

What Home Means to Me Winners

In January, the Resident Empowerment team hosted the annual “What Home Means to Me” art contest virtually. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff moved the contest to a virtual platform for all residents. A Zoom workshop was held on January 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. for participants to present their artwork and explain how their artwork represented home. The resident art pieces were collected virtually by email and text, and six entries were entered to be judged by an anonymous team. All participants received a participation prize, and the winners received art kits. The following are Fresno Housing’s winners:

Cali Sanchez won the first category, Elementary: K to 5th grade. Cali is in the 3rd grade and a HCV resident. She said, “home is her room, which is her safe place.”



Lexis Lipps won the second category, Middle: 6th to 8th grade. Lexis is in the 6th grade and lives at Villa Del Mar.





Raquel Lipps won the third category, High School: 9th to 12th grade. Raquel is in the 10th grade and lives at Villa Del Mar.

Language of Love Workshop

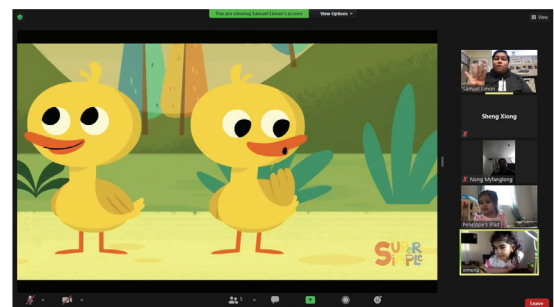
Residents were able to explore the types of love languages spoken to their spouses, children, friends and relatives in the Language of Love workshop held on February 22. This workshop was an opportunity to discuss what love is and what it means to each individual. The 5 Love Languages is a book by Gary Chapman that outlines the five different types of love languages people speak. A 5 Love Languages Quiz was reviewed to determine the individual's love language, followed by discussing the actions to take and things to avoid.

The workshop was held on February 22 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

Early Learning Department: Play & Learn Groups

In 2016, in partnership with Fresno Unified, Fresno Housing opened the Play & Learn Center at Helm Home. The Play & Learn Center's goal is to support adult-child interaction in a safe and fun environment with play and learn groups engaging children ages 16 weeks to five years in reading time, arts and crafts, toys, and other resources provided by community partners.

Before COVID-19, workshops were held at Cedar Courts in Mike's Books to provide parents and those who care for children, such as grandparents, aunts/uncles, friends and neighbors, access to resources and services that would help develop their skills. Currently, Play & Learn is meeting via Zoom and supports the development of young children. Tools and resources are available to parents, caregivers and the Play & Learn groups with music, art, read-aloud and much more. Each child that participates weekly in the program will receive a starter kit containing crayons, toys, flashcards and charts of colors, shapes and numbers. The workshops are hosted by Sam Limon, Community Education Specialist of the Early Learning Department, Monday through Wednesday from 10:30–11 a.m. and from 12:30–1 p.m.



Tobacco Education

Fresno Housing has collaborated with Fresno EOC's Rural Tobacco Education Program for years to offer educational workshops to subsidized housing residents throughout Fresno County. Fresno Housing's Resident Empowerment Department started providing this series of workshops virtually in February.

The Fresno EOC Rural Tobacco Education Program's focus has been to educate communities on tobacco use's adverse health effects, secondhand smoke and the policy options for addressing this habit.

The program provides information and education to assist businesses and individuals as well as multi-unit housing and other members of rural communities in implementing smoke-free policies.

Financial Literacy Round Table:

In partnership with Alianza del Valle, a Financial Literacy Round table will be held via Facebook Live on Thursday, February 25, 2021. The topics discussed will be opening a bank account, upcoming tax preparation and filing, receiving payment assistance during the COVID19 pandemic, and much more. The round table panel will include representatives from Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU, United Way, Centro La Familia and United Farm Workers Foundation. The purpose of this event is to educate the Hispanic community about the financial resources available to them.

Hora Del Café (Senior Club Hour):

The Hora Del Café is a club for seniors and is held in English and Spanish via Zoom or phone. The club's focus is to provide activities that increase cognitive development for senior residents while allowing time for socialization. The residents will be provided an activity packet before the meeting. Hora Del Café will meet every week on Tuesdays beginning in March.