Community Accomplishments

- The Cunningham Wellness Team has been hard at work getting ready to launch once-a-week farm stands at Cunningham Elementary School, starting April 17 during school pick-up hours. Congratulations on this exciting accomplishment!

- Both the Odom Elementary and the Williamson Creek (Central Greenbelt) park teams got a lot done at their It’s My Park Day, an annual initiative where thousands of volunteers work to improve parks and greenbelts throughout the city. Odom parents, children and residents mulched twenty trees and cleaned up their park, while Williamson Creek volunteers mulched almost all of their trees, planted their garden and scattered wildflower seeds.

- Congratulations to GAVA leaders for their success in bringing a healthy food farm stand to the St. Elmo neighborhood! The stand will be operating every Wednesday afternoon, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the West parking lot of the Sierra Ridge Apartments.

Fact of the Month

A project in Charlotte, N.C. called “Por Nuestros Ojos” equipped young people with cameras so they could identify and document environmental factors that impact their health in their Latino immigrant community. This is an example of community-based participatory research (CBPR), where community members are the community’s health researchers too.

The youth’s photos were presented at neighborhood forums - which inspired the community to hold a series of wellness fairs - which began conversations between residents and City representatives!

How can we use this approach in our community to promote better overall health?

From the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “Research Designed Through the Eyes of Youth”

About GAVA

GO! Austin/VAMOS! Austin (GAVA) is a partnership of residents, community leaders and nonprofit agencies who are devoted to improving the health of our children and community. More importantly, we are a neighborhood united for health through improved nutrition and physical activity.
### April 2015

**La Voz de St. Elmo Team Meeting**  
Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the St. Elmo neighborhood!
- **Monday, April 6**  
  - 6 p.m.  
  - Sierra Ridge Learning Center
- Ivanna Neri  
  - GAVA Community Organizer  
  - 512.998.3648  
  - Ivanna.Neri@foundcom.org

**Information Meeting: Art in Public Places Projects**  
Learn more about the opportunity to create site-specific, short term public art in South Austin! Grants range from $3k to $10k.
- **Thursday, April 9**  
  - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
  - Cultural Arts Office in City Hall  
  - 201 W. Second Street
- Anna Bradley  
  - Public Places Coordinator  
  - 512.974.7841  
  - Anna.Bradley@austintexas.gov

**Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep**  
City-wide service day spanning 130+ sites in 31 zip codes throughout Austin! Register at keepaustinbeautiful.org/cleansweep.
- **Saturday, April 11**  
  - 9 - 11 a.m. (Service)  
  - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Party)
- Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler  
  - Interim Physical Activity Manager - 78745  
  - 713.419.6426  
  - Nevena.pilipovic-wengler@contractor.msdf.org

**Austin Interfaith Training**  
Learn more about how you can focus on your team’s culture, mission and its partnership with GAVA in order to better accomplish your team’s goals.
- **Saturday, April 18**  
  - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
  - Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church  
  - 1206 E 9th St.
- Kathleen Davis  
  - Lead Organizer of Austin Interfaith  
  - 512.944.4344  
  - kathleen@ntotx.org  
  - austininterfaith@sbcglobal.net

**Physical Activity Sector Meeting**  
Join us to improve park amenities, safety, programming, and cleanliness of your local parks and green spaces!
- **Tuesday, April 21**  
  - 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
  - El Buen Samaritano  
  - 7000 Woodhui Dr.
- Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler  
  - Interim Physical Activity Manager - 78745  
  - 713.419.6426  
  - Nevena.pilipovic-wengler@contractor.msdf.org

**Austin Interfaith Leaders Meeting**  
Come learn how you can collaborate with Austin Interfaith on GAVA neighborhood and city-wide issues.
- **Thursday, April 23**  
  - 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
  - Temple Beth Shalom  
  - 7300 Hart Lane  
  - Rm. 202/203
- Kathleen Davis  
  - Lead Organizer of Austin Interfaith  
  - 512.944.4344  
  - kathleen@ntotx.org  
  - austininterfaith@sbcglobal.net

**Cunningham Wellness Team**  
Discuss opportunities for Cunningham parents and faculty to get more involved with healthy food and activity initiatives for Cunningham students and families!
- **Tuesday, April 28**  
  - 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.  
  - Cunningham Elementary  
  - 2200 Berkeley Ave.
- Ivanna Neri  
  - GAVA Community Organizer  
  - 512.998.3648  
  - Ivanna.Neri@foundcom.org

### May 2015

**La Voz de St. Elmo Team Meeting**  
Join us as we implement strategies for improving the health of the St. Elmo neighborhood!
- **Wednesday, May 6**  
  - 6 p.m.  
  - Sierra Ridge Learning Center
- Ivanna Neri  
  - GAVA Community Organizer  
  - 512.998.3648  
  - Ivanna.Neri@foundcom.org

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**Contact Us**

We want to hear from you! What goals do you have for creating a healthier 78745?  
For more information about GAVA, to share your ideas or these meetings, contact:  
Alba Sereno, GAVA 78745 Programs Coordinator at 214-799-3767  
Finds us on /GO!AustinVAMOS!Austin.
Community parent leaders and students put their gardening skills to work during spring break by planting flowers and vegetables in eight raised beds located close to the Mendez Family Resource Center (FRC). The SEED, an FRC partner organization, coordinated the gardening project as a way to build community and knowledge about healthy living activities. This project came as a response to conversation among parents about ways to beautify the school and promote a healthy eating lifestyle. A big shout out to the Sustainable Food Center for providing the starter seeds for youth and families to make gardens grow!

The City of Austin Mayor Adler, Parks and Recreation Department Director Sara Hensley, Austin Parks Foundation Executive Director Colin Wallis and Dove Springs resident Ofelia Zapata, among others, spoke account the successful partnerships between the Dove Springs community residents, the city, APF and St. Davids Foundation that brought the neighborhood’s dream into fruition. The ribbon cutting at the new Dove Springs playscape kicked off It’s My Park Day, hosted by Austin Parks Foundation, during which over 3000 volunteers worked at nearly 100 sites across the city, including Franklin, Ponciana, Kendra Page, Onion Creek Greenbelt and Dove Springs District Parks.

Fact of the Month
A project in Charlotte, N.C. called “Por Nuestros Ojos” equipped young people with cameras so they could identify and document environmental factors that impact their health in their Latino immigrant community. This is an example of community-based participatory research (CBPR), where community members are the community’s health researchers too.

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Save the date:
Dove Springs Cinco de Mayo Family Fitness Fiesta
Saturday, May 2
Mendez Middle School

Join the Mendez community as we promote healthy eating, physical activity, access to food and community-school collaboration. There will be Zumba, healthy, yummy food and a bike rodeo obstacle course thanks to guest organization Boneshaker!

Agencies and schools register to participate or for more information call Mendez Family Resource Center, 512.841.1016.

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## April 2015

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<th>Contact Person</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mendez Wellness Team Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 7</td>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 p.m. Family Resource Center at Mendez Middle School</td>
<td>Leonor Vargas, Director of the Family Resource Center</td>
<td>512.841.1016, <a href="mailto:Leonor.Vargas@austinisd.org">Leonor.Vargas@austinisd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perez Elementary CATCH Night</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 8</td>
<td>5:30 - 7 p.m. Perez Elementary School 7500 S Pleasant Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Alejandra Gonzalez, GAVA School Organizer</td>
<td>512.482.6166, <a href="mailto:Alejandra.B.Gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu">Alejandra.B.Gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Widen Elementary: ACE Fit Night</td>
<td>Thursday, April 9</td>
<td>6 p.m. Widen Elementary School 5605 Nuckols Crossing</td>
<td>Alejandra Gonzalez, GAVA School Organizer</td>
<td>512.482.6166, <a href="mailto:Alejandra.B.Gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu">Alejandra.B.Gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Ladye Anne Wofford, Physical Activity Sector Manager</td>
<td>512.477.1566 ext. 4, <a href="mailto:Ladye.Anne@austinparks.org">Ladye.Anne@austinparks.org</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Physical Activity Sector Meeting</td>
<td>Monday, April 13</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Dove Springs Rec Center 5801 Ainez Dr.</td>
<td>Ladye Anne Wofford, Physical Activity Sector Manager</td>
<td>512.477.1566 ext. 4, <a href="mailto:Ladye.Anne@austinparks.org">Ladye.Anne@austinparks.org</a></td>
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<td>Dove Springs Wellness Corner</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 15</td>
<td>2 - 4 p.m. Family Resource Center at Mendez Middle School</td>
<td>Leonor Vargas, Director of the Family Resource Center</td>
<td>512.841.1016, <a href="mailto:Leonor.Vargas@austinisd.org">Leonor.Vargas@austinisd.org</a></td>
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Carmen Llanes Pulido, GAVA 78744 Programs Coordinator at 512.633.4312. Finds us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GOAustinVAMOSAustin)