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La Cocina Mexican Restaurant and Fort Bend Seniors Team Up for 14th Annual Fundraising Celebration

RICHMOND, Texas (May 7, 2019) — La Cocina Mexican Restaurant transformed into a Cinco de Mayo festival on Saturday April 27th as staff and volunteers from the restaurant and Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels (FBS) joined together to raise money for hungry seniors in Fort Bend and Waller County. More than 300 people attended the annual event which included festive food, drinks, professional dancers, music, raffles, a wine pull, and a high-spirited silent and live auction.

Local residents John Tipton and Dan Martinez won live auction items at the 14th Annual Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser valued at more than \$4,000, making them the star bidders of the evening. FBS and La Cocina anticipate more than \$73,000 was raised for seniors in need at the event, enough to provide 20 local seniors a daily meal for one full year. A check presentation from La Cocina is scheduled for May 30 at Skeeters Stadium, as part of the game opening ceremony.

Fort Bend Seniors serves all senior citizens age 60 and over living in Fort Bend and Waller Counties. For all active seniors, the organization provides hot meals and daily recreation activities at 12 congregate center locations. For home-bound seniors, FBS provides daily and weekly hot meal deliveries through a network of staff and volunteer drivers.

The annual Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser was started by Andres Novoa, the owner of La Cocina, after he heard about FBS in 2005. Learning that local elders struggle to afford or prepare meals, Novoa launched one of the longest running fundraisers for Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels. La Cocina staff and Novoa's family have also taken up the mission of helping seniors in need, many volunteering their time to assist with the event.

This event brings together local businesses, community members, and elected officials to further the mission of FBS to help seniors remain independent by enhancing their quality of life through services and resources. Joining La Cocina and FBS as guests for the event included Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, Congressman Pete Olson, Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton, Constable Mike Beard, City of Meadows Place Alderman John Isbell, former District Attorney John Healey, and many honorable judges including Ken Cannata, Gary Janssen, Juli Mathew, Brenda Mullinix. FBS and guests were also given a surprise visit by Fort Bend County Judge KP George, who spoke of the great work that FBS does for seniors in the community.

Many businesses help support the event each year, with this year including Adam Pisani: Allstate Insurance, Classic Chevrolet, EastProLaw, Feeding My Soul, Final Touch Roofing, Finnegan Auto, The Fry Law Firm, Insperty, Johanson & Fairless, Junker Financial Advisors, OCuSOFT, Petrosewicz Law Firm, Staff Force, and

Treemont Retirement Community. FBS also received generous in-kind donations from Misa Rox Photography, OCuSOFT and Classic Chevrolet.

To join the fight to end senior hunger and isolation, visit the FBS website at www.fortbendseniors.org or call 281-633-7049 to discover donation and volunteer opportunities near you.

About Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels

Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, a United Way Agency, is committed to helping seniors remain independent by enhancing their quality of life through services and resources. FBS provides hot, home-delivered meals to more than 1,500 senior citizens daily, many who live alone and cannot prepare their own meals. In addition, FBS offers older adults' meals from 12 congregate sites – or community centers, transportation to and from the centers, health screenings and recreational activities.

Fort Bend Seniors is qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code as a non-profit corporation, and as such contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent as allowed by law. For more information about Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, visit www.fortbendseniors.org.