

BISD helps connect parents, services

By **EMILY GUEVARA**
THE ENTERPRISE

Tina Garcia might have only one daughter at Vincent Middle School in Beaumont, but in a very real sense, she has many more children.

"I make it a point to be a neighborhood mom," said Garcia, 39. "I come to get packages for them because they're working mothers."

She was one of many Beaumont

Find video from the community fair at beaumontenterprise.com

community fair at the district's Administration Building on Wednesday.

The fair, now in its third year, connects district parents with community organizations and businesses that can help them.

"That's our emphasis, to make

Independent School District parents who attended a commu-

sure that we give parents the tools they need to make sure the students are successful," said Michelle Kibbles, Beaumont school district Title 1 parent involvement coordinator.

Wednesday's event was geared particularly for Title 1 parents. In the Beaumont Independent School District, 24 schools qualify for Title 1 federal funds, meaning all students

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qualify for free and reduced lunches, said Kibbles.

Parents received information on programs ranging from diabetes management courses and support groups to fitness and food ideas and homework help.

Senecia Saveat manned the PEP Program table. As the district's physical education programs parent coordinator, Saveat works to inform parents of the simple ways they can help themselves and their children live healthier lifestyles.

Next to her, children and adults played the Dance Dance Revolution game, which the district recently purchased for all elementary and middle schools.

"This is what your kid is doing," Saveat said in her mes-

sage to parents. "They're not just sitting on the sidelines while all of the other athletic kids (play ball)."

A few tables over, Waldine Small offered counseling services to families for issues ranging from addiction and anger management to divorce and teen pregnancy.

As founder of Family Help Systems, Small works specifically with families of inmates, a calling she found while a counselor at Beaumont's Richard LeBlanc Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"I saw the vision then, those guys getting help, going out to families (who were) not, so it's a revolving-door system," Small said.

The community fair is not the end of parent involvement programs. Each Title 1 campus has its own programs throughout the year and parents can learn more from their campus' parent facilitator.

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