

STANDING UP AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

**'GO BLUE' IN APRIL,
STANDING UP AGAINST
CHILD ABUSE CON'T- 2**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
CORNER, PARTNER
PROFILE, STANDING UP
AGAINST CHILD ABUSE
CON'T - 3**

**THE PEOPLE'S MARKET,
EMPLOYEE OF THE
QUARTER, SPRING FLING,
UPCOMING DATES - 4**



While there have been fewer child abuse awareness events this year compared to past years, we are miles ahead of 2020, where things came to a standstill. As we approach the halfway mark of 2021, we remain hopeful for more outreach opportunities within the community. There is a light at the end of the tunnel!

April kicked off with a proclamation from the Commissioners Court declaring April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Nueces County bringing together the CACCB and several other agencies. We engaged as a panelist for CASA's virtual "Ring of the Bells" event and provided virtual presentations to the Education Service Center, Region 2; the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi, the Southside Rotary Club and the Friday Morning Group - to name a few.

CACCB EMPLOYEES 'GO BLUE' IN APRIL



April 9th was "Go Blue Day" across the State of Texas to raise awareness of child abuse in our community. CACCB staff made sure to "Go Blue," too! **Pictured top row, left to right:** Clarissa Mora, Crystal Juarez, Sarah Gonzales, Penny Green, Cassandra Hinojosa, Sarah Puente, Michael Huddleston, Laura Alaniz, and Katey Wagner. **Pictured bottom row, left to right:** Emma Sais, Belen Caro, Esmeralda Garza, Robert Gomez, Karen Emero, Veronica Olivarez and Bethany Wright. Not pictured: Michele DeLaRosa

STANDING UP AGAINST CHILD ABUSE - CON'T

We partnered with TAMUCC's Pollution Prevention Partnership AutoCheck Program, Corpus Christi Police Department's Family Violence Unit, the Purple Door and others for a mini health and safety fair information drive-thru held here at the CACCB on April 10. Even our very own Happy Bear joined in for the fun!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

March 2021 was one of the busiest months we've seen in more than five years. With 179 forensic interviews conducted, 100 families worked with, and more than 750 CPS statewide intakes reviewed, staff and resources were pushed to the limit.

During months like this, we are more aware than ever of the positive impact the CACCB has on child abuse victims in the Coastal Bend. Before CACs existed, a child's outcry of abuse didn't necessarily mean the hurt was over. Due to the complexity of child sexual abuse cases, it takes the efforts of many different entities to come together to investigate, prosecute, and offer follow-up recovery services.

Historically, information was not routinely shared, efforts were rarely coordinated, and obtaining successful outcomes for these child victims was virtually impossible.

As one of 71 CACs throughout Texas, we offer a safe, child-friendly environment where law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals may share information and develop effective, coordinated strategies sensitive to the needs of each unique case and child.

Since our inception in 1994, more than 40,000 children in the Coastal Bend community have been served. Without intervention and therapeutic and recovery services, 59% of abused children will be arrested for a juvenile crime and 28% will be arrested for a crime committed as an adult. Our work is crucial to help prevent these vulnerable child victims from becoming troubled adults; therefore, creating safer communities and providing hope, healing and justice until we can end child abuse.

PARTNER PROFILE: DET. RICK SALINAS



Det. Ricardo "Rick" Salinas with the Kingsville Police Department has worked with the CACCB since he was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division in April 2014.

Early in his career, he attended a Child Abuse Investigation class that he will never forget.

"At the end of that class, one of the instructors stood before all of us and stated, 'You

are the last line of defense for these kids. Don't mess this up.' I think about that every time I've been assigned a child abuse case."

Salinas is doing his part to help end abuse.

"I understand that even when I get a conviction, the victim will never be the same," he said. "With that being said, what I love best is being a part of a team that gets a conviction and keeps the offender from hurting another child."

He describes a positive experience as a CACCB partner.

"I have never left an interview with the feeling that the forensic interviewer did not do his or her best."

STANDING UP AGAINST CHILD ABUSE - CON'T



We also targeted Kingsville ISD and neighboring schools, providing reporting abuse information for 600 school employees, prepared goodie bags for other community events and set-up at Sinton Market Days as the featured non-profit. It's been a great month, and we're just getting started!



PEOPLE'S MARKET HELPS RAISE \$500 FOR CACCB



A tremendous "thank you" goes out to Samantha Chamberlain (left) and Monica Ellison, organizers of the People's Market held by the El Local Collective. The CACCB was the featured non-profit at the March 21st market. In total, the event helped bring in nearly \$500 to the CACCB.

A special thanks also goes out to the following vendors who donated a portion of their sales and/or their handcrafted items: Wildflour, Coastal Macrame Art, Wild Oat Collective, A & N Ceramics, Marty McPies, Finndaloo Soaps, El Local Collective, Howling Dog Creative Works, S & R Leather and 20/20 Vintage.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: LAURA ALANIZ

Therapist Laura Alaniz is always ready to roll up her sleeves and contribute in any way she can to help.

Even between her own appointments and full-case load, she has taken it upon herself to assist the MEP Program while short-handed during the past year.

She also coordinated the recent sale of CACCB T-shirts for Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month to bring funds to the Center and helped purchase fans for all employees to keep them cool when the A/C went out.

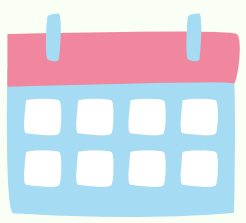
"Laura always goes above and beyond in everything she does," wrote one co-worker.

She also met with our



interns to assist them with their duties and has also assisted with giving presentations on behalf of the Center.

For more than 10 years, Alaniz has worked in the field of child abuse. She has been with the Center for five and a half years, and was named therapist in Dec. 2019.



UPCOMING DATES



- May 31: Closed, Memorial Day
- June 20: Father's Day
- July 5: Closed, Independence Day
- July 14: Corpus Christi Hooks summer fundraiser benefiting the CACCB.**
- Nov. 9: Coastal Bend Day of Giving
- TBA: Annual Fundraiser

For details, call (361) 855-9058.

'SPRING FLING' A BIG SUCCESS!



Our first virtual silent auction held March 15-26 was a huge success! "Spring Fling" featured 24 packages up for bids and brought in nearly \$3,000 to the Center. Thank you to our many sponsors: Ashley Wells, Clarissa Mora, Cassandra Cochran, Dr. Cam Cramer, Tresor Rare Spa-La Palmera, Terry Mendez, Samantha Mendoza, Orangetheory Fitness Corpus Christi, Kendra Scott, Daniel DeLeon, Disc Go Round, House of Rock, Lagunatic Charters Guide Services, Muscle Remedy, Bodies By Adam, Cathy LeBouef, Jewels by Mary Alice Kelly-Ochoa, and Mn Nails & Spa. Also, thanks to all who participated!