

Event promotes role of fathers in society

Outreach campaign praises efforts to improve

parental modeling.

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Juan Mancha was not expect-

ing to win a Hombre Noble Award, and when he did it seemed his daughters, Maria, 7

and Anaid, 13, were more ex-

“My youngest, she kept say-

ing, ‘Daddy, Daddy, you got an

award,’” Mancha said. “It was a

shock to get the award, but the

things that they do with the

young fathers are just amaz-

ing.”

Mancha is referring to the

San Antonio Fatherhood Cam-

aign and the 6th Annual Fa-

therhood Fiesta on July 15 at

Avenida Guadalupe Plaza.

As part of the day’s activities,

all geared toward fatherhood

and family, the organization

gives out 15 Hombre Noble

Awards to honor youth, men

and organizations that make ef-

orts to improve fatherhood.

“The idea when we

first put it together was

to create an initiative

that met the needs of

primarily the

population that we

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FRANK CASTRO

Fatherhood Campaign coordinator

one way to do that.

The Fatherhood Campaign

grew from feelings just like

that, according to coordinator

Frank Castro. He said he trav-

eled to Washington, D.C., to

learn about the national Father-

hood Campaign but wanted to

make it more suitable for San

Antonio demographics.

“The idea when we first put

it together was to create an ini-

tiative that met the needs of pri-

marily the population that we

deal with,” Castro said. “We’re

dealing with Mexican Ameri-

can, Native American, indige-

nous. We’re more reflective

here, so when we do outreach

to the fathers we know the pop-

ulation that we are working

use. . . . The perspective that we

bring is Latino fatherhood.”

The program provides net-

works and outreach programs

group, especially with kids, and

for fathers, there’s not much to

do with kids, especially with lit-

tle girls,” Mancha said.

Plus, Mancha said, fathers

need to support each other, and

getting with like-minded dads is

don’t need to be afraid of feel-

ings.

“You know, we’ve been raised

with this attitude of ‘men don’t

do that.’ The campaign allows

you to express your feelings.”

The fiesta event drew nearly

300 people. Vendors and infor-

mational booths focused on

health issues like blood pres-

sure, diabetes, heart problems

and general physical fitness.

Castro was pleased with the

turnout and said he wants to

make health a priority for La-

tino men.

Rocky Resendez, 40, also won

a Hombre Noble Award for his

volunteer work in the commu-

nity and for making fatherhood

a priority.

Married at 15 and a father to

five children ages 16-21, Resen-

dez now is divorced but said be-

ing a good father still is the

most important part of his life.

“My kids still come visit me

and I still give them all my love

and support,” he said.

Resendez thought he was at

the Fatherhood Fiesta to volun-

teer as a disc jockey, something

he regularly does for commu-

nity events.

But because of his work as a

parent-volunteer coordinator at

J.T. Brackenkridge Elementary

School and his effort in build-

ing a fathers’ support group,

Resendez was a perfect nomi-

nee for the award, Castro said.

“Sometimes I feel like, ‘Well, I

don’t know if I’m doing that

much,’” Resendez said.

“It makes me feel like I am

doing something for the com-

munity and working for young

fathers and families.”

For more information on the

Fatherhood Campaign, visit

www.TexasMissionIndians.com

or call (210) 227-4940.

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