



Creative Collaborations
within Texas Communities:
The City of Santa Fe
Mae S. Bruce Library Story




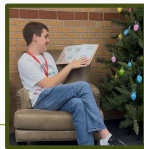

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 How we got started:



- Meet with the Lead teacher, Ms. Pitre, at the Santa Fe High School Special Education Department, STRIVE Program. A high school transition program designed to help special needs adult students move toward independent living and successful employment in the community
- How we meet, the STRIVE class would come in as a group and work with us to fill Easter Eggs or help with crafts.
- We worked with them to find someone who would work well in a library setting.

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What is happening today?
Meet Karson Kunz


Karson started as a Volunteer from our HS STRIVE program.

After his High School graduation, we worked with the Workforce Commission of Galveston County, which paid Karson to work for two semesters.


Karson now volunteers one to two days a week at the library, reading during story hour and shelving books.

He is now attending Alvin College and is working on a degree in Broadcasting. He wants to become an online book reader.

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Making Connections!



- Last year, the STRIVE students used our conference room to have classes on business skills in a workplace environment. The students practiced positive behavior skills in the library. Such as looking people in the eye, saying yes or no, and asking for specific information.
- Working with Santa Fe ISD, Friends of the Library, and our City's Parks Department, our STRIVE students help us fill over 500 Easter Eggs for our annual Egg Hunt.
- This has also led to more communication and trust building with our STRIVE students.

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Where we are going...



- This Fall, we brought in Dan, another STRIVE student whose talent is putting numbers and letters in order. One of our biggest needs is shelving books, which complements his skill set beautifully.
- Volunteers are a big piece of how libraries, schools, and cities can get important jobs done. The city hired another STRIVE graduate who scans maps and documents into our server. This is a wonderful service for the city and gives others with disabilities a chance to learn new skill sets.
- Take a chance and make connections outside the box!

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For more information, please contact me:



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