

# Uvalde Leader-News

24 UVALDE LEADER-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS

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## El Progreso library brings in more than \$10K

KIM EAGLE  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Thanks to the generosity of South Texas residents, the 2016 Big Give S.A. raised \$3,687,047 through 40,493 individual donations.

El Progreso Memorial Library was the big winner in Uvalde County, raising more than \$10,000 and earning one of the \$1,500 hourly golden ticket giveaways.

Because of technical difficulties, the 24-hour giving period was extended through 8 p.m. on May 4 to give people a chance to make their contributions to local non-profits. The funding glitch did not stop people donating; they found other ways, such as in person at the funding fiesta held May 3 at the library.

Many non-profit directors and volunteers

matched donations made in person to further boost the final tallies. Participating from Uvalde County were El Progreso Memorial Library, Community Health Development Inc., Elim Christian Fellowship, Keep Utopia Beautiful, Humane Society of Uvalde, Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation, and the Native Plant Society of Texas-Uvalde Chapter.

### EL PROGRESO

El Progreso Memorial Library received 25 online gifts totaling \$4,840 plus lots of mail/in person donations.

"El Progreso Memorial Library was a big winner in the Big Give," said Mendell Morgan, library director. "I was notified that in a random drawing at Big Give headquarters on Wednesday, El Progreso Memorial Library's name was drawn to receive a

cash prize of \$1,500 which easily brought the total raised for El Progreso during the Big Give to over \$10,000.

"Donations by cash and check are still coming in so the final total will be well over \$10,000 which was the goal hoped for by the library.

"In addition to the money raised, the library enjoyed collaborating with the other local non-profits and inviting those wonderful people to be part of the Funding Fiesta. We want to thank everyone who gave and showed how much they value our El Progreso Memorial Library and all the other non-profits serving our community."

### RIDES TO RADIATION

Kate Marmion Rides to Radiation received 20 online gifts totaling \$1,170 made directly to the campaign's website

"To date we have received 20 gifts made directly to the foundation totaling \$5,189," said Sherri Rutledge, executive director. Added to the online donations, that brings the total amount raised up to \$6,359.

"It was a shame that the national website did have technical problems Tuesday because no donations could be made online for over eight hours," Rutledge said. "However, I am still glad we participated because it allowed us to introduce more people to our mission. Through our involvement in The Big



KIM EAGLE

Members of a local ballet folklorico group perform for the crowd during the funding fiesta held at El Progreso Memorial Library. The fiesta took place on May 3 with many local non-profits participating.

Give S.A. KSAT 12 News found out about us and came out and interviewed patients from Del Rio that utilize the van service.

"Overall, it was a positive experience, and we gained numerous first-time donors. Many thanks to El Progreso Library for organizing the Funding Fiesta, we always enjoy an opportunity to share our mission."

### CHDI

Community Health Development, Inc. received 10 online gifts totaling \$1,900 through The Big Give S.A. website and on-site donations.

"While the website issues were unfortunate, we believe The Big Give S.A. provided Uvalde non-profits with a great opportunity to come together to support our independent yet mutually beneficial missions," said Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, chief executive officer. "We

want to thank the El Progreso Memorial Library for their initiative and for graciously hosting the fiesta of funding which provided a great community bonding experience."

### NPSOT

The Native Plant Society of Texas Uvalde Chapter received six gifts totaling \$420 during the Big Give S.A.

"Even though it looks like a small amount, it equals one fourth of our total budget," said Elise Kirchoff with NPSOT. "Ann Fleming, Anne Marie Espinosa and I represented our group and enjoyed the Funding Fiesta where we matched donations at the \$10 and \$20 level, then sent that in.

"We met new people and enjoyed the music and dancing. Several children were thrilled with their seed packets that we gave away and the NJROTC [Navy Junior Reserve Offi-

cer Training Corps] gave a tour of the Wildlife Demonstration Garden.

"Thank you to all of you who contributed to the NPSOT's work at the library garden, and a special thanks to Nancy Feely who made a donation on behalf of the NJROTC."

### OTHER DONATIONS

Keep Utopia Beautiful raised \$2,295 through 21 online donations, the Humane Society of Uvalde raised \$965 through 21 gifts, and Elim Christian Fellowship received no donations.

The Big Give S.A. is part of a nationwide giving movement that brings together community members to support local non-profit organizations. This 24 hours of online giving unites donors with non-profits that make a difference in their community.

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