



A Blessed Blessing

**Loaves & Fishes  
Monthly  
Newsletter  
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June, 2021  
Edited by  
Ruben Garza**

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**Our  
Mission**

*The Loaves and Fishes of the Rio Grande Valley Corporation shall be a cooperative corporation of those congregations and local denominational bodies (e.g. District, Association, Diocese, Region, Presbytery, Conference, Convention, etc.) which choose to participate. Loaves and Fishes' primary mission is to function as the "mission arm" of the member congregations in the Upper Cameron and Willacy County areas.*

# *Help & Hope for the Hungry, the Homeless & the Hurting*

## **Congratulations and Welcome, Victor!**



As Victor Rivera becomes our new Executive Director, he is ready to tackle many of the issues plaguing the community. He brings many years of experience as a leader in several successful nonprofit organizations.

Victor, as the leader of Loaves & Fishes, is determined to carve out a new path, clearing the way for multimedia and communication. Though Bill is leaving us, he will always be just a phone call away; always willing to give us a hand.

The challenges over the past year tested our patience and commitment.

We have touched so many families over the years. Services and programs have expanded into Willacy County, assisting more families. During the COVID pandemic, we have received many grants for families in need.

Bill left a well-experienced charitable staff, willing to complete any task.

So, welcome aboard Victor!

**Great Physician  
Healthy Living  
Bread of Life Dining  
Hall  
Weekly  
4:30—5:45 p. m.  
Blood Pressure  
Glucose Checks  
Every Tuesday  
7:00-8:00 a.m.  
12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**Loaves & Fishes  
Staff**

**Erica Aranda  
Ruth Araujo  
Rick Capello  
Don Crouse  
Yvonne Dena  
Maria Galvan  
Celina Garcia  
Frances Garcia  
Ruben Garza  
Richard Gonzalez  
Gracie Gutierrez  
Melissa Gutierrez  
Lucia Hernandez  
Esmeralda Martinez  
Tommy Martinez  
Jorge Munoz  
Jeffrey Oelerich  
Betty Ortiz  
Bill Reagan  
Estella Ruiz  
San Juana Salinas  
Heather Trevino  
Hilda Vallejo**

## My First Hero

As a father, the happiest moments in my life have been time spent with my family. These moments have included: the birth of my children, the first day of school, and graduation.

Fatherhood is an evolution of adulthood. A good father is brave, understanding, and self-disciplined.

A father, more importantly, shapes a child's beliefs about themselves, others, and the world as they become adults. Their level of education, well-being, behavior, and mental strength all come from a father's involvement.

I have experienced many challenging moments in support of my family; hardships and unemployment.

Though, many single fathers face the ultimate challenge of homelessness. Job loss, lack of spousal support, and no home contribute to their struggle.

gle.

Many homeless fathers, nearly 75% of them across the nation, are either separated in a shelter or are completely turned away. Fortunately, our Open Arms Homeless Shelter allows single fathers to stay together with the family.

A father plays many roles in a child's life. As the child grows into adulthood, a father's involvement varies in every situation.

So, on this Father's Day, let's celebrate the moments spent with our father, stepfather, grandfather, foster father, and mentor.

Have a Happy Father's Day.

- Ruben Garza

*In loving memory of  
Roel Martínez and  
Israel Martínez (son)*

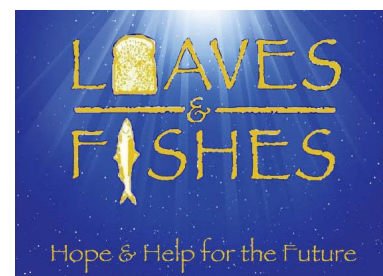
### HOMELESS PREVENTION

Low to moderate income renters in Upper Cameron or Willacy County may be eligible for rental or utility assistance through Loaves & Fishes' Homeless Prevention Program. Assistance may last for three months for eligible applicants facing eviction and utility cut off. COVID-19 Rental Assistance available. Call (956) 423-1014 for more information.



## Community Support

Frontline Pest Service—Sam Cleckler	Church	Assumption Church
Affordable Attic Self Storage	First United Methodist-Lyford	Bethel Lutheran Church
Infinity Vending	Queen Of Peace Catholic Church	South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
City of Raymondville	Community Baptist Church	Frank Boggus Investments
Richard Burns Farms LLC	Church Port Mansfield	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
8th & Harrison Church of Christ	Calvary Baptist Church	
First United Methodist-La Feria	First Christian Church of Harlingen	
St. Alban's Episcopal	Community Church	



**Call 423-1014 to remember the Endowment Fund in your will or life insurance policy.**

**The Ministries of  
Loaves & Fishes  
The Bread of Life  
Dining Hall**

**The Open Arms  
Homeless Shelter  
The New Hope Job  
Shop**

**Family Emergency  
Assistance**

**Great Physician  
Healthy Living**



**Mental Health  
Program**

## Friends of Loaves & Fishes

A.M. Cavazos	Laura T. Burns	Sidney V. Broyles
Deborah Anne Scarborough	Ned Cooley	
Elvira P. Gutierrez	Ricardo Leal	
Jon Anderson	Juanita Sanchez	
L. Vigo	Coralie Somers	
Leticia Lopez	Bill & Emma Burke	
Mary Anne Betancourt	Gary L. Wheelus	
Norwood L. Fedie	Keith Becker	
Victor D. Leal	Mario Munoz	
William T. McNutt	Ronald Shimotsu	
Roel Delgado	J.F. Peacock	
Michael T. Fulk	Owen Flinn	
Mickey Graham	Edd Kerkow	
Frank Boggus	Magdaleno Juarez	
Matt and Patty Gorges	Gordon White	
Mary McCulloch	Michael Murphy	
Laura Schell	Ricardo A. Solis	
Helen V. Schmidt	Joy Burns	
Sylvia Hurtado	Lois Day	
	Shirley A. Robinson	
	Ned Cooley	
	Graham McCullough	

**Help & Hope  
for the Hungry,  
the Homeless &  
the Hurting**





A Blessed Blessing

*Help & Hope  
for the  
Hungry,  
the Home-  
less & the  
Hurting*



**Thanks to The Boy Scouts  
Troop #1889 of America /  
Eagle Scout Restoration  
Project—Outdoor bench  
seating areas**

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514 South E Street  
Harlingen, TX 78550

Raymondville:  
688 West Kimball Street  
Raymondville, TX 78580

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Email: [office@lfrgv.org](mailto:office@lfrgv.org)

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facebook

Look for us on the web!

[www.lfrgv.org](http://www.lfrgv.org)

It has officially been two weeks since I've stepped foot into new shoes at Loaves and Fishes. I am blessed to be serving as the new executive director of this well loved organization.

After searching for several employment opportunities, I can truly say that I found my new home away from home.

I will continue to lead the way and honor Bill Reagan's legacy by serving the underserved.

A little bit about myself...I was born in Fresno, California, and moved to Texas in the early 80's. I have served in different capacities in

the non-profit sector for well over 25 years. I am a family man with two children, Lucas and Victoria, and my wife, Miriam, who is an educator.

With your support, and that of my team, I would like Loaves and Fishes to continue reaching new heights by bringing to fruition, a mobile loaves and fishes where we can reach more of the underserved population and provide them those much needed meals.

I would also like to work with our homeless population and offer micro-entrepreneurship opportunities to start their own business.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue our mission to offer "help & hope for the hungry, the homeless & the hurting."

In the words of Gordon B. Hinckley, "being humble means recognizing that we are not on earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others."

THANK YOU, for making a difference in the lives of others.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Victor Rivera*

*From  
Victor*

