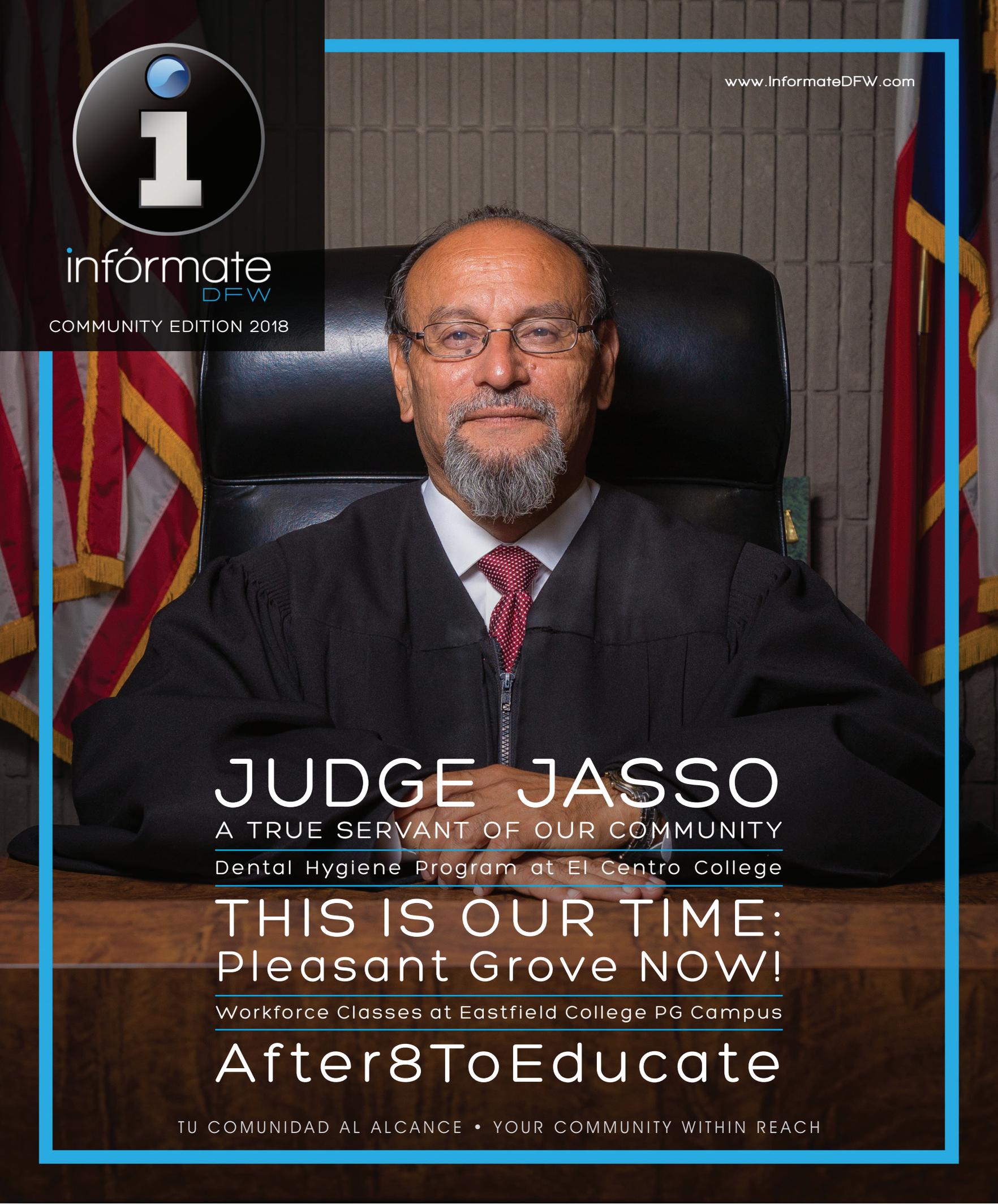




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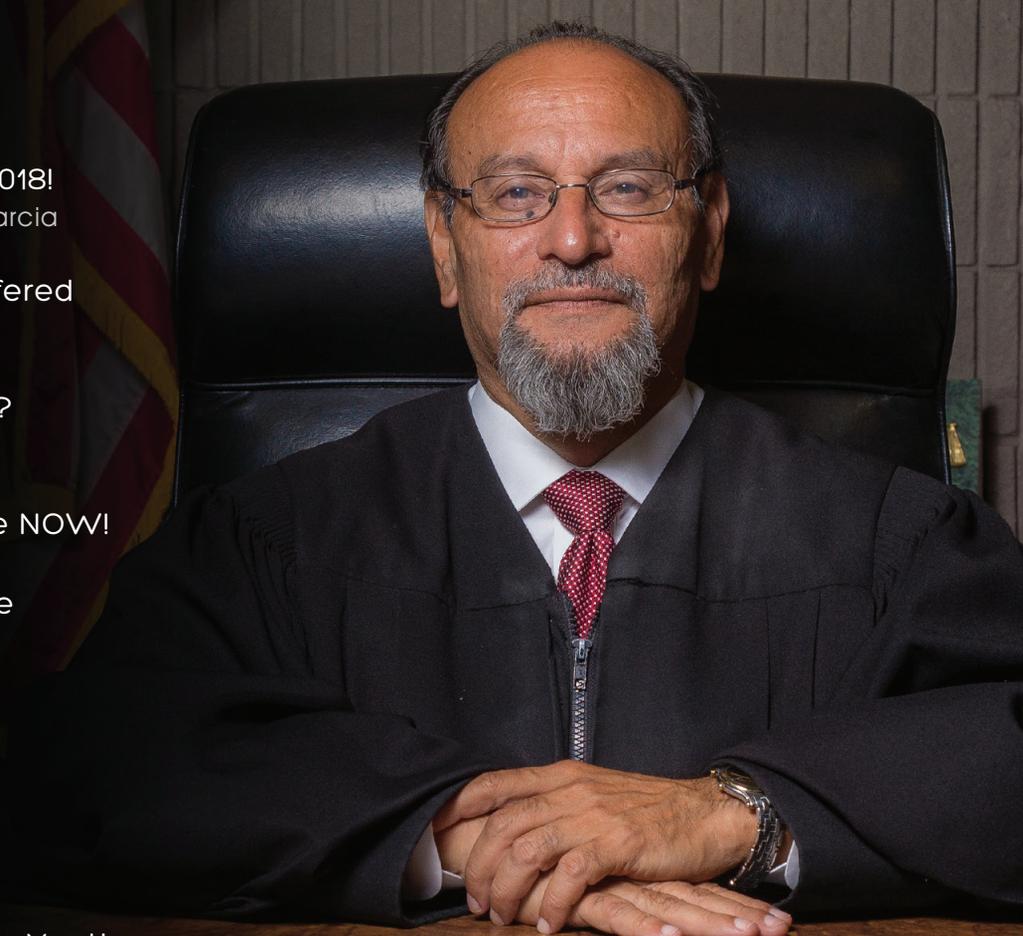
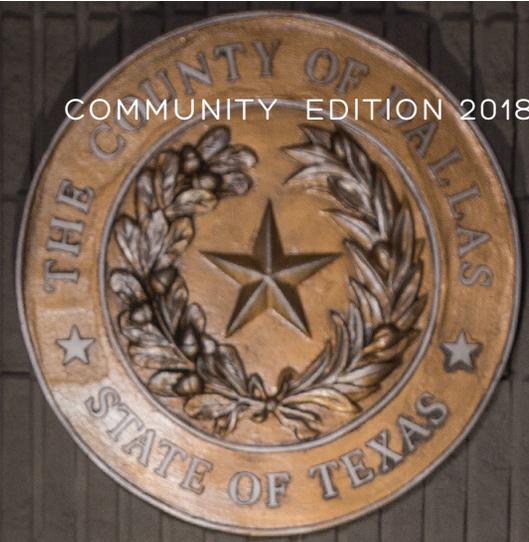
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Judge Juan Jasso

City of Dallas

# Move Forward and Keep It Moving

By Dr. Virginia Wells



Do you ever wonder why you keep getting derailed from your goals? Now think back to the time when you started out strong and made some strides. It felt good to make progress, then something happened to get you off track and frustration set in. Yes, there is a way to start moving forward again, it is called PDCA.

You are probably wondering what PDCA stands for, Plan-Do-Check-Act. Edward W. Deming developed this model to create continuous improvement and learning. You can use it to modify your goals if you are off track and want to get back on the road to success.

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

**PLAN:** Analyze your current goals and figure out whether you planned for changes that might get in the way of attaining your goals.

**DO:** Execute the plan in small steps. When you started moving forward, did you take small controlled steps that you could monitor or were they large steps that led you off track?

**CHECK:** Study your results and determine what stopped you from moving forward. Ask yourself, "What kind of adjustments can I make to start moving forward again?"

**ACT:** Take action to start making progress again. Here is where you dust yourself off and decide that this year is going to be your best year ever.

*If you decide that you would like support in accomplishing your goals, contact me, Dr. Virginia Trevizo Wells at 214-923-9434 or send me an email: [drvwells2010@gmail.com](mailto:drvwells2010@gmail.com)*



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# FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone and welcome to our newest issue of Informato DFW magazine! The topics we'll be covering this time around are very near and dear to my heart, for they're all about making our city a better place!

I'd like to start off by reminding everyone it's voting season, and to kick it off, we got to sit down with none other than the Hon. Judge Juan Jasso, who'll be running for his seat once again. Check out page xx to find out more about his roots, what drives him, and why he loves being a Justice of the Peace, and so should you! Dr. Elba Garcia also discusses the importance of voting, and why every citizen needs to exercise their right to vote (page 7).

Pleasant Grove is a point of focus as well, for there's awesome things taking place in this up-and-coming Dallas neighborhood. Check out This Is Our Time: Pleasant Grove Now! on page 12 for all the latest and greatest happening in PG and Southeast Dallas this year.

For our spotlight in education, El Centro's College Dental Hygiene Program is available to those who'd like a career in the dental field. Turn to page 8 for more information on how you can receive your Dental Hygiene Associates of Applied Sciences Degree. Also, be sure to check out our Latino CLD column to find out what they've been cookin' up (page 20).

Last but not least, we'd like to introduce you to After8toEducate, a program founded by Jorge Baldor (Latino LCD) to support unsheltered high school youth in Dallas. Turn to page 24 and find out more on this amazing program and how you can be a part of the movement to combat homeless, help educate, and empower at-risk youth.

Needless to say, I'm very proud to be a Dallasite, and as always, we are grateful to our readers and sponsors for your continued support. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you.

Much love,  
**JANET VILLARREAL**  
Editor-in-Chief

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# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD:

## Vote in 2018!

By Dallas County Commissioner  
Dr. Elba Garcia



As we enter the New Year, our country and our community are at a crossroads.

Where are we as a nation and a community? Where are we going? What sort of future are we building for our children? These are important questions that must be answered by each of us as individuals and as a community, and this year, we get the chance to do just that. It's a simple process, really.

### IT'S CALLED VOTING.

While the President is not on the ballot this year, the vast majority of elected officials for our state and county are. Everything from U.S. Senator and Governor all the way down to County Constable will be elected this year. And it is critical that you help decide who will fill these offices.

Yes, these offices are not as high profile as President. You may never have heard of many of them or the people running for them. You will not see commercials and ads and celebrities endorsing them. In fact, most people never show up to vote in these

elections. Turnout for Dallas County for these elections is usually around 35%; yet, it is at the state and local level where the majority of governing gets done. The people that get elected this year are the ones that will be doing that governing and making decisions that impact your lives and the lives of your family on a day to day basis.

### DECISIONS LIKE:

- How much money will go to fund your school?
- Will your neighborhood be more or less safe?
- Will our community be a welcoming community or one that turns immigrants away?
- Will we have a justice system that works to break the cycle of crime and recidivism and rehabilitates people or one that simply locks them up and throws away the key?
- Will you be able to afford health insurance or will it be too expensive to purchase for your family?

These are the decisions that you get to make this year, by voting for the candidates that share your priorities and your values.

Candidates like our Justice of the Peace Juan Jasso. Judge Jasso has been a faithful public servant for many years. He runs his court with efficiency, fairness, compassion and always with an eye towards justice.

I am proud to call him my Justice of the Peace and also my friend. It is my deepest hope that this year we elect many more public servants like Juan Jasso.

Decisions are made by those who show up, so I greatly encourage everyone, on March 6th and November 6th, show up and vote! Let's make our voices heard!

¡Recuerde que el que no vota, despues no se puede quejar!

¡Su voto es su voz! Your vote is your voice!

Saludos!



*Dr. Elba Garcia*

# Dental Hygiene Program Now Offered at El Centro College

By Amy Loftis, El Centro College Marketing Office

In cooperation with the El Centro College Center for Allied Health and Nursing, students can now apply to the Dental Hygiene Program, located at El Centro College Dental Hygiene Clinic in Dallas. Application must be received by May 15 and classes will start in fall 2018.

Graduates of our program are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) and a regional clinical board in order to apply for licensure by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners to become a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). The program includes a 68 credit hour curriculum leading to an Associate of Applied Sciences Degree and is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Acceptance to the Dental Hygiene program is via a competitive selection process based primarily on grade point average on prerequisite courses and subsequent tiebreakers.

According to Bureau of Labor statistics, the median annual wage for dental hygienists was \$72,330 in May 2015. Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 19% from 2014 to 2024. For more information about applying, call El Centro Health Occupations Admissions department at 972-860-5001 or email at [ecchoa@dcccd.edu](mailto:ecchoa@dcccd.edu).

El Centro College Dental Hygiene Clinic also offers the following dental preventative services free of charge: Comprehensive Dental, Hygiene Care (Cleaning), Radiographs (X-Rays), Oral Health Screenings/Instructions, and Fluoride and Sealant Applications. Teeth whitening is available as well, for a fee. For an appointment or more information on dental hygiene services, please visit the El Central College Dental Hygiene Clinic located at 1250 W. Mockingbird Lane (5th Floor) Dallas, Texas 75247, or call 214-860-2301.



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## Vision Boards: What's the Craze?

By Veronica Torres

In January, I put together my annual Vision Board Workshop with a Guided Meditation at my V12Yoga studio. To my surprise, the sold out event brought lots of energy and community. It was an incredible experience to be part of the conversation and desire to manifest amazing life goals alongside friends and fellow yogis, an experience that continued long after the workshop was over. I see more and more people taking life by the wheel, and making moves to put them in control of their destinations. The manifestation mindset has been around a long time, it's not some New Age mumble jumble. The book *The Secret* only amplified the conversation. I am a firm believer that it has become more than a scrap book activity with friends over wine. It is now a call to action and a true activation of your goals and desires. The KEY word being ACTIVATION. Nothing moves until you do. Nothing manifests without the energy we put into it. Energy in thought, prayer, and community.



Follow your dreams and make your ideas and desires come true, you deserve it! Whatever you are seeking is seeking you too. Take a closer look at what makes you smile and glow when you speak about it. Make a mental note of those early morning thoughts and hopes you keep close. Write things down, create your own vision board!



Follow our Healthy Latina Lifestyle Facebook page, our @v12yoga Instagram page, or check out our website [www.v12yoga.com](http://www.v12yoga.com), and take a look at what we created in January in fun with a lot of great energy. You'll also find info on our upcoming events, such as the Bullet Journal Workshop taking place on February 11th from 1-3pm at our V12 yoga studio. Hope to see you there!



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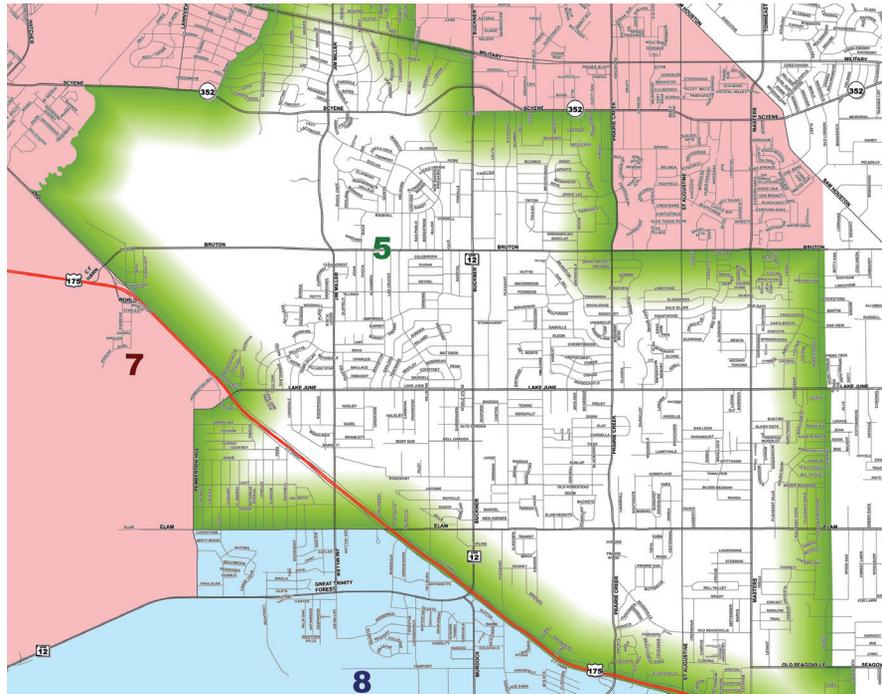
By Kimberly Olguin

In 2012, the city of Dallas launched its economic development initiative, GrowSouth Neighborhood Challenge, aimed at the southern sector of town. It was planned out neatly with a 10-point goal focusing on people, investments and locations. Mayor Rawlings proudly supported each successful goal met and encouraged the participating neighborhoods such as Oak Cliff, Downtown, Lancaster Corridor, etc. The transformations these neighborhoods have gone through over the years have been very impressive and exciting to watch. Eventually, other southern neighborhoods wanted to be included and invited by Mayor Rawlings to join GrowSouth. The Pleasant Grove neighborhood of Southeast Dallas is one such neighborhood.

Pleasant Grove has always had support from both its community and advocates. Councilman Rick Callahan demanded at a council meeting back in August that Pleasant Grove be included. “It’s time to come to Pleasant Grove, folks. We’ve been to West Dallas. We’ve been to Oak Cliff. We’ve been to the Cedars. We’ve been everywhere, but we haven’t been to Southeast Dallas.”

Pleasant Grove has potential and everyone there knows it! So, when Mayor Rawlings announced that the Pleasant Grove neighborhood would become a focus point, it was a moment of joy and excitement. “Pleasant Grove is the place that really makes Dallas work. This is where the folks come from the manufacturing jobs, downtown, and hospital and the airport, and they’re ready to develop around them,” stated Mayor Rawlings. During the fall of 2017, Pleasant Grove Now! was finally announced. The initiative is an extension of GrowSouth, which includes Southeast Dallas and Pleasant Grove.

A plan is set to train workforce, enhance recreation and increase development. Some goals include attracting a major employer to bring in hundreds of jobs, promoting the AT&T Byron Nelson golf tournament, and rehab older apartments and shopping centers. So far, the year kicked off Pleasant Grove Now! with a big start, as the grand opening of the new Workforce Solutions on South Buckner Blvd. took place in January.



There are so many plans for Southeast Dallas and Pleasant Grove. New office space will be created, along with new restaurants and shopping centers. This will attract more jobs as well as enhance recreation. There are plans to use the DISD collegiate academy model to create pipeline training for workforce. Also, the Habitat Apprentice Training program (H.A.T) through Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity will start this year. Neighborhood beautification projects and the completion of parks and trails lay ahead in the future too.

Councilman Callahan is confident that Pleasant Grove Now! will be a success for the neighborhood he is so fond of. “Pleasant Grove is a community of families, a place with school choices with DISD, charter schools, and parochial schools. A growing and improving park system. New retail, availability of set down National residential sites.” Community residents and leaders have high hopes and expectations, as does the rest of Dallas, and we can’t wait to see this beautification project of Pleasant Grove unfold.

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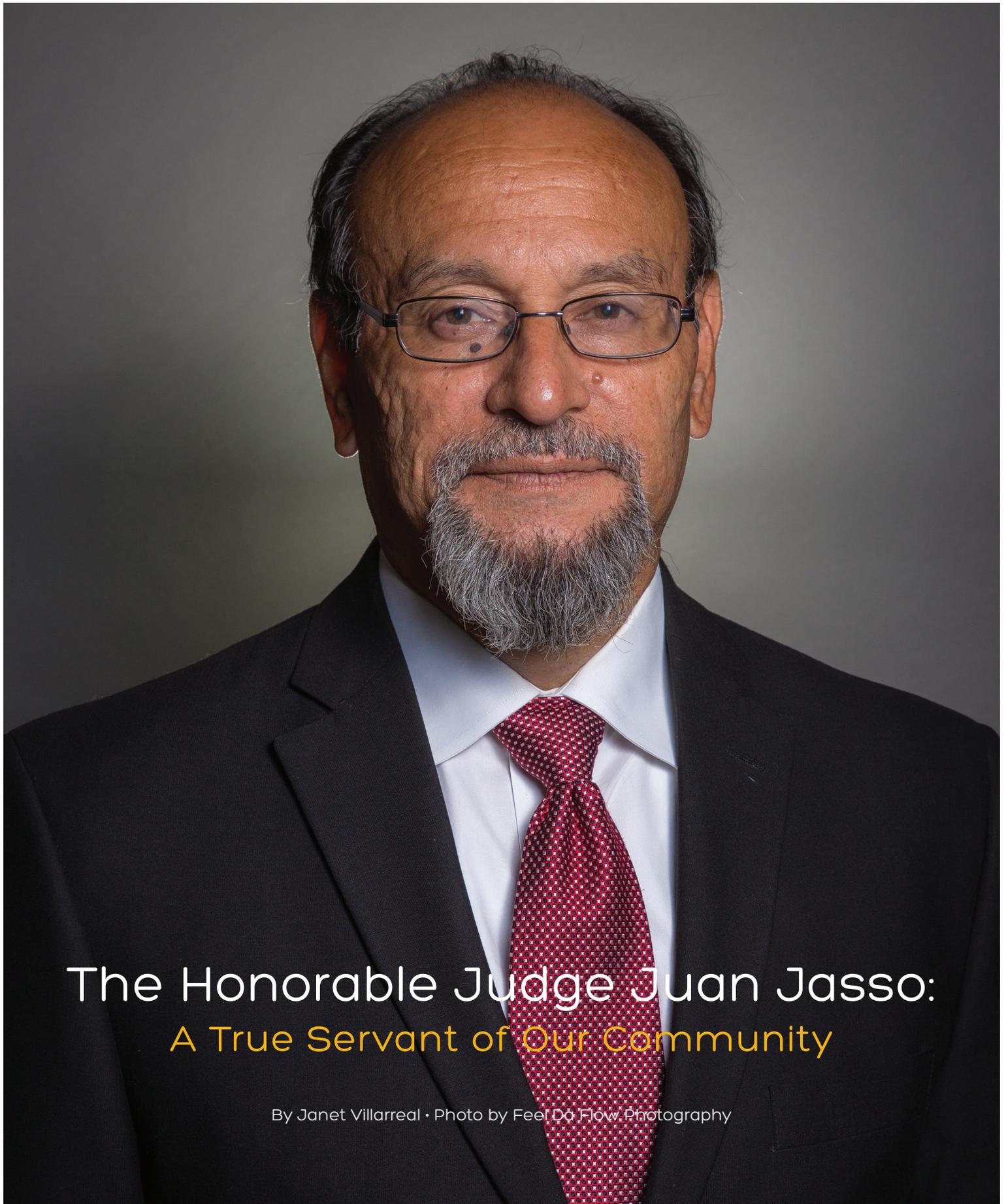
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# The Honorable Judge Juan Jasso: A True Servant of Our Community

By Janet Villarreal • Photo by Feel Do Flow Photography

When I heard I would be conducting an interview with Judge Juan Jasso, I was beyond excited. If you grew up in Oak Cliff, or in his precinct, chances are you've encountered Judge Jasso at some point. In fact, he may have sent you to truancy boot camp in your youth, or married you or someone you know. Judge Jasso is truly a Dallas gem, and one of the most humble, honest, and fair public servants I've ever met.



A son of immigrant parents from a 'ranchito' in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and 14th out of 15 children, Judge Jasso grew up in "El Rancho de los Pansones" outside of San Juan, Texas. "It was owned by these two big German brothers, and since none of the Mexican workers could pronounce their last name, they just called it Rancho de los Pansones, cause of its owners and big fat cows they had," laughs Jasso. Life was rough: the family did seasonal migrant work in the North from April through September, for most part of Jasso's youth. "We were poor and life was hard, but we never really felt it. It was all we knew, and it provided everything we needed. We had a roof over our heads and we had food on the table. My mom would even pack treats with my lunch and I'd make some of the kids at school jealous," remembers Jasso fondly. Upon graduation, Jasso attended PanAm University (now UT-

RGV), where he received his undergraduate degree in Government, then started his graduate studies at Purdue University in Indiana. A friend then suggested he pursue a law degree, which he did and received from the University of Houston. Eventually making his way to Dallas through a friend, he settled in Oak Cliff where he practiced for a few years, before being appointed a Municipal Judge in Cockrell Hill, Texas. Five years later, he ran for his current position. "Dallas had just created a precinct for the Latino community, because Hispanics felt underrepresented, so I took the opportunity, and won," states Jasso. He's been there ever since, and still resides in Oak Cliff, where he lives with his wife, former city of Dallas councilwoman Delia Jasso.

Although Oak Cliff is predominantly Hispanic, it's part of a diverse precinct. "It makes me feel good to know that I've gotten the most votes, not just from Hispanics, but I also have the Anglo and African-American support. The community knows that I apply legal reasoning and practice judicial temperament. Even when someone disagrees with the outcome, they know my decision is based on the law, not on the color of your skin or who you know," reaffirms Jasso.



With reelections upon us, Judge Jasso has no doubt in his mind he is where he needs to be. "I always planned on becoming a Judge, specifically at the Justice of the Peace level. This is where the community has access to the court system," states Judge Jasso. "Here is where they have the option to file without an attorney, to be heard. Sometimes that is all they want, a chance to tell their side of the story."



But, why should the public reelect him? According to the Hon. David Dunnigan, Precinct Chair #4079, there's quite a few reasons. "Judge Jasso has excellent experience as a judge and a lawyer on the bench, he has been in our community for 28 years, and raise his children here," states Dunnigan. "Being bilingual, and his ability to utilize that is a great asset for our community. I strongly support him and urge you to VOTE for him." He's not alone in his support for Judge Jasso. "As Justice of the Peace, Judge Jasso has represented the bench with the highest ethical standards and professional behavior. With over twenty years of experience, Judge Jasso has served as a consistent and fair jurist, qualities of a true gatekeeper of justice," states Rafael Anchia, State Representative, District 103. Recently, Judge Jasso received the Public Servant of the Year award. It was presented by the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce at their Annual Awards Gala on January 26, 2017. He also received the West Dallas Minister Alliance Justice Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the West Dallas community on December 8, 2017. These are just a few among several recognitions Judge Jasso has received over the years.

Judge Jasso also has an open door policy that the community has come to appreciate. They can go and ask questions, even if it's not specifically about their case, sometimes just to find out if they can file. "That's one of the reasons why I never wanted to run for a higher court, because at higher levels, everything has to be done through an attorney and we are prohibited from having any contact. Over my years in Oak Cliff, the community has come to know me, they know I conduct myself in an ethical manner, I'm just and impartial, and all those experiences that I've had as a lawyer, as a judge, has given me the knowledge to be able to rule fairly, and people see that. I'm committed to them. Even those who are unhappy with my decisions are very nice and know it isn't personal. I even married a couple who met at one of the weekend truancy boot camps I sent them to as kids, they asked me to conduct their marriage ceremony years later. Those are the things I enjoy the most about being a justice of the peace."

For our youth that's thinking about going into law, and eventually becoming a Judge, Jasso recommends getting involved in the community, and joining as many boards, commissions and organizations as they can. "Just get involved, that's the key. You

never know who you are going to meet and who can help you, make those connections. You hardly ever do it on your own, even if you don't realize it. Then, you pay it forward."

Judge Jasso has been doing just that for many, many years, and we hope he will continue serving our community for years to come. Remember, early voting takes place from February 20th – March 2nd, and Election Day on Saturday, March 6th. Go out and vote!



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# What Can a Justice of the Peace Do For You?

By Janet Villareal

Many in the community are not aware of the services provided at their local courthouse. Some Justice of the Peace precincts are actually located at these courthouses, which means you can get more than just information about registering your vehicle, or applying for a marriage license. They offer so much more.

The Beckley Courthouse in Oak Cliff, where the Hon. Judge Jasso oversees cases, is one of many courthouses around the metroplex where you can file small claims suits, so long they're less than \$10,000. For example, someone wants to file a mechanical lien, or maybe you were involved in a traffic accident and the at-fault driver wasn't insured and your damages were not covered by your insurance but want them paid for. Eviction cases between tenants and landlords can be filed here. Traffic tickets issued by DART, community colleges, hospital districts, DPS and the Sheriff's department can be disputed at this level.

Was your license suspended? The Justice of the Peace can issue occupational licenses, to enable a person who has had a license revoked, get to and from work, or simply take care of their daily activities such as taking kids to the doctor, drop off their children at school, etc. If you want to apply for an occupational license, you'll need to explain the reason for suspension, provide proof of valid insurance, and any other documentation supporting your need for an occupational driver's license.

The Hon. Judge Juan Jasso, Precinct JP-5, has an open door policy for anyone wanting to find out if they have a case to file, or questions regarding issuance of Peace Bonds, drivers licenses, etc. Although he cannot provide any legal advice or give any promises on the outcome, he can help determine whether his court can hear your particular type of case.

For more information and hours of availability, please visit the Beckley Courthouse located at 410 S. Beckley Avenue, in Dallas, or call (214) 941-3695 and (214) 943-3695.



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seminars where he discusses claims, credit card debt, evictions, and much more. For bookings, email [ElectJuanJasso@gmail.com](mailto:ElectJuanJasso@gmail.com)



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Jorge Baldor, LatinoCLD Founder  
Photograph by Dallas Morning News



LCLD Vice President of Development and Strategic Partnerships, Rep. Blanco moderates panel with mitú Vice President of Government Affairs, the Hon. Lucy Flores.



Inaugural Ambassadors of LCLD. From left to right, Ms. Gladis Eudabe, Ms. Leslie Frias, Ms. Azhalla Leal, Ms. Brooke López, and Ms. Vanessa Serrano



All volunteers inducted into the Volunteer Circle



From left to right, Consul for Community Affairs, Andres Galvan, LCLD Vice President, Dr. Patty Garcia, Mexican Consulate General of Dallas, the Hon. Francisco de la Torre, the Hon. Enrique Andrade Gonzalez, LCLD President, the Hon. Miguel Solis, Mr. Cesar Ledesma Ugalde, the Hon. Jaime Resendez, and the Hon. Claudia Sandoval.

# What's New at LatinoCLD

By LatinoCLD Staff

The Latino Center for Leadership Development (LCLD) Leadership Academy recently held its second seminar, "The Personal Path to Leadership." Fellows engaged with elected and appointed officials, board members and experts from across the nation to understand how to align their passions, political interests, experiences and skills to meet their communities' needs and develop their own public narratives. Fellows learned from a multi-jurisdictional and bipartisan set of leaders about their roles, in addition to their strategies to navigate the leadership pipeline.

The LCLD Leadership Academy Alumni Association also launched in December with a complete executive board led by City of Cockrell Hill Mayor Pro-tem and alumna, the Hon. Claudia Sandoval. The association will offer professional development opportunities for past and current fellows and will continue to serve as a support system for aspiring leaders.

The LCLD hosted the Electoral Counselor from Mexico's National Electorate Institute (INE), the Hon. Enrique Andrade Gonzalez, and Mexican Consulate General of Dallas, the Hon. Francisco de la Torre, as well as other dignitaries to discuss efforts to increase voter participation of Mexican nationals in the U.S. for the upcoming 2018 Mexican national elections.

Our Founder, Jorge Baldor, was selected as "Texan of the Year" finalist by Dallas Morning News (DMN). "Baldor's efforts have boosted Hispanic business leaders, made the Dallas arts community more successful than ever, and are changing the face of a neighborhood," states DMN, "He takes a hands-on approach to his projects, providing recipients with opportunities to live their dreams. For his uncommon impact, Baldor is a finalist for the 15th annual Dallas Morning News Texan of the Year."

We recently held the first orientation for the inaugural cohort of Volunteer Circle. 20 volunteers accepted their positions with LCLD, as well as five Ambassadors who will serve as support staff in the implementation of LCLD programs and dive into rigorous programming to develop their professional development.

With several projects, seminars, and other prospects in the works, LatinoCLD is excited for the new year, and welcomes 2018 with open arms.

# DALLAS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



## BECOME A VENDOR TODAY



### MINORITY/WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/WBE) DEPARTMENT

The Minority/Women Business Enterprise Department's goal is to maximize the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in the Dallas Independent School District's contracting opportunities.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

**DALLAS**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**  
BUSINESS CONFERENCE  
8:30AM - 12:00PM  
APRIL 28 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
MONTHLY WORKSHOPS  
UP NEXT  
**BECOMING A DALLAS ISD VENDOR**  
iSupplier Workshop  
9:00AM - 10:00AM  
JANUARY 24 2018

#### CONTACT US ►►

M/WBE DEPARTMENT  
[WWW.DALLASISD.ORG/MWBE](http://WWW.DALLASISD.ORG/MWBE)

#### Goods and Services

9400 N. Central Expressway  
Dallas, TX 75231  
972.925.4132

#### Construction Services

3801 Herschel Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75219  
972.925.7200

UPCOMING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ► [WWW.DALLASISD.ORG](http://WWW.DALLASISD.ORG)



The Dallas ISD  
M/WBE App  
is Now Available



# Enhancing Your Tax Preparation Experience

By Dallas CTC Staff

The Dallas Community Tax Centers, a program of Foundation Communities, opens its doors to the community for Tax Season 2018 beginning Saturday, January 20, 2018. Individuals and families that make less than \$58,000 per year qualify for NO COST tax preparation services. The Dallas Community Tax Centers have provided VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) services to the community since 2009 and have completed more than 78,000 tax returns for Dallasites, returning more than \$121 million in tax refunds.

To enhance your tax preparation experience, it is important to have all of your documents ready prior to visiting a tax office. Below is a listing of the minimum documents needed to complete a return:

- **A valid/current photo ID (driver's license, state ID, passport)**
- **Social Security Cards or ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) Letters for everyone on the tax return including spouses and dependents**
- **W-2s or 1099s for each position/job you and/or your spouse have held throughout the tax year**
- **Check or Deposit Slip with Checking or Savings Account and Routing Numbers**
- **Health Insurance Marketplace exemption certificate - Form 1095-A - Health Insurance Marketplace Statement or Form 1095-B - Health Coverage**
- **Last Year's Tax Return**

To locate a Dallas Community Tax Centers site near you visit [www.DallasTaxCenters.org/locations](http://www.DallasTaxCenters.org/locations) or call 1-844-383-1040. You may also join us on social media @DallasCTC



Dallas Community Tax Centers, un programa de Foundation Communities, abre sus puertas a la comunidad para la temporada de impuestos 2018, a partir del sábado 20 de enero. Las personas y familias que ganaron menos de \$58,000 en el 2017, califican para los servicios de preparación de impuestos SIN COSTO.

Para mejorar su experiencia en la preparación de impuestos, es importante tener todos sus documentos listos antes de visitar una oficina de impuestos. Esta es una lista de los documentos mínimos necesarios para completar una declaración:

- **Una identificación con foto válida / actual (licencia de conducir, identificación del estado, pasaporte)**
- **Tarjetas de Seguro Social o ITIN (número de identificación fiscal individual) Cartas para todos en la declaración de impuestos, incluyendo cónyuges y dependientes**
- **W-2 o 1099 para cada posición / trabajo que usted y / o su cónyuge hayan tenido durante el año fiscal.**
- **Cheque o ficha de depósito que incluya el número de la cuenta corriente o de ahorro y número de ruta del banco (Routing number)**
- **Certificado de exención del Mercado de Seguros Médicos - Formulario 1095-A - Declaración del Mercado de Seguros Médicos o Formulario 1095-B - Cobertura médica**
- **Declaración de impuestos del año pasado**

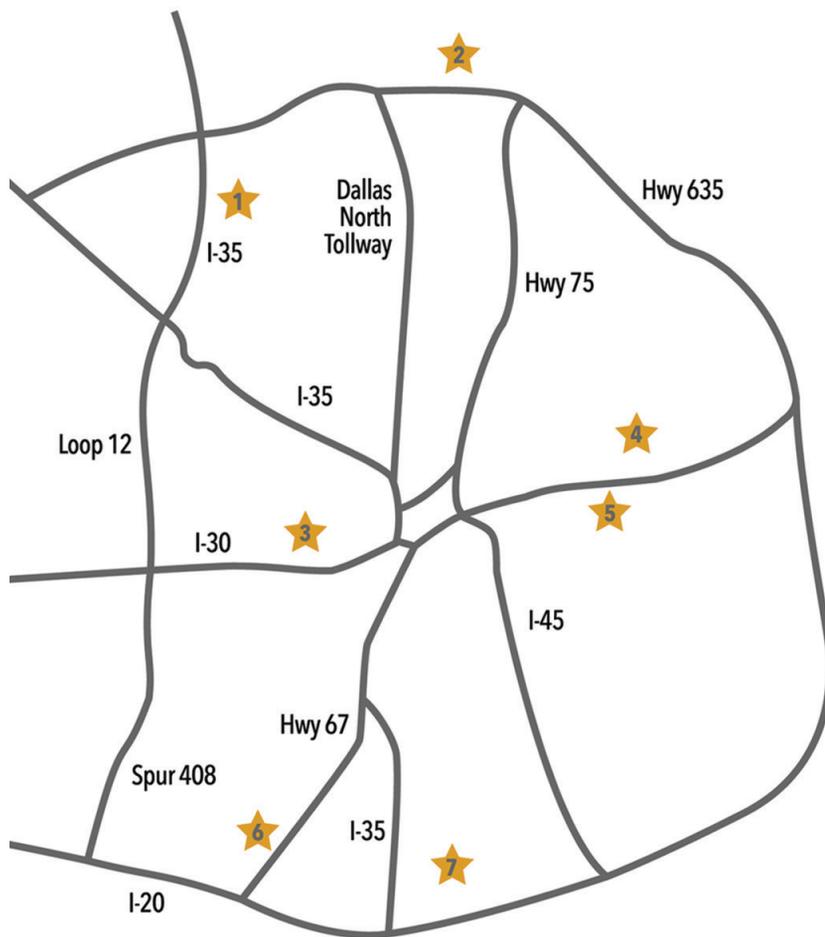
Para ubicar el centro de Dallas Community Tax Centers mas cerca a usted, visite [www.DallasTaxCenters.org/locations](http://www.DallasTaxCenters.org/locations) o llame al 1-844-383-1040.



# COMMUNITY TAX CENTERS

A program of Foundation Communities

With 8 site locations in Dallas, you are sure to find an experienced IRS Certified Tax Preparer near you. All sites will be open extended hours in the month of February!



## LOCATIONS

### 1. North Dallas Shared Ministries

2875 Merrell Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75229  
Opens January 23  
Tues-Fri: 2-7:30pm  
Sat: 9am-2pm

### 2. Sunrise Senior Center

13521 Method St.  
Dallas, TX 75243  
Opens January 25  
Mon-Thurs: 2:30-7:30pm  
Sat: 9am-2pm

### 3. West Dallas Multipurpose Center

2828 Fish Trap Road  
Dallas, TX 75212  
Opens January 24  
Mon-Thurs: 1-7:30pm  
Sat: 9am-2pm

### 4. First Community Church

9120 Ferguson Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75228  
Opens January 27  
Mon-Thurs: 3-8:00pm  
Sat: 10am-4pm

### 5. St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church

5710 E. RL Thornton Fwy.  
Dallas, TX 75223  
Opens January 20  
Mon-Thurs: 12:30-7:30pm  
Sat: 9am-2pm

### 6. Concord Church

6808 Pastor Bailey Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75237  
Entrance at Gate 3  
Opens January 23

Mon-Fri: 1-7:30pm  
CLOSED WED  
Sat: 9am-2pm

### 7. Singing Hills Baptist Church

6550 University Hills Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75241  
Opens January 24  
Tues & Fri: 2-5:30pm  
Wed & Thurs: 2-8pm  
Sat: 9am-2pm

### 8. Catholic Charities Dallas

1421 W Mockingbird Ln  
Dallas, TX 75247  
Opens January 29  
Tues - Fri: 2 - 7:30pm  
Sat: 9am - 2pm



## Dallas' Solution for Our Homeless Youth

By Kimberly Olguin

The word “shelter” is defined as a place giving temporary protection from bad weather or danger. Although most people regard their house or apartment to be their shelter and acknowledge it as a permanent home, others view shelter as a place providing food and accommodations for the homeless. Shelter is considered to be a temporary home for thousands of citizens residing within Dallas County. United Way of Metropolitan Dallas calculated that nearly 30 percent of this population goes unsheltered and hundreds of them are struggling students attending Dallas ISD schools.

In response to these shocking statistics, the community has come together to assist After8ToEducate, a comprehensive solution for the youth that are currently going unsheltered. It took a massive collaboration between After8ToEducate, Dallas ISD, Social Venture Partners Dallas, Promise House and CitySquare to bring together the innovative center. Visionary Founder, Jorge Baldor, worked alongside Social Venture Partners Dallas to develop a plan addressing the growing population of unsheltered youth with the groundbreaking center. It will become available for unsheltered

youth in Dallas ISD high schools and other homeless young adults ages 14-21 starting the 2018-2019 school year. Baldor is very optimistic about finally opening the center they have long planned and worked towards. “This is a city wide project and this is something that is going to be an example not just for Dallas but for the Nation.” So far, three school districts have already inquired about After8ToEducate and shown interest in the program.

Currently, the center will be occupying the vacant Fannie C. Harris Elementary building. The historic structure was designed by legendary Dallas architect, Mark Lemon and will be repurposed to house the “three pillar program,” servicing youth with a shelter, 24/7 drop in center and support resource center. There will be 35 beds available for the shelter, managed by Promise House. CitySquare will manage the 24/7 drop-in center, providing around the clock services to meet the immediate needs such as, meals, laundry, showers and clothing. There will also be additional support providing social support services, tutoring, job training, counseling, and family reunification services.

The future is a bright prediction with an estimated 50,000 students to be serviced at the facility annually. After8ToEducate has received strong support from the community to make this possible. Everything from raw building materials to moral support have poured in from the community. Dallas County District 1 Commissioner, Dr. Theresa Daniel expressed her gratitude for the efforts put forth by everyone involved. "I am so proud of Dallas ISD for recognizing that this is such a huge need and that you are in a particular position to be able to address it." After8ToEducate is currently fundraising for program operations, construction and re-purposing of the building.

Volunteers are welcome to engage with After8ToEducate for future programming opportunities as well. For more on volunteering, how to donate, or if you have any general questions, please visit their website [www.after8toeducate.com](http://www.after8toeducate.com) or email [after8toeducate@gmail.com](mailto:after8toeducate@gmail.com).



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# EL CENTRO COOKING CONNECTION AT THE DALLAS ARBORETUM!



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DEMO  
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ARBORETUM'S  
A TASTEFUL PLACE

Attendees can enjoy the free cooking demo with purchase of Dallas Arboretum admission. Discount admission is available to education employees with proof of school I.D.

Chef Alison Matis from El Centro's Food and Hospitality Institute hosts a monthly Cooking Connection Series. The theme is centered around the produce harvested at the Arboretum garden each month.

For more information go to  
[www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)



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