



A Celebration of Strong Marriages



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By Erika Flores

Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 11:31 p.m.

Read more: Local, Marriage, Matrimonio Magnifico, Valentines Day, Love, Cameron County Commissioner John Wood, Virginia Wood, Aurora De La Garza, Cameron County District Clerk, H.A.R.P., Perla Garza, Cameron County, Relationships, Family, Hispanic Active Relationships Project, Rio Grande Valley, Love Birds

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, one valley organization found the perfect way to celebrate love and marriage.

They held a special event in Brownsville Saturday night to honor local love birds.

"We share time together and things that we do together," said Cameron County Commissioner John Wood about himself and his wife Virginia Wood. "We kind of feel left out if we're apart, so being together is a big part of it."

John and Virginia said they've been together for 37 years, 1 month and 1 day. "But who's counting," they laughed.

For them and most of the couples here, time has tested their love, and they said they've surpassed it all with patience, love and kindness.

"He's special...very very special, and I thank God for allowing me to find a man that has been there for me," said Aurora De La Garza, Cameron County District Clerk, about her husband Jose.

H.A.R.P., the Hispanic Active Relationships Project, is an organization that offers classes to couples and families in Cameron County to build happy, healthy relationships.

Saturday night, they united 30 love birds in Brownsville who've been nominated by the community to receive the "Matrimonio Magnifico" award, or Magnificent Marriage award.

"It's an event where we honor those who have provided their time to mentor the other couples," said H.A.R.P. Site Director Perla Garza, "and they've come to our workshops and have invested time in their own relationships so this is just a celebration for them."

They are celebrated with a dinner, and an award that they walk down the red carpet to receive, and H.A.R.P hopes that this event will inspire other couples to build their relationships for a stronger family and community in Cameron County.

If you would like to get involved with H.A.R.P., [click here](#) for more information.

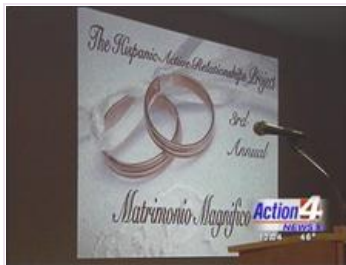


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Strong Marriages

Posted by Patricia Garza, Edinburg Texas - Monday, February 01, 2010 at 11:41 a.m.

My husband and myself have been married 34 years on March 28 and my husband is only 50 and myself get turned 48 and alot peolpe say that young couples don't last. I feel like we just got married. I wish that there was classes like Celebrate Stong Marriages in Edinburg.

Great Idea!

Posted by Mrs. Saldivar, Brownsville - Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 12:02 p.m.

My husband and I just celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary and our 29th yr as a couple. We think this is a great idea.

Kudos to you H.A.R.P. and all the participants. Marriage takes a lot of work, many are not committed to the effort marriage requires. It's great there are couples willing to help other couples learn with their wisdom and experience.

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