

## ***Texas Migrant Council, Inc. Celebrates Cesar Chavez Day***

March 31, 2007

**Laredo** – Employees of the Texas Migrant Council, Inc. (TMC) joined the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) of Webb County and other organizations at a March for Justice to keep the legacy of the late Cesar Chavez alive.

**The March for Justice** began at St. Peter's Plaza continued to Jarvis Plaza and ended at San Agustin Plaza where a ceremony took place and presentations were made by Mayor Raul Salinas, County Judge Danny Valdez, Mayor Pro Tempore Juan Ramirez and others on the work of Cesar Chavez.

TMC Board Member Blas Castañeda, a former migrant worker also spoke about the importance of the worker and the role that Cesar Chavez played in the lives of the Hispanic community.

### **Background\***

Cesar Chavez was a farm worker and labor leader who helped expose the hardships and injustices of the life of a farm worker. Chavez was a community organizer who organized voter registration drives and worked to expose racial and economic discrimination.

Cesar Chavez was the founder of the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America. He helped achieve dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits and human living conditions for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. He led successful strikes and boycotts that resulted in the first industry wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture. Some of Cesar Chavez effective peaceful tactics used to bring attention to the rights of farm workers were boycotts, strikes, pilgrimages and fasts. In 1968 he fasted for 25 days; in 1972 he again fasted for 25 days and in 1998 at the age of 61 he endured a 36 day "Fast for Life" to highlight the harmful impacts of pesticides on farm workers and their children.

Cesar Chavez motto in life was "Si se puede" (it can be done) embodies the uncommon and invaluable legacy he left for the world's benefit.

\* Excerpts from the Background section of this release are taken from the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation archives.