

## San Benito students travel to nation's capital

By SBCISD STAFF

Twenty San Benito High School migrant students are better prepared to become civically engaged and take on challenges and opportunities in their schools and communities, thanks to their recent participation in the Close Up Foundation's civic education program – a "living classroom" event held recently in Washington, D.C.

The annual one-of-a-kind opportunity allows students to experience government in action and provides participants with tours to renowned monuments, memorials, and institutions. Students also have a chance to meet with their congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, where they receive a first-hand look at the American political system.

"The Close Up program allowed our students to experience democracy in action. It was a great opportunity for our students to have a voice on the issues that are currently relevant," said Fernando Rosa, San Benito CISD Instructional Technologist.

Having accompanied the students on the trip, Rosa explained that the event is designed to better prepare and encourage high school students from across the country to become more civically engaged. During their time in



COURTESY PHOTOS



Washington, D.C., student groups from throughout the country participated in critical



conversations on topics such as the border wall, health care, and social

security. They also participated in a mock congress that included lobbying for or against major

issues as well as voting on those issues.

During Capitol Hill Day, program participants witnessed the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in action during one of their sessions, met with members of Congress to discuss their views on current issues, explored the Library of Congress, and took a tour of the Capitol Building with U.S. Representative Filemon Vela, Jr. and his staff.

"This was truly an experience of a lifetime," Rosa added.

While in Washington, D.C., Close Up participants also had a chance to tour various historical sites and attractions. Highlights included study visits to various memorials – Jefferson Memorial, FDR Memorial, MLK Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, and Pentagon/911 Memorial; the exploration of an embassy and the Smithsonian Museum; visits to the Capitol Building, U.S. Supreme Court, the White House, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Established in 1971, Close Up offers impactful, hands-on programming to educate and inspire young people to participate in their government. For additional information on the nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization in Washington, D.C., visit the program's website, [www.closeup.org](http://www.closeup.org).



COURTESY PHOTOS

## NJROTC CADETS VOLUNTEER AT FOOD PANTRY

By SBCISD STAFF



San Benito Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets recently assist the San Benito Food Pantry in different projects such as cleaning the inside and outside of the facility and helping with the organization of food pantry inventory. Through the opportunity to volunteer at the local food pantry, cadets witnessed first-hand the significant impact the food assistance program makes on the San Benito community as a whole.

The San Benito NJROTC unit emphasizes the concepts of service over self and community first, empowering cadets to take great pride in their hometown community.

# Thank you, softball fans

During the recent 'Strike Out Cancer' awareness softball game between the San Benito Lady Hounds and Weslaco East Lady Wildcats, players and fans came together for a common cause and helped raise a total of \$900 for the American Cancer Society in McAllen. The monies were collected from the 'strike out' buckets passed around during the odd innings as well as from a portion of the sale of player jerseys and fan shirts.

COURTESY PHOTO

