

THE PINWHEEL



Welcome New Board President Eduardo Gomez

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During a recent holiday gathering, a shiny brown gavel was passed from former CACCB Board President Joe Benavides to Eduardo Gomez before a crowd of CACCB Board Members and Staff to symbolize Gomez's transition into his new role as President of the Governing Board of the CACCB. Gomez, who has served on the board for three years, was V-P from 2016-2017.

DAY OF GIVING SETS NEW CACCB RECORD

A huge "thank you" goes out to the many generous individuals who contributed to the CACCB for the Coastal Bend Day of Giving held in November. As a result of the online matching event, the CACCB was awarded a check for \$42,845.01 on Dec. 6 from the Coastal Bend Community Foundation

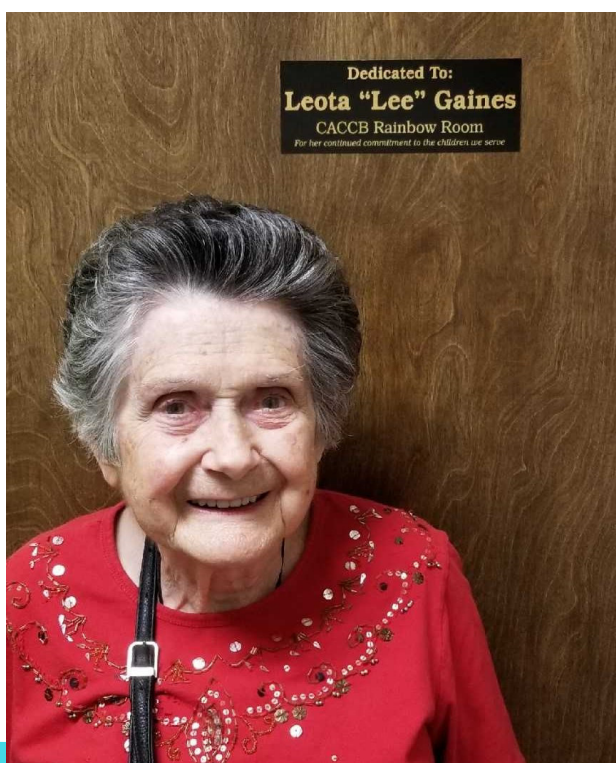
In all, approximately \$2.6 million was raised and distributed among 50 area non-profits in the Coastal Bend. Twenty-five local funders stepped up to pledge \$900,000 in matching grants.

"This year's event set a new Day of Giving record in donations for the Center," said Executive Director Clarissa Mora. "We couldn't have achieved this without the help of the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, the matching donors and all our friends and supporters who believe in the work we do."



Pictured from L to R: Ben Morin, Arianne Chapa, Clarissa Mora, Penny Green, Laura Alaniz, Veronica Olivarez, Belen Aguilar, Cassandra Hinojosa, Karen Emero and Robert Gomez

CACCB RAINBOW ROOM DEDICATED TO LEOTA 'LEE' GAINES



In January, the CACCB honored Leota 'Lee' Gaines, 87, for her continued commitment to the children served by the Center. The CACCB Rainbow room was dedicated to Gaines, who has volunteered her time making and donating stuffed animals every month. Since October 2017, she has made an estimated 300 stuffed animals for the Center. Each cuddly creation takes her about three hours to make and no two are alike. Gaines, who was featured on the KIII-TV's "Someone to Know" segment for her volunteer efforts, is a former foster parent who also makes stuffed animals for several other non-profit organizations in town. The story was also featured on social media via NBC Charlotte and HeartThreads, highlighting stories of love, triumph and kindness and the amazing people in this world.



PARTNER PROFILE: CRYSTAL MATHIS



Assistant District Attorney Crystal Mathis knows that child abuse victims require and deserve special care and attention. As part of the Child Protection Unit, she works closely with CACCB team members to ensure successful prosecution of criminal defendants in Nueces county.

"The children seen at the CACCB have experienced more in their short lives than most adults ever will," said Mathis, who has worked with the CACCB since Feb. 2018. "The environment created by the CACCB during the initial interviews and the aftercare services provided give these special victims the best chance to overcome victimization and become survivors."

Mathis believes that when it comes to ensuring the care of these children, justice cannot be achieved without teamwork.

"Without the CACCB, the Driscoll Children's Hospital CARE Team, Child Protective Services, and all our local law enforcement agencies, prosecuting crimes against children wouldn't be possible," she said.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

I have always been passionate about the safety and well-being of children. This has been the focus of my career, working in various positions to assist children and families involved in abuse/neglect cases.

That is why I want to share that I have been appointed to serve a three-year term on the State Child Fatality Review Team Committee. The committee advises the Texas Department of State Health Services on child risk/safety issues, the development of strategies to improve child death data collection and analysis, the development of position statements specific to child safety issues and research and develop recommendations that will make Texas safer for children.

I am motivated to assist in the advancement of statutes as they relate to child death and be part of a team that specifically assess the findings of local cases, making changes so that children are safer in Texas.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: CHERYL PARKER

Family Advocate Cheryl Parker is known to wear a smile whether she is volunteering to help the agency by covering the front desk, staying behind to sit with unattended children at the Center, working with parents in the parking lot or helping to keep the office tidy.

Parker, who completed one year at the Center in December 2018, is described as kind, cheerful, welcoming and a team player by her co-workers. Did we mention she also bakes? Congrats Cheryl!

WELCOME NEW BOARD PRESIDENT CON'T

Gomez began his one-year term as President on Jan. 1, 2019, as well as his fourth year serving on the Board. Gomez is an Assistant Vice President of Analytics at Driscoll Children's Hospital.

"This is an organization that makes a great impact in the lives of over 1,400 children annually in our community since it seeks not only to promote justice but also be a place of healing," Gomez said. "Serving on this board is an extension of what drives me every day at Driscoll, which is working with amazing people that share the desire to give children their lives back."

Other members of the CACCB Executive Board are: Vice-President: Terry Mendez, Treasurer: Ambar Qureshi, and Secretary: Barbara Ellis.

New members elected to the board are:

Kristen Barnebey, Rene Cervantes, Christin Chapa, Dr. Robert Cramer and Trenade Paddock.

CACCB PARTICIPATES IN ROOM MAKEOVER



CACCB staff was honored to have participated in the Women of Courage My Safe Space: A Room Makeover Project for the third consecutive year.

During the month of December Belen Aguilar, Family Advocate and Emma Sais, Program Director participated in providing a room makeover for a family.

Women of Courage My Safe Space funding is available to all 71 CACs in Texas.



Would you like to contribute to our upcoming Roast 2019 silent auction? If you'd like to donate funds toward our event expenses, a gift certificate, basket of products, or other items, call (361) 855-9058.

UPCOMING DATES

May 2: Kendra Gives Back Fundraiser at La Palmera

May 27: Closed for Memorial Day

For details, follow us on Facebook; or call (361) 855-9058.



Thanks to Chick-Fil-A at Staples and McArdle and everyone who supported our "Spirit Night" fundraiser held on February 19th!