



## *2020 Sets a New Record for Day of Giving Donations*

### *Average individual CACCB donation increases by 26 percent!*

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When this year's Coastal Bend Day of Giving was announced, the CACCB was a wee bit nervous of what the outcome could bring. Would the community be able to maintain their level of commitment to assist non-profits - even in the middle of a pandemic?

Well, not only did the community give, but everyone - from matching funders to donors - stepped up to help conquer financial challenges faced by Coastal Bend community organizations. This year not only set a new record for the Coastal Bend Day of Giving, \$3.3 million dollars divided up among 51 non-profits, but it was also a record year of donations for us, too!

The average CACCB Day of Giving donation in 2019 was \$202.18; however in 2020, that figure soared to \$261.48. That's an increase of 26 percent, which equals to every individual giving an average of \$59 more! And, while official totals have not yet been released, the monies we receive in 2020 exceed 2019 by an estimate of around \$13,000. We also saw a significant increase of first-time donors to the Center.

The CACCB saw gifts pour in from numerous organizations including the Charity League of Corpus Christi, W.O. Harrison Jr. Family LP, the Kiwanis Club of Padre Island, several individual donors and more. *Continued on p. 3*



# LET'S GET CREATIVE FOR OUR FIRST-EVER UGLY SWEATER CONTEST DEC. 7-11



We invite you to join us for the CACCB's first-ever Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest! It is our hope that this contest could provide a safe and fun online event open to families. At the same time, it could help us raise much-needed funds lost due to the financial impact of COVID-19. All it takes is a little creativity. Bonus points will be given to those who decorate their own sweater! Think bows, garland, ornaments and other ways to personalize your sweater.

- There are two easy steps:
- 1). Register between December 7-11 at [uglysweatercac.rsvpify.com](http://uglysweatercac.rsvpify.com). The entry fee is children (\$10), adults (\$15) and pets (\$5).
  - 2). Email us a photo wearing your ugliest Christmas sweater at [caccbfundraise@gmail.com](mailto:caccbfundraise@gmail.com). Please provide your name in the email with a description of the sweater.

Winners will be announced on December 15th and their photos will be shared online. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category (pets, children and adults)! All proceeds will benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend!



## PINWHEELS DISPLAY 2020



On Sept. 25, we set up our 10th annual Pinwheels display outside of the Center to create child abuse awareness in our community.

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our large community event at Cole Park.

Each pinwheel displayed represents a child who was forensically-interviewed at the Center in 2019 due to allegations of abuse and neglect.

A special thanks goes out to Ida and Salina Ramirez for assisting us with the display.



*The CACCB forensically interviewed 1,553 children in the Coastal Bend in 2019 due to allegations of abuse and neglect. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, report it at 1-800-252-5400.*







## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

I've always heard what doesn't knock you down will only strengthen you in ways never imagined. When COVID-19 first emerged, I had so many questions. How would we continue operating safely? How would we make up for the unexpected costs due to the pandemic? How would our partner agencies react to all our changes?

Well, everyone came together without a fuss to ensure the CACCB didn't shut down, not even for a day. The staff quickly adapted to new software, a rotating schedule and proper safety measures – from wearing masks to disinfecting after each family visit. This all made me realize how resilient we are when we work together.

Many services (therapy, MDT meetings and forensic interview observation) went online and partner agencies contentedly followed our new standards. Thanks to the GPTV class at Gregory-Portland High School, our Happy Bear and Internet safety presentations are now available via video. We have connected with schools to drop off updated CACTX materials and prepare information for area distribution.

Then, our community stepped up, too, through the Coastal Bend Day of Giving, which helped replenish lost funds. For all these reasons, I look back on 2020 with much gratitude.



## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: PENNY GREEN

Forensic Interviewer Penny Green is wholeheartedly devoted to her job because she provides a child with a powerful platform to speak out against their abuser. The part she does not like is that children are abused, hurt or traumatized.

Green, who joined the CACCB in 2014, has conducted more than 3,600 interviews, and has been declared an expert witness in all 12 counties that we serve, the State of Georgia and the State of Kansas. Her inspirational motto is, "You are not a survivor, you are a WARRIOR!"

On chaotic days, she encourages staff with a "We got this" attitude. She helped co-workers learn the Evidence.com software to provide immediate access to forensic interviews during the pandemic and to eliminate in-



person contact by partner agencies having to pickup interview DVDs.

"Children are depending on us to gather facts from the trauma they have experienced so that our partner agencies can help to ensure their safety," she said. "We have an amazing, supportive team. Children are our future; they need us, and we need them."

## 2020 SETS A NEW RECORD CON'T (FROM P. 1)

We also received donations from District Attorney Offices throughout the Coastal Bend area including Kleberg/Kenedy County, Nueces County, and commitments from Bee, Aransas and Jim Wells counties.

"This year's Day of Giving was really emotional for us," said Executive Director Clarissa Mora. "The outpouring of support this year was beyond what we ever expected. I am so thankful to every single person who gave during this unprecedented year."

Mora says the monies will assist the Center in areas where fundraising efforts had to be cut short due to COVID-19, and also distributed as needed across our victim services from forensic interviews to therapy.



Together  
We Can!

# VALERO ENERGY PROVIDES DONATION

# NUECES, KLEBERG COUNTY DA'S MAKE 'DAY OF GIVING' DONATIONS



Even though the 2020 Valero Texas Open had to be canceled due to COVID-19, the Valero Benefit for Children was able to support several children's charities including the CACCB. This unexpected and charitable donation at such a critical time filled our hearts with much joy and appreciation. More than ever, the CACCB is grateful for Valero's continued support and proud to be a charity partner this year.

The CACCB was presented with a check on Nov. 9 from the Nueces County District Attorney's Office.

For this year's Coastal Bend Day of Giving, area District Attorneys made sure to keep the spirit of generosity alive.

#FueledByGiving #ValeroBenefitForChildren

The Office of Mark A Gonzalez, Nueces County District Attorney, gave \$3,000 toward the gift matching event to benefit the CACCB.

## UPCOMING DATES

- Nov. 26-27, 2020: Closed, Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7-11, 2020: Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest
- Dec. 24-25, 2020: Closed, Christmas
- Dec. 31, 2020: Closed at noon, New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1, 2021: Closed, New Year's Day
- Jan. 18, 2021: Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 2021: Valentine-themed online auction, dates TBA
- June 24, 2021: CACCB Fundraiser featuring Keynote Speaker Kevin Mulcahy

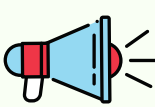
We also received a \$5,000 check from the Office of John T. Hubert, Kleberg/Kenedy County District Attorney.

Both DA's offices have provided annual donations to the Center, along with others throughout the Coastal Bend area served by the CACCB. All donations were matched and doubled to have a greater impact.

For details, call (361) 855-9058.



Kleberg/Kenedy County District Attorney John Hubert presents a check to the CACCB for the 2018 Coastal Bend Day of Giving. Hubert continues to give gifts annually.



**Please note: Our 7th annual CACCB Fundraiser featuring Keynote Speaker Kevin Mulcahy has been rescheduled for June 24, 2021.**