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## KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

It's easy for parents to get swept up in the holiday rush and leave their child with a new babysitter, relative or a neighbor. With so many distractions, perpetrators may be waiting for the right opportunity. Child sexual abuse incidents increase during the holidays. How can you help prevent child sexual abuse during this busy season?

**'DAY OF GIVING,  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
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 PROFILE - 2**

**1.Talk to your child.** Discuss boundaries with your child. Teach them that their body is their own and no one has a right to touch their body or take pictures of them without permission. Let them know it's okay to say "no" to unwanted hugs, kisses, or other affection, even to family members. Tell them to talk to you or another Safe Adult if anyone crosses their personal boundaries.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
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**2.Limit alone time.** 80% of sexual abuse occurs in one-on-one situations between an adult and a child. Limit the opportunity to better protect children. With family and friends around, it's helpful to have organized or supervised activities to limit time alone. If you do need to leave your child alone with someone, such as a babysitter, let the person with them know you may "pop in" to check on them. Keep those times "observable and interruptible."

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER: NORMALCY AFTER COVID-19

by Clarissa Mora

With each passing day, things around here are feeling almost as normal as our pre-COVID-19 days. The fear and anxiety that were looming over heads for the past 21 months have eased. However, one thing is for certain, we will never take anything for granted ever again. It's the little things we've come to appreciate most!

We have welcomed our partners back to view forensic interviews on-site and primarily returned to in-person mental health therapy sessions - which most parents would agree, is more effective for many children. Thankfully, there have also been more events and presentations scheduled to help educate our community on the topic of child abuse. This is important because research indicates 95% of the crimes against vulnerable child victims are preventable by education and awareness.

With the return of in-person classes and school personnel remaining on alert for our kids, our numbers have soared. The # of children receiving primary services at the CAC jumped from 469 (March-May 2020) to 665 (March-May 2021). That's nearly a 42% increase. Also, forensic interviews rose from 312 to 460, a 47% increase. Keep in mind that the number of child abuse cases didn't go up, just the reporting. When child abuse happens, it's vital that child victims receive CAC services to help restore and transform their lives & futures. We are sincerely grateful to end the year full of hope and anticipation of better things to come!

## PARTNER PROFILE: LAURA MUÑOZ



Laura Muñoz embraces her role as a CACCB partner, knowing that a child is in a much safer environment, after all the obstacles the family has faced.

Muñoz, Victim Case Manager, has been the point of contact between the CACCB and the Corpus Christi Police Department for the past 12 years.

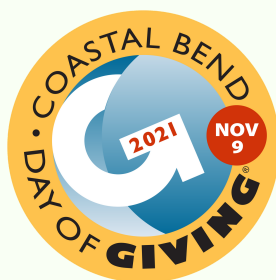
"I believe in the work of the CACCB because they give children of all ages, race and gender a place to feel safe and be heard," Muñoz said.

Muñoz also wants the community to know that the CACCB sees child victims of all crimes, not only sexual or physical abuse. This includes adults who meet their criteria, more specifically intellectually-disabled adults.

She says the staff at the Center will treat every case as the most important one regardless of their individual role or the scenario of the case they are dealing with at the time.

"I have seen the CACCB grow into a highly professional and significantly respected center," she said. "I am proud to be a partner in this group."

## 'DAY OF GIVING' ANOTHER SUCCESS: FUNDS RAISED VITAL TO CARRYING OUT SERVICES, MISSION OF THE CACCB



The generous gifts received each year from the Coastal Bend Day of Giving are a critical part of the Center's operating budget.

To highlight the importance of these funds, we provide free services to about 1,500 children annually - never charging the city, county or health insurance.

For each child forensically-interviewed the cost is \$325. The cost for one child to complete their trauma-focused therapy sessions - is \$1,500. These intervention and therapeutic recovery services are necessary to help prevent

vulnerable child victims from becoming troubled adults. Studies show that without intervention, these same children may later be arrested for a juvenile or adult crime.

We were pleased to see a large number of returning donors and dozens of new donors. In addition to our DAs offices, we received top gifts from Philip and Michelle Ramirez, Carroll Patton Matthews, Claudia Mostaghasi and W.O Harrison Jr. Family LP.

"We are thankful to everyone who gave this year," said Community Outreach Coordinator Cassandra Hinojosa. "As always, these monies are matched and doubled and go directly to children in our area who are on a path to heal and restore their lives."

The CACCB was one of 56 non-profits who received matching funds from the 2021 give back event. The Coastal Bend Community Foundation set a new record this year - raising a total of \$3,811,105, an increase of \$470,000 over last year.



# DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICES PROVIDE DOUBLED DOLLARS, CONTINUED SUPPORT TO HELP LOCAL CAC



CACCB MEP Coordinator Michele DeLaRosa and John T. Hubert, DA for Kleberg & Kenedy Counties



Jim Wells & Brooks Counties DA Carlos Garcia



Aransas County Attorney Amanda Oster



L to R: Nueces County Second ADA Michelle Putman, CACCB Community Outreach Coordinator Cassandra Hinojosa, CACCB Program Director Emma Sais, Nueces County DA Mark A. Gonzalez, Nueces County First ADA Angelica Hernandez and Nueces County Asset Forfeiture ADA Jason Supplee.

Serving a 12-county region, the Center has been so fortunate to receive the longtime support of several area District Attorney Offices during the Coastal Bend Day of Giving. Knowing that their dollars go farther for this gift matching event, we received donations from

the State of Texas County of Kleberg, the Nueces County District Attorney's Office, Jim Wells & Brooks Counties District Attorney Carlos Garcia and Aransas County Attorney Amanda Oster.

"We feel so supported and valued by our DA partners year after year," said Executive Director Clarissa Mora. "They understand our mission and have the best interest at heart for these children."

# VALERO AWARDS CHARITY PARTNER GIFT TO CACCB



Pictured l to r: Executive Director Clarissa Mora, Board President Terry Mendez and Program Director Emma Sais

This year's theme for the Valero Benefit for Children was "Driven to Make a Difference." We cannot begin to tell you how much these generous gifts mean not only for the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend, but to the many agencies just like ours across the U.S., thanks to Valero's business partners, donors and sponsors.

We are so excited to again be chosen as a Charity Partner this year! There has been an increasing need for the work we do in our community and these funds will help us continue to support children with intervention and recovery services on their path toward hope, healing and justice. [#ValeroBFC2021](#) [#DrivenToMakeADifference](#)



## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: CRYSTAL DELGADO



shorthanded. She knows child abuse is a tense topic, but that parents and the community need to know about resources we offer. Her professionalism with our partners, CPS, law enforcement and Driscoll Children's Hospital, have not gone unnoticed either.

Delgado coordinates monthly case review meetings for San Patricio and Bee counties to share case updates, ensure the CACCB implements the best action plan for the children, and connect them to services.

"You never really understand how often child abuse and neglect occur until you play a role in an agency like the CACCB, she said. "I'm super grateful to be a part of the Center and play my role in helping children and their families heal from their trauma and have their voices heard."

It takes a special kind of flexibility to excel in dual roles, completely opposite of each other.

"I like to think that I get the best of both worlds," said Crystal Delgado, MEP Intake/Outreach Coordinator. "I love having the opportunity to interact with the community, but I also understand that the work I do with MEP is important."

Recently, Delgado has assisted at community events and filled in when

## KEEP CHILD SAFE CON'T

This goes for alone time with other youth also, as 30% of all child sexual abuse is perpetrated by more powerful youth.

**3.Be alert.** Often adults see indicators of abuse, but disregard the signs because the possible perpetrator is someone they know and trust. The sad reality is, that is exactly who we need to be watching. 90% of sexual abuse occurs by someone the child knows and trusts. No one is exempt, not even the closest, most beloved family member.

Source: <https://www.d2l.org/keeping-kids-safe-during-the-holidays/>

## FALL FESTIVALS BRING FUN, RESOURCES TO FAMILIES



We're thrilled to report that October and November brought us some great opportunities for fun and education in the community, sharing information and handing out candy bags. We visited with more than 750 children and adults in two months!

In October, our Happy "Superhero" Bear joined us at the Blanche Moore Trunk-or-Treat event and the Head Start Fall Festival where children and families were dressed in their favorite costumes.

In November, we were invited to attend the Parent & Family Engagement Fair with Robstown ISD, and the Community Health Fair at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center.



## UPCOMING DATES



Dec. 24: Closed, Christmas Eve  
Dec. 31: Closed, New Year's Eve  
Jan. 17: Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day



For details, call (361) 855-9058.