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WE'RE OPEN, ESSENTIAL & HERE TO SERVE

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The CACCB is proud to announce that we have been deemed as essential personnel by the Governor of the State of Texas during the Coronavirus crisis - along with more than 70 other CACs across the statewide network. Throughout this situation, the CACCB will continue to remain committed to working with our first responders and families.

While COVID-19 may have put a damper leading up to Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and the unforeseeable future, it hasn't diminished our unwavering spirit and the valuable work we do here at the Center. With school closures, stay-at-home orders and children remaining at home through the duration of this period - child abuse may likely go unreported. So far, there has already been a drop in the reports of child abuse made across the state, and that is a major concern to us. In fact, it's during times of crisis and uncertainty when children need us most. That's why the continuation of our services is so crucial.

Sure, we've had to postpone events including our June fundraiser, presentations and participation in many area spring community events, but we remain hopeful that we can and will overcome these setbacks and return stronger and more vigilant as ever in the fight against child abuse.



STAFF, COMMUNITY 'GO BLUE' IN APRIL



April 3rd was "Go Blue Day" to raise awareness of child abuse in our community. Also, on each Friday in April, we wear blue for Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month. Pictured clockwise from left: CACCB staff on April 3, CACCB staff on April 10, First Community Bank, more First Community Bank staff, and MCH Family Outreach in the last two photos.



NUECES ELECTRIC CHARITIES, INC. CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF CACCB FOR NEARLY A DECADE

Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC) has been a proud partner of the Children's Advocacy of the Coastal Bend (CACCB) for nearly 10 years. Recently, NEC donated \$7,000 to the CACCB.

Since 2011, NEC's charitable foundation, Nueces Electric Charities, Inc., has donated more than \$40,000 to the CACCB to support our mission to protect, restore, and transform the lives and futures of abused children.

This mission closely aligns with NEC's mission to help non-profit organizations address and positively impact community life for Nueces Electric Cooperative members.

This long-standing partnership with the CACCB ensures the future of families and children affected by child abuse remains bright.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

I am so grateful that the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend has not had to close for a single day since the Coronavirus pandemic began and stay-at-home orders were issued in late March.

As essential personnel, we could not continue to serve alleged child victims of abuse and their families without the wholehearted commitment from our entire CACCB team. Talk about teamwork!

Our staff has remained flexible to meet changing needs and has been taking all recommended precautions to ensure the safety of everyone who walks into the Center.

We are still providing 100 percent of our services including forensic interviews and family advocacy and implementing temporary MDT case review video conferencing meetings and Telehealth therapy sessions. We have also been able to respond to emergency cases during this time that have required immediate attention after hours.

During April, we served 227 children and provided services to 61 families. We are proud to continue serving and meeting the needs of our community!

CACCB SEES 26% DROP IN CHILD ABUSE REPORTS



WE SAW A 26% DECREASE IN THE # OF CHILD ABUSE REPORTS MADE FROM MARCH TO APRIL

MARCH 2020: 726
APRIL 2020: 535

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

191 FEWER REPORTS MADE WITHIN OUR 12-COUNTIES

THE # OF CHILDREN BEING ABUSED DID NOT DECREASE, ONLY THE REPORTING.



In just one month's time, the CACCB saw a 26 percent decrease in the number of child abuse reports. That decrease equals to 191 children. Many professionals across the board attribute this decline to children not being in school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as teachers are the top reporters for child abuse cases. However, the child abuse reports coming in show an increase in more severe types of abuse.

SURVIVOR DETAILS ABUSE, HEALING IN 'REWIND'



"REWIND" is the powerful new film about hope and healing directed by Sasha Joseph Neulinger, a survivor, advocate and friend of the CACTX. Since Neulinger can remember, a video camera was ever-present for celebrations and close-knit family gatherings. His father was constantly filming. But his father's camera was also documenting a hidden secret. Now Neulinger draws upon a revealing home video archive to piece together an unflinching story of the cycles and consequences of abuse, to examine what it means to heal, and to effect positive change in the world.

Stream for free: Independent Lens | PBS:

<https://to.pbs.org/2YVntZu> through June 10, 2020. Also available on many digital platforms. (Length: 84 min. Rating: TV-MA)

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK GIVES DONATION

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: MICHELE DELAROSA



Many thanks to First Community Bank for their thoughtful \$1,000 donation to the CACCB on March 20 through their Others 1st Project.

We are so grateful for their continued support at a time when we need it most. The company also purchased 71 T-shirts from our recent fundraiser, the most number of T-shirts purchased by any one group.

MEP Program Coordinator Michele DeLaRosa has been recognized for doing an excellent job in facilitating the CACCB's first video conference case review as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Bee county was the first video conference case review she facilitated. Her main goal was to continue to provide all the partner agencies involved the platform that is needed to ensure the children and their families are receiving the correct and appropriate services, and the best possible outcome for their case.

DeLaRosa, who started at the Center in Nov. 2018, says she loves being the foundation and



middle man for both law enforcement and CPS, and that they can both rely on the Center for help and support.

DeLaRosa feels strongly about playing a vital role in their investigations, and the healing process for all victims.

GOMEZ WINS SCHOLARSHIP



Eddie Gomez, immediate past president of the CACCB Board of Directors, has been selected as a recipient of a Post-graduate

Merit Scholarship from the University of Sheffield, where he is currently earning his MSc in Health Economics and Decision Modelling. Gomez, who has served on the board for four years, was V-P from 2016-2017 and President in 2019. He was also a former Assistant Vice President of Analytics at Driscoll Children's Hospital.



CACCB decorated three pairs of denim for a virtual denim display hosted by The Purple Door for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month!

UPCOMING DATES

July 3: Closed, Independence Day
 For details, call (361) 855-9058.



Please note: Due to the Coronavirus, our 7th annual CACCB Fundraiser featuring Keynote Speaker Kevin Mulcahy originally set for June 17, 2020, has been canceled and will be rescheduled for 2021.