

Sunshine Cottage

SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

Listen

First Graduation Held at New Campus

The first fifth-grade and kindergarten commencement held at the new campus graduated 11 fifth-grade and 17 kindergarten students on June 23, 2011.

Principal Nancy Henderson thanked the students' parents, who share their time with Sunshine Cottage, and congratulated an incomparable staff that works tirelessly with the students. For the first time, all were able to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments comfortably under one roof in the new spacious gym-a-torium.

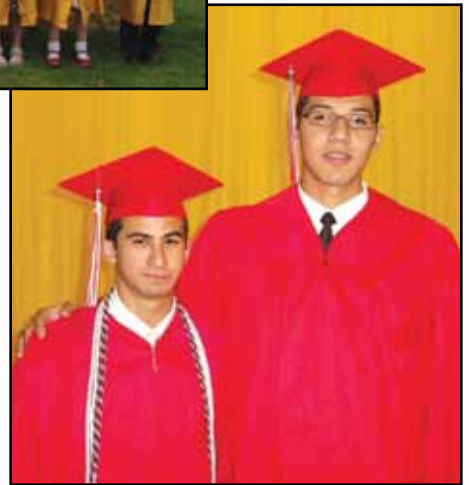
Kinder grads received their diplomas and switched their tassels while their teachers congratulated each of them during their rite of passage into first grade.

Fifth graders walked the stage, introduced themselves, and shared their plans for middle school. Suddenly, music started and a Sunshine Cottage "flash mob" erupted on stage. The audience cheered and were amazed when the kindergarteners joined in. The spotlight shone on each graduate as they proved to be outstanding representatives of Sunshine Cottage.



The first kindergarten class to graduate from Sunshine Cottage's new campus is all smiles for their photo.

Robert E. Lee graduates Julio Cruz, left; and Justin Bermea, right.



Congratulations to two Sunshine Cottage students! Justin Bermea and Julio Cruz graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in May.

Justin

Bermea started at Sunshine Cottage

when he was four years old. He was always known as the boy with a big smile and dimples. As his speech and language progressed, he found success both academically and socially. After fifth grade he attended Nimitz Middle School and then Lee High School, where he recently graduated. He plans to start at San Antonio College in the fall and pursue a career in architecture.

Julio Cruz started at Sunshine Cottage in the Parent-Infant Program. After commuting from Laredo for a year, his family decided to move to San Antonio to be closer to Sunshine Cottage. Julio was a persistent learner and attended Nimitz Middle School after fifth grade. He then attended Lee High School where he graduated Cum Laude. He plans to attend The University of Texas at San Antonio in the fall where he will pursue a career in architecture.

Fifth graders led the "flash-mob" dance as amazed audience members enjoyed the show.

Fifth grade graduates are ready to take the next step in their educational careers.



Help Children Hear! Donate Today!

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Dear Friends of Sunshine Cottage:

WE MADE IT! It's been a year since we faced the challenges of opening our new campus—and those challenges have brought about positive change. Thanks to each of you, we have an incredible facility that supports all we're about for kids.

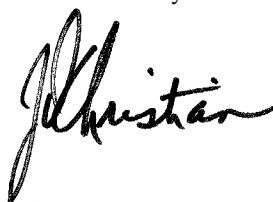
NEW PROGRAM! The ESP (Extended Services Program) has been initiated for this school year, which will provide continued audiology and speech support for our students when they leave us after 5th grade and go on to their home school districts. It will be wonderful to stay connected with them throughout their schooling and know that they are maximizing their potential.

CONTINUED GROWTH! With more space, another class has been added for this year. We're very fortunate to have found outstanding staff to accommodate our growth, as well as an additional audiologist and speech pathologist to support the new ESP program. Also, the number of Associate Teachers (from the UTHSC Graduate Program) has been increased from 2 to 4; a great training ground for their bright futures.

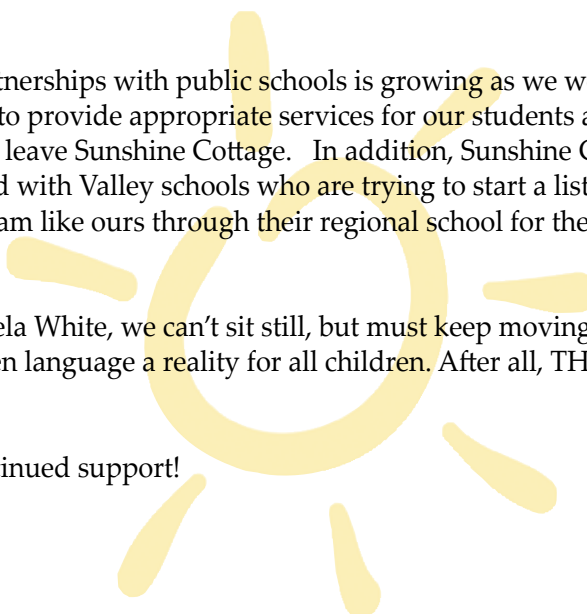
PARTNERSHIPS! Our partnerships with public schools is growing as we work jointly with school districts to provide appropriate services for our students and smooth transition after they leave Sunshine Cottage. In addition, Sunshine Cottage staff is significantly involved with Valley schools who are trying to start a listening and spoken language program like ours through their regional school for the deaf in McAllen.

As we all know from our Dela White, we can't sit still, but must keep moving forward to make listening and spoken language a reality for all children. After all, **THEY ARE** our bright future.

THANK YOU for your continued support!



Jerry Christian, CEO



Enjoying Our View

A fresco dining is now available at lunch time for Sunshine Cottage staff members.

During the recent capital campaign, staff members wanted to give a special gift that could be used in the new school. Because of staff donations, three wonderful umbrella tables with chairs add color and comfort to the Early Childhood Wing Courtyard.

The Sun Shines On...

Our faculty & staff for their years of service and dedication



Librarian Donna Toman receives an award from Principal Nancy Henderson for completing 30 years at Sunshine Cottage.



Teacher Becky Schmitt, with Nancy Henderson, celebrates 15 years with Sunshine Cottage.



Carolyn Walthall recognized Outreach Coordinator and Alumni Relations's Leslie Walter for her 20 years with Sunshine Cottage.



Teacher Genny Browning; Speech Therapist Monica Dorman; Staff Accountant Joe O'Brien; Parent-Infant Family Advisor Adrienne Russell; Teacher, Misty Sindt; and Shipping & Receiving Coordinator Isela Fennell (not shown) each celebrated 10 years with Sunshine Cottage.



Parent-Infant Family Advisor Dolores Laswell and teacher assistant Rosemary Rodriguez celebrate retirement after 10 and 13 years respectively.

Boy Scout Earns Badge at Sunshine Cottage

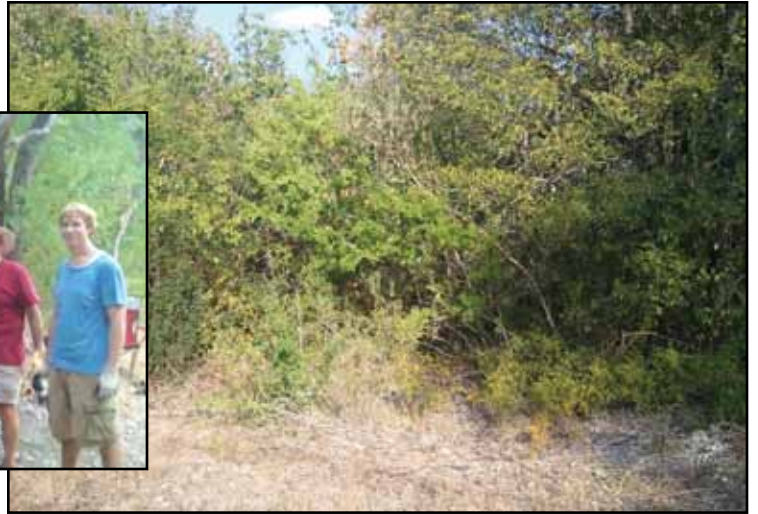
Kaleb Ham, a former Sunshine Cottage hearing impaired student, organized his Scout group to donate time and energy as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Kaleb and the Scouts chose to use the natural beauty of our school grounds to complete a natural walking trail on the back acreage of our property.

The Sunshine Cottage-Texas hill country landscape lends itself to this project. The project includes a nature trail and picnic area in which classes can study the natural habitats on property and enjoy a picnic outdoors at the same time.

Kaleb's September presentation to the Board of Directors proved the group worked diligently during the hot summer months to complete this project. Kaleb is now a Junior at Madison High School and is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout.

The project was successfully completed in early September and involved 27 young people.



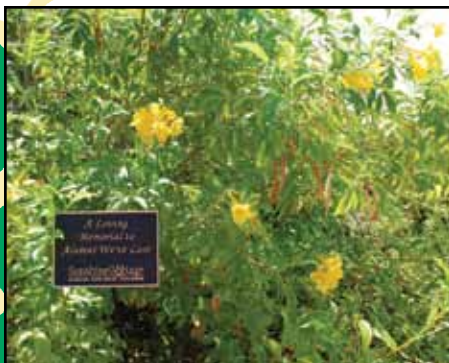
Top left: Project volunteers work hard to make the project a success.

Top right: Entrance to walking trail before clearing began.

Center: Completed walking trail.

Bottom left: Clearing land underneath large oak tree.

Bottom right: Picnic area underneath large oak tree.



Alumni Plaque

Next time you are on campus make sure to admire the beautiful yellow esperanza bush at the front of the school building. We planted the esperanza to remember and honor Sunshine Cottage alumni who have passed away. A plaque next to the plant reflects our love and appreciation for each and every alum. They will always be a part of who we are.

Back-to-School Means...

Learning

Art!

Fun!

Smiles!



Great teachers!

Sunshine!

Popsicle
Social!



Family!

Friends!



Technology!

Gifts, Grants, Honors & Memorials

March 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011

Sunshine (\$200,000+)

DRC Charitable Foundation

Sunlight (\$20,000 - \$49,999)

The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
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Sun Glow (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

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Sun Dial (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Mr. Mike Humes

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Mr. and Mrs. W. Norman Kutschenreuter

Morning Star Ranch Ministries

Order of the Alamo

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Rosenberg

The Hartford Field Charitable

Giving Program

Pony Roundup!

David Lee from Alamo Pony led a parade of painted ponies to Sunshine Cottage recently. Mr. Lee, whose daughter Jessica attended Sunshine Cottage, said he wanted to "give back" to Sunshine Cottage for his daughter's great experience here. He has been making wooden ponies since 1975 when he made one for his first child.

To make this project even more special eight Sunshine Cottage alumni, including Jessica, were involved in the project to paint and decorate the ponies. Pony themes include Texas A&M, The University of Texas, the San Antonio Spurs, and others.

Jessica is planning a career in nursing and is a student at Chesapeake College, Eastern Shore. She will be the first deaf nurse to graduate in this program. Mr. Lee proudly told us Jessica's spoken language is so clear and precise that people are surprised to know she has impaired hearing.

In addition to being married and a student, Jessica works with the elderly providing home nursing care.

Top right: Parent-Advisors Brandy DeMesme and Lindsey Torres are happy to receive the Ponies from Mr. Lee;

Sunshine Cottage workers Domingo Vasquez and Michael Vasquez help unload the ponies.



IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to note the passing of Sunshine Cottage Friends:

Ruth Taylor Campbell

Lillian Dufner

Jane (Mrs. Earl) Slick

Louis Stumberg