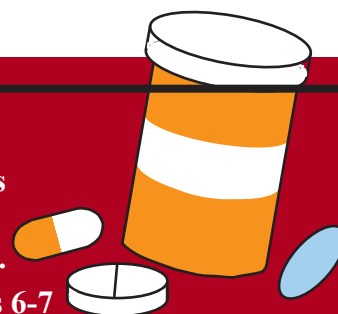
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Page 5

Special Feature

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Pages 6-7