

THE PINWHEEL



Top 10 Christmas Wish List

Help Us Create a Brighter Christmas for Children!

**DAY OF GIVING SUCCESS,
CHRISTMAS WISH LIST
CON'T - 2**

If you are interested in spreading some holiday cheer for children served by the Center, please take a look at our Christmas Wish List! All items requested must be new and must be received no later than Wednesday, Dec. 14. Or, you may choose to sponsor a family by calling (361) 855-9058.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
CORNER, GARDEN OF
HOPE PLATINUM & GOLD
SPONSORS, EMPLOYEE
OF THE QUARTER**

1. Gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, gas cards, Chick-Fil-A, McDonald's, Whataburger, Sonic)
2. Children's socks (boys & girls, all sizes)
3. Fleece blankets (for boys & girls - avoid holiday patterns)
4. Toiletries (bath sets, deodorant, body wash, shampoo & conditioner, hygiene & feminine products)
5. Children's shoes (no flip-flops, please)
6. Unwrapped toys - board & card games, puzzles, journals, footballs, basketballs

**10TH ANNUAL PINWHEELS
RETURNS, VALERO BENEFIT
FOR CHILDREN, SAVE THE
DATE - 4**

WE DID IT! SUCCESSFUL DAY OF GIVING EVENT BRINGS IN NEEDED FUNDS FOR THE CACCB



nity support. These funds allow us to efficiently provide our services, including forensic interviews and mental health therapy, with no delays." It is also important to mention that every service we offer is at no cost to families, and we never charge the city, county or health insurance.

The funds generated annually through the Coastal Bend Day of Giving can mean the difference between a child who receives immediate, vital, free victim-centered services from the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend, and one who does not.

This year, the CACCB was among 54 participating non-profits that received funds from the 2022 online gift matching event hosted by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation.

Executive Director Clarissa Mora describes any possible funding loss as a potential "domino effect" across our entire operation.

Our top donation came from the Cheniere Foundation. Cheniere employees who contribute to the Employee Giving Fund are provided four non-profit options to vote on, and this year, the CACCB was selected unanimously, according to organizers who say "Cheniere employees love to give back to the community we live in!"

"In the end, we want to be able to provide every service available to these deserving children who have experienced unimaginable trauma," she said. "The only way we can achieve this goal is through continued commu-

We are also grateful to generous returning gifts from Kleberg/Kenedy County District Attorney John T. Hubert and Aransas County Attorney Amanda Oster, Harrison Family LP, the Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi, and a special thanks to new donors including Drs. Rafael and Tammy Fontanez/ Portland Veterinary Hospital and Kathy and Rob Black. Thank you for your generosity!



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST CONTINUED

- 7. Stuffed animals (no holiday prints)
- 8. Fun stainless steel/plastic cold cups & tumblers (for teens)
- 9. Children's sweaters/jackets/gloves
- 10. Children's snacks (individually-packaged cookies, chips, crackers), juice boxes (Mott's, Capri Sun, Hi-C, etc.) and small bottled waters



CACCB Lead Forensic Interviewer Penny Green and and John T. Hubert, DA for Kleberg & Kenedy Counties



Aransas County Attorney Amanda Oster

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

Our Inaugural Garden of Hope Gala went off without a hitch! This upscale fundraiser helped set new goals and launch the Center in an exciting direction. For starters, this event brought in a record-setting \$75,000 to help replenish losses felt from past years without an in-person fundraiser due to COVID-19.

We were able to accomplish this endeavor because of the support of the more than 40 community sponsors, especially our Platinum and Gold Sponsors who are recognized in the column below. A very special thank you goes out to San Antonio Spurs Legend Sean Elliott for being a true champion of our mission and to our Fundraising Chair Claudia Mostaghasi of HomeSource Mortgage for working tirelessly to ensure our event was a true success!

We are now in the planning stages for our second annual Garden of Hope Gala, so mark your calendars for Sept. 21, 2023. We will be announcing our special guest soon!

The Center has come a long way, and we still have so much more to accomplish. As long as victimized children keep coming through our doors, we will continue to raise awareness and seek new ways to engage our community in our fight to end child abuse. With that comes providing help to children so that they may receive free essential victim-centered services to lead them on their path toward healing and restoration. The role the CAC plays in child abuse cases is vital to building healthier and more resilient communities!

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: JACLYN BENAVIDES



When it comes to bringing joy to children and helping them become the best version of themselves, this is where CAC Therapist Jaclyn Benavides finds her life purpose. She strives to spread light and love both in and out of her counseling sessions at the Center.

It is an honor to witness a client's journey towards healing and growth, says Benavides, who joined the Center's team in August.

"My role is to meet a client where they are at and provide a safe space for sadness, laughter, silence, and healing," she said. "It is quite humbling to be a person in the

client's life who can validate their experiences and feelings and let them know that they are valued and accepted."

Benavides says working with Turning Point Counseling helped her gain experience with adult crime and abuse victims, while serving as a case manager at MHID assisted her in building skills to better serve children at the CAC.

Because of her passion to help others, going beyond what is expected comes naturally. She is often described as a "team player" who is "up for any challenge" with a smile that puts children at ease.

"Helping others goes far beyond my counseling sessions," she said. "I enjoy collaborating and working as a team to provide the best treatment for clients. I am so grateful to work alongside such intelligent, creative and strong women in the therapy department who make our work environment fun and supportive."

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GALA PLATINUM, GOLD SPONSORS

The Center is so thankful to have had dozens of sponsors come forward to help for our Inaugural Garden of Hope Gala held on September 15th, making it a successful sell-out event!

We would like to give a special recognition to the following Platinum sponsors (\$10,000 level), and Gold sponsors (\$5,000 level) for their outstanding support and commitment to the Children's Advocacy Center.

Platinum Sponsors:



Terry Mendez,
Realtor
Christi Properties

Gold Sponsors:



10TH ANNUAL PINWHEELS FAMILY FUN DAY RETURNS WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CHERISHED EVENT



The rhythmic nature of the pinwheel reminds us of the positive cycles of love and support we strive to create for families.

With more than 500 in attendance, this year's 10th annual Pinwheels held at Cole Park Amphitheater was one of our biggest events. Our community showed that same outpouring of love and support even after a three-year absence. Each of our sponsors, volunteers and partners had a hand in making our 2022 Pinwheels event a memorable one.



The children's groups - several which were new to Pinwheels - came out to be part a of our morning performance schedule. Around two dozen community agencies set up their information tables, gave away prizes and connected with families and children.

At the end of the day, we are blessed to have each other's company. A special thanks to Councilman Ben Molina who read our proclamation and to volunteers Julie Balboa and their team from Security Service Federal Credit Union.

This event was created to honor the brave children we see each year. A total of 1,588 pinwheels were placed in the ground, each representing a child who was forensically-interviewed at the CAC in 2021 due to abuse.



VALERO BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN PROVIDES DONATION ON OCT. 26



We are so humbled and grateful to Valero Energy for continuing to support our CAC as a charitable partner year after year. On October 26, we were presented with a charitable donation from Valero as part of the 2022 Valero Texas Open and Benefit for Children. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity and believing in the work we do!
 #caccb #FueledByGiving
 #ValeroBenefitForChildren #ValeroBFC2022



SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 25, 2023

On Saturday, March 25, 2023 the Center will hold it's first "Bubbles Not Bruises" 5K Run and Walk beginning at 8 a.m. at Water's Edge Park. More details and registration information to come soon! This will be a family friendly event! For more information, call (361) 855-9058.

