



THE PINWHEEL



Outstanding Teens Helping Kids in Our Community

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Students and staff from Veterans Memorial High School collected items before the holidays to make goody bags for the CACCB. #EaglePride #EaglesWorkingTogether #KidsHelpingKids #EaglesGivingBack

WELCOME NEW BOARD PRESIDENT TERRY MENDEZ

On Jan. 1, 2020, Terry Mendez was elected President of the Governing Board of the CACCB. Mendez, who will serve a one-year term, had previously served as V-P from 2018-2019.

Mendez is a Realtor with Christi Properties Real Estate Co. Prior to Mendez, Eduardo Gomez served as President in 2019.

Other members of the Executive Board are:

- Vice-President: Ashley Wells
- Treasurer: Dr. Robert Cramer
- Secretary: Barbara Ellis

New members of the Board of Directors are:

- Evelyn Ferrer
- Dr. Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer
- Claudia Mostaghasi



OUTSTANDING TEENS HELPING KIDS CON'T



For some teens in our community, their mission is clear: to give back to kids-in-need and create a more comforting atmosphere during what can sometimes be an uneasy visit to the Center.

In December, the Veterans Memorial High School Screaming Eagle Band Booster Club and Eagle Welding did just that. They collected items to make 150 comfort bags for children served by the CACCB for their Christmas Service Project. Items included coloring books, crayons, youth blankets, tooth-brushes, dolls, toy trucks and more.

And just down the road in Riviera, Texas, Raven Gorgan created and donated several handmade pillows, and an array of crafts for the CACCB as part of the National Honor Society individual service project last month at Kaufer High School.

Raven and the Veterans Memorial students have made previous donations to the Center. We are so grateful for their generosity and dedication to help children feel more at ease at the Center.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

The Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend is more committed than ever to providing a safe place for children and families to begin the healing process.

The Therapy Department, led by Clinical Director Michael Huddleston, MS, LPC, provides trauma-focused therapy to children who are survivors of abuse and their non-offending family members. This type of treatment is evidence-based and has consistently been found to help reduce trauma symptoms in children who have experienced a traumatic life event. In fact, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network found that 75% of children who had PTSD when they started using an Evidence-Based Treatment no longer had PTSD at their last follow-up.

In Jan. 2020, the CACCB Therapy Department provided 94 therapy sessions to 36 children and 5 adults. All therapy provided by our amazing Therapy Team is done so at absolutely no cost as 100% of the costs are absorbed by the Center.

PARTNER PROFILE: MICHAEL WENZEL



No matter where the CACCB has served children, one thing is certain, that the CACCB has always been a place "Where Healing Begins."

Those are the thoughts of Det. Mike Wenzel, Corpus Christi Police Department, who has partnered with the Center since 2013, back

when it was a small house on McClendon St.

"There was not much space, but it was always a professional place," said Wenzel, who was the assigned Detective to the Family Violence Bureau, and later, to the Child Protection Unit.

He values CACCB staff because he can talk openly and they can relate to what he often sees.

"Most people don't realize that child physical and sexual abuse affects the entire family," he said.

Wenzel has seen the devastating effects that child abuse can have on parents and siblings, and their need for counseling.

"I know that the CACCB is going to make sure the needs of the victim and the family are met," he said. "Their compassion comes through in everything they do."

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: VERONICA OLIVAREZ



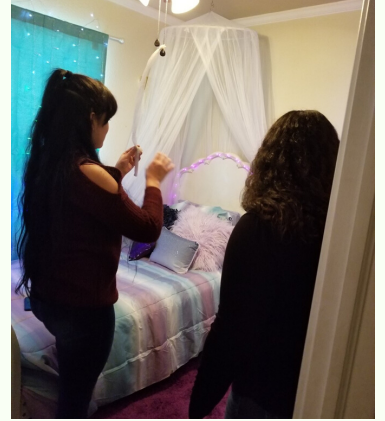
Forensic Interviewer Veronica Olivarez has stepped up when the Center has needed her most, juggling multiple cases and interviewing numerous children in one day. Co-workers have described her as a "trooper." Her priority is to make sure children are receiving services needed to begin their healing process.

She has also shined bright as a team player and has assisted at community events in Kingsville, Texas, helping to create more visibility for the CACCB. Olivarez celebrated her two-year anniversary with the Center in Nov. 2019. Congratulations Veronica!

ROOM MAKEOVER HELPS HEAL, EASE TRAUMA



Chloe Munoz (left) and Belen Caro



1,644
CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED PRIMARY SERVICES AT THE CACCB IN 2019

Chloe Munoz feels fortunate to be able to provide a child with hope after that child endured a traumatic life experience, simply by changing the environment of where that trauma occurred.

"If one child can get the chance to take back a piece of their life by receiving a room makeover, I would hope more people would try to provide that," said Munoz, a CACCB intern who is working on her MSW at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. "Helping a child heal is the most important thing that the Children's Advocacy Center can do."

Munoz participated in the Women of Courage My Safe Space: A Room Makeover Project with Belen Caro, family advocate, and Emma Sais, program director. This is the fourth year the CACCB has participated in the program.

UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Through Feb. 15: Macy's Round Up Your Change Event @ La Palmera

Feb. 17: Closed, President's Day

April 10: Closed, Good Friday

June 17: 7th annual CACCB Fundraiser featuring Keynote Speaker Kevin Mulcahy

For details, follow us on Facebook; or call (361) 855-9058, ext. 2.

#WEARBLUE DAY

Staff proudly wore their CACCB T-shirts for #WearBlueDay (Jan. 11). The purpose of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign is to help raise awareness of #humantrafficking.



Left photo: L to R: Laura Alaniz, Michele DeLaRosa, Clarissa Mora and Robert Gomez



Right photo: L to R: Sarah Paredes, Karen Emero, Cassandra Hinojosa, Veronica Olivarez, Cheryl Parker, Arianne Chapa, Emma Sais, Belen Caro, and Lily Ramos