



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Bambinos Executive Director Heather Seals, with her daughter and son, in the organization's new "Owl Room." Seals hopes to see more growth for Bambinos in 2018.

BABY ON BOARD

Bambinos begins classes, offers more 'adult time'

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Like the children the organization serves, Bambinos is growing. The Dallas nonprofit serving children and parents in need by offering essentials and support expanded its office space. It plans to add classes for young mothers, working moms, single fathers and grandparents who are raising young children, and added car seat and safety supplies to its list of items given to clients.

Since July, there's been a new face ready to take in clients, recently appointed Executive Director Heather Seals. She's often accompanied by her young daughter and son at the remodeled office, which now includes a playroom, called the Owl's Nest, and a meeting room.

When asked by former director Beth Jones to consider the position after Seals began volunteering for Bambinos in January 2017, she found the move made sense. Seals became a mother at a young age and is a domestic abuse survivor. She's now happily remarried and raising four children, but has lived in the circumstances many Bambinos clients find themselves.

"I was a mom at 17, so I can relate a lot to the struggles that happen," she said. "It was really a choice of using my gifts and talents and experience that I had, my experience from my younger life. I've been in leadership roles for the last several years, so it just seemed like a natural fit."

Seals said after getting to know the organization and its clients better over the last year, she realized there's a need for more education and "adult time" for Bambinos participants.

Bambinos works with Restore My Soul Ministries to

For the children

What: Bambinos.
Where: 211 E. Ellendale Ave. #7
Office hours: 9 a.m. to noon. Hours may expand to 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact: 503-623-4618.
What is offered: Diapers, formula, car seats, safety equipment and athletic scholarships for children in preschool through middle school. A meeting room with space for up to 35 people to host classes and other gatherings. The room is open for other community groups as well.
For more information about classes: bambinos.oregon.org. Find daily updates on Facebook.

offer classes that provide clients with financial management and relationship building skills, and strive to set people free from what she calls the "mindset of poverty."

Seals said she noticed another need among her clients: Connecting with other adults who understand and can help with their struggles. She said she hopes to begin a series of "friendship groups" early this year to allow clients to drop off their children in the Owl's Nest and spend time

with other grown-ups. "Let's get together, have coffee, have friends, let the kids play and have that grown up time," she said.

Seals said the expansion in space, services and classes is due to a successful auction last fall. Seals is grateful for that support.

"Ultimately, the impact is going to be on their kids," Seals said. I want to see that cycle of poverty and the mindset of poverty start to change for that next generation in at least as many families as we can."

POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DALLAS

Arrests/Citations
• Alexander J. Contreras, 23, a transient, in the 800 block of SW Church St. on Jan. 8 on a failure to appear warrant.
• Angela J. Baird, 48, of Gladstone, in the 600 block of NE Polk Station Rd. on Jan. 8 on a failure to appear warrant.
• Michelle L. Schiller, 31, of Dallas, on SE Miller Ave. on Jan. 9 on a failure to carry or

present an operator's license.
• Wayne A. Person, 53; Elizabeth N. Sanders, 33; and Adam J. Sturdivant, 28, all of Dallas, in the 500 block of SW Levens St. on Jan. 9 each on one count of second-degree criminal trespass.
• Allan W. Duncan, 33, of Dallas, in the 500 block of SE Rosewood Ln. on Jan. 10 on two failure to appear warrants.
• Shelley M. Reed, 40, of Dallas, in the 1400 block of SW 11Th St. on Jan. 10 on a failure to appear warrant.
INDEPENDENCE
Arrests/Citations
• Armando Hernandez Rodriguez, 35, of Independence, in the 1200 block of Hemlock Lp. On Jan. 10 for fourth-degree assault.
• Luis G. Solis-Pacho, 21, of

Beaverton, in the 100 block of Monmouth St. on Thursday for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle — from another jurisdiction, and driving while suspended or revoked.
• Andy Victor Seumanu, 33, of Manteca, Calif., in the 1300 block of Monmouth St. on Sunday for driving under the influence of intoxicants, physical harassment, and second-degree disorderly conduct.
MONMOUTH
Arrests/Citations
• Samuel Matthias Gomez, 27, of Salem, at Jackson St. W. and College St. N. on Saturday for DUII.
• Jose R. Rodarte, 28, of Monmouth, in the 500 block of Powell St. E. on Sunday for DUII, reckless driving, and reckless endangering.



Garcia Kramer Barge Carlson Stevens

Corrections posts 'most wanted'

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — Polk County Community Corrections lists these individuals as "most wanted" for January. Citizens with information on the whereabouts of any of them can call Community Corrections at 503-623-5226.
• Valentin Adolfo Garcia, born June 12, 1987, 5-7, 180

pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charge: Possession of methamphetamine.
• Ronald Edward Kramer, born June 7, 1978, 6-0, 200 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charge: Identity theft and aggravated assault.
• Anthony David Barge, born March 28, 1994, 6-0, 160 pounds, brown hair, green eyes. Charge: Identity theft

and possession of methamphetamine.
• Leah Marie Carlson, born Oct. 6, 1990, 5-6, 150 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charge: Identity theft and possession of heroin.
• Nathan Allen Stevens, born Jan. 4, 1985, 5-8, 170 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charge: Possession of methamphetamine.

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