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## MORA CELEBRATES 10-YEAR MILESTONE OF SERVICE



Ten years ago, this month, Executive Director Clarissa Mora began her journey as an intern at the CACCB. After being hired as a Family Advocate, she was promoted to Program Director, and finally, Executive Director in August 2016.

At her time of hire, there were only six employees, working out of a residential home.

“Everyone wore multiple hats,” she said. “There was no therapy department, and definitely no MEP. We were in a small home where we could only conduct one forensic interview at a time and every employee was stretched to the max.”

Flash forward to 2020. Mora has quadrupled the budget and increased the number of children and families served by 20 percent. There are nearly three times more employees and programs, all operating daily in a professional office building. We also have the capability to conduct up to three interviews simultaneously, thanks to three forensic interview rooms and adjoining observation rooms.

Mora understands the value of hard work. While leading the Center, Mora was a single mother who earned her Master of Public Administration at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2018 and

# MORA CELEBRATES 10-YEAR MILESTONE CON'T

graduated in the top 10 percent. She was also chosen as one of three Executive Directors across Texas to be part of the Statewide MDT Advisory Committee committed to providing safety, justice and healing to abused and neglected children in Texas.

Her mentors include the CACTX staff, especially Cathy Crabtree, who helped the Center create and implement the MEP program, provide board training, and assist with developing the Center's first-ever strategic plan.

The Center has also had its challenges ranging from the adjustment of the Center's operations due to COVID-19 to work with clients safely and effectively, to multiplying new programs at the CAC. Mora says there are numerous considerations – down to the smallest detail – that go into adding a brand new program.

“This is something that takes a lot of strategic planning,” she expressed. “Will we have the space, how will the position be funded, what does the workload for this program look like, will the grant(s) fund the position longer than

one year, and how will our partner agencies respond to the new program?”

Mora says she feels fortunate to be part of “an amazing team” with a “we can do it” attitude and that the Center would not be where it is today without everyone working together.

Moving forward, Mora expects to expand its outreach and education program to help increase the prevention of sexual abuse, and therapy services to provide enhanced recovery resources to child abuse survivors.

“I am grateful beyond words for the opportunities I have been given and I hope to be a part of the CACCB family for many more years to come,” she said.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER: HELP US RECOVER FROM THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON NOV. 10



By Clarissa Mora

We can all agree – 2020 has been one of the toughest and most unpredictable years the Center has ever faced. That's why this year's **Coastal Bend Day of Giving** – set for **November 10th** – is more important for us than ever before as we

try to recover from the financial impact of COVID-19.

The Center was forced to cancel our big annual fundraiser this summer and several smaller fundraisers in order to comply with County and State guidelines. Then, we unexpectedly had to purchase several items to be able to continue to safely offer services throughout the pandemic: laptops to allow some staff to work from home; tele-health access to allow our counselors to continue to deliver crucial mental health services; HIPAA-compliant virtual platforms to allow for our partner agencies to view forensic interviews remotely; face coverings for staff, families, and children; and lots and lots of cleaning supplies.

In order to replenish our lost revenue, we need our community's help during the Day of Giving. Through this amazing 24-hour online opportunity, **all donations made to the CACCB, up to \$20,000, will be matched and doubled** through the Coastal Bend Community Foundation. Please consider donating to the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend, because the Center and the children we serve really need your help.

**\*To donate on Nov. 10, go to [coastalbenddayofgiving.org/caccb](https://coastalbenddayofgiving.org/caccb)**

## MANAGING STRESS DURING COVID-19



CACTX recently created a resource for parents to help them cope with stress during the pandemic, as many of us are no longer able to deal with stress the way we used to.

Many parents have found these tips helpful:

- **Give Yourself Some Grace.** Accept that this is not going to be the most productive time in your life. It is okay if all you do during this time is simply get your family through each day and make sure everyone remains safe and healthy.
- **Aim for Routine and Structure.** Some families find it helpful to maintain a daily routine. Develop a schedule that includes time for schoolwork, break, eating and play-time.
- **Talk to Your Child.** Take time to speak with your children about the COVID-19 in developmentally appropriate ways. Reassure your child that it is okay to feel upset. Let them know they are protected and supported.

*For the full list of suggestions in English/Spanish, and more resources, go to [cactx.org](http://cactx.org).*

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: KAREN EMERO



For Karen Emero, being a team player is what really matters most.

Emero, who has been a family advocate at the Center since April 2016, is vocal about her love for her job, and it shows. She is always ready to help her co-workers, going above

and beyond for after hours and on-call cases, volunteering for events and often staying late to complete her work.

In her role, she provides the opportunity for parents to express some of the difficult emotions they are experiencing while the child is being interviewed, and she informs them on what they can expect once they leave in regards to therapy appointments, Crime Victim's Compensation, and anything else they may need.

Recently, Emero helped our new family advocate "learn the ropes," providing encouragement so that she could feel comfortable and confident in her new position and know what is needed in order to provide excellent care to our families.

## PARTNER PROFILE: TAITE A. BOWERS



Because children are often at the mercy of those around them, Taite A. Bowers has dedicated herself to advocating on their behalf, and providing them with opportunities they may not have had otherwise.

Bowers, who serves as a Child Protective Services, Investigator II, has worked with the CACCB for more than a year and half, collaborating with the Center to conduct forensic interviews to ensure the safety and welfare of the children being interviewed.

"Although my job can be challenging and difficult at times, it is this challenge that wakes me up every morning

and drives me to work harder to serve the children and family of the Coastal Bend," she said. "I love my job because it allows me to see opportunities and change in children and families over the course of an investigation."

In her role, she has participated in weekly MDT meetings with partners and seen the CACCB work tirelessly to build a network of community collaborations so that children and families receive the appropriate counseling and community resources.

"In the time I have been working with the CACCB, I have been blessed to work with like-minded individuals who share the same goals for children and families," she said.

# COMMUNITY GIFTS

## KING RANCH CONTINUES SUPPORT OF THE CACCB



Alice G. K. Kleberg  
King Ranch Family Trust

Since 2016, the King Ranch Family Trust has supported the CACCB and its critical services in Kingsville and beyond.

The King Ranch Family Trust was organized in 1944 as the Alice G.K. Kleberg Fund. Since its inception, it has promoted Henrietta King's philosophy of providing financial assistance to the sick and less fortunate and investing in the health and education of the people of Kingsville, Kleberg County and South Texas. The King Ranch Family Trust currently serves the communities in Kleberg, Brooks, Jim Wells, Kenedy and Willacy counties.

It owes its success as a community partner to the dedication and involvement of members of the King Ranch family.



### Helping Here.

The CACCB would like to give a BIG thanks to H-E-B for their recent donation of \$5,000 made toward our Preventing Child Abuse: Community Outreach & Education program. We are so grateful for your generosity and continued support - especially during these times of uncertainty. #HEBHelpingHere



**GRANDE**  
COMMUNICATIONS®

*Cares*

Thank you to all of the Grande Communications employees who voluntarily contribute a portion of their earnings to the Grande Cares Club. Members of this employee-based giving program recently donated \$2,200 to help further the mission of the CACCB. Since 2015, the CACCB has received a total \$5,150 through this special program.

## UPCOMING DATES

Sept. 7: Closed, Labor Day  
Nov. 1-9: Coastal Bend Day of Giving pre-schedule  
Nov. 10: Coastal Bend Day of Giving

For details, call (361) 855-9058.



**COASTAL BEND DAY OF GIVING**

**TUESDAY, NOV. 10, 2020**

**On this day, go to  
[coastalbenddayofgiving.org/caccb](http://coastalbenddayofgiving.org/caccb)  
to make an online donation.**