

# Spring Wellness Fair provided health resources

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Photographer Frank De La O captures dancing at the Precidio Park donation drive March 13



Children play at the donation drive, which will benefit families of NMSU

It is the second and final week for NMSU students to donate items for the Donation Drive.

The Donation Drive is an opportunity for students to provide non-perishable food items, school supplies, and gently used clothing for students in need, especially for those in student family housing.

Some occupants in student family housing are doing fine, while others are struggling, Lori Haussamen, social worker at the Student Health and Counseling Center, said.

Haussamen said the director of student housing has noticed the needs of some residents, and the Donation Drive was created in that direction to help those with lack of supplies.

“Residents of student family housing have been neglected, so they are our target for those we are trying to help,”

Haussamen said. “But the Donation Drive is generally for any student who is lacking basic supplies.”

The student family housing is so complex, filled with international residents and those in poverty, and they may not know where to obtain basic necessities; the Donation Drive will help with this problem, Haussamen said.

John Rivers, WAVE community organizer, said they have collected quite a bit of items, mostly clothes. Rivers said he also knows how to improve the Donation Drive for next year.

“This is our first year doing the Donation Drive,” Rivers said. “We have learned how to improve the process for next year by focusing on donation sites in more centralized locations.”

The Donation Drive is a program that is part of the Spring Wellness Fair, which was held on Saturday.

Music erupted from Preciado Park, next to O’Donnell Hall, as organizations were advertising information concerning health issues. There also was a bungee run and joust ring.

Sponsors of the fair included the WAVE program, NMSU social work services, the Student Health Center and ASNMSU.

Rivers said the focus of the Spring Wellness Fair was to educate the public on general well-being and nutrition.

“People will have the chance to connect with valuable health resources,” Rivers said.

Numerous organizations occupied tables set up at the park, sharing information on various health issues.

The Healing Sanctuary was passing out free massage chair passes to help relieve stress for students, and Tresco TOTS, a non-profit early childhood intervention agency, was there to provide details on child care and early development.

Merced Jaso, a worker from La Pinon, a sexual assault recovery service, said she came last year and thinks the Spring Wellness Fair is a very good idea.

“It’s a great way to get word out on resources available to the community,” Jaso said.

The NMSU Fire Department also was there, letting children walk inside the fire truck and learn the responsibilities of a firefighter.

Rivers said good health and wellness is an intricate part of a student’s life to perform well academically. The Spring Wellness Fair was an opportunity for students to find resources to achieve a healthy well-being, Haussamen added.

Locations for the Donation Drive:

Corbett Center

Activity Center

Zuhl and Branson library

Breland and Milton hall

All campus housing lobbies

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