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THE PINWHEEL

Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend



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COASTAL BEND DAY OF GIVING 2023

The Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend participated in the Coastal Bend Day of Giving once again. We love being a part of this 24 hour online giving challenge that highlights local non profits and spreads awareness to our cause.

This year marked a triumph for our team as we not only ramped up our social media efforts during Early Giving Week but we also surpassed our fundraising goal at an unprecedented pace.

With unwavering support from our dedicated community members, we raised over \$73,000, achieving our goal in record time. What's even more amazing is the overwhelming number of returning donors who continue to believe in and contribute to our cause.

Their generosity and commitment to making a positive impact on the children in the Coastal Bend community are truly inspiring.

INTRODUCING THE CAC'S NEW THERAPIST SANDY MUNOZ

Having explored the world, Alice native Sandy Munoz is now back in the Coastal Bend as the CAC's new therapist. From teaching English in France and South Korea to being a director at a Montessori school, her journey led her to a Master's in counseling.

With a background in psychology and communications, Sandy brings an innovative touch to therapy, utilizing modalities like sand tray therapy, play therapy, and EMDR therapy (Eye Movement, Desensitization Reprocessing) with her clients.

Sandy has been at the CAC since November 2023 and is already making waves by providing EMDR therapy to children at the center.

She hopes to train others in this innovative and extremely effective form of therapy in the future. In her free time, she enjoys listening to records, spending time with family, reading books, and traveling.



Sandy Munoz, M.S., LPC-Associate, EMDR Trained

WHAT IS EMDR THERAPY?

EMDR, or Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy, revolutionizes healing by leveraging the brain's natural capacity to process trauma. Through guided eye movements or other bilateral stimulation, EMDR helps individuals reprocess distressing memories, reducing their emotional impact.

Since EMDR therapy was initially created to help veterans with PTSD, Sandy combines it with other therapy modalities for children. This personalized approach ensures effective support for children in their healing journey.

Sandy uses EMDR therapy with sand tray and play therapy to work effectively with the CAC's clients.



Credit: RamoorTherapy.Co.UK

Since children are more tactile she uses buzzers and headphones that play a soft beep sound when the children are processing their traumatic memories.

EMDR empowers individuals to break free from the grip of past traumas, fostering a journey toward a more balanced and fulfilling life.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

As I sit and ponder on the year behind us and all the CAC accomplished during 2023, my heart is filled with pride and gratitude. We had the opportunity to add some incredible people to our team - both staff and board members, we added a new leadership position, instituted new funding revenues, and engaged with stakeholders to establish new community connections.

I am incredibly proud to be part of a community that stands up against child abuse and takes action.

Throughout the year we receive countless requests inquiring about how the community can help families experiencing such a difficult time in their life. Companies, civic organizations, and individuals reach out all year to donate blankets, stuffed animals, food, clothing and hygiene items for our rainbow room, easter baskets, toys, and gas cards. These donations are exceptionally impactful on the child, especially the children who are having to move homes. The monetary donations we receive allow us to continue providing services to children and families at no cost; even the mental health services we provide are absolutely free.

The support of our Coastal Bend Community means the world to all of us at the Children's Advocacy Center.

Thank you for joining us in the fight against child abuse.



PARTNER PROFILE

Jessica Smith, Social Worker in the CARE Team at Driscoll Children's Hospital, has been an essential and caring collaborator with the CAC Team for a decade. In her role, she provides crucial insights into the medical evaluations of child victims and advocates for their safety.

Beyond her responsibilities, Jessica finds fulfillment through advocacy stating, "I love that my role in the CARE Team helps keep kids safe and I am able to advocate for children that may not be able to do so for themselves." Her dedication stems from a strong belief in the significance of CACCB's work. She emphasizes the center's role in providing a safe space for children to discuss trauma, embodying her personal motto of making families feel comfortable during challenging times.

Jessica emphasizes the comprehensive support offered by CACCB, including free therapy for victims. She states, "This service has been a great resource to these victims and families and is a crucial role in helping these children succeed in their future despite the many challenges that may come with trauma they experienced."

Jessica appreciates effective teamwork, stating, "The CARE Team appreciates how well our teams work together".

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month



April showers bring May flowers and a crucial reminder – it's Child Abuse Awareness Month. A time to shine a spotlight on the importance of safeguarding our youngest community members. Throughout this month, we will unite to raise awareness, promote prevention, and advocate for the well-being of children in the Coastal Bend.

Keep an eye out for our T-Shirt Fundraiser!

CHRISTMAS AT THE CACCB



Donations from City Electric Supply and Lance J. Thormaehlen



Donations from Chi Sigma Iota from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi



Donations from the The Lains, The Dolsons, and The Berrys

While many organizations were winding down at the close of the year, we were revving up in December. We participated in five Christmas Fairs and hosted numerous presentations across the Coastal Bend. Thanks to the incredible support from our generous sponsors, The Lain Family, The Dolsons, The Berrys, The Arevalos, and The John Garcia Law Firm we were able to provide Christmas gifts to families attending our center. Additionally, our Rainbow Room received an abundance of donations, including toys, toiletries, and snacks. Our community truly embodies the spirit of Christmas!

This time of year can be hard for many families and then add the addition of trauma and abuse, many non offending family members don't have the resources to make Christmas special for their children so we were happy to lend a helping hand and hope to ramp up our Christmas efforts in 2024.



Program Director, Emma Sais attending the Christmas Wellness Fest for NCCAA



Marketing and Outreach Specialist, Ashley Arevalo with the Lain Family and their Christmas donations



Ashley and Emma attending the Navidad De Los Ninos event at the Antonio Garcia Center