

THE PINWHEEL



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We're fortunate to be one of 50 organizations to be selected this year for the **Coastal Bend Day of Giving** on **Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019**. This 24-hour online event begins on Nov. 12 at midnight to raise funds for non-profits.

But why is it so important that we have your support on this day? Here are the top 5 reasons we need your donations:

- 1). **We are the third-busiest CAC (children's advocacy center) in Texas** in regards to the number of services provided. In 2018, we forensically-interviewed 1,667 children and provided services to 921 families.
- 2). **We have a huge service area, which encompasses a population of more than 600,000.** We also work with 70 partnering agencies and eight district attorney offices.
- 3). **All of our services are absolutely free.** We never charge insurance companies, the city or the county any money.
- 4). **We are an important tool in the investigation process to ensure justice is served for our most vulnerable victims,**

PINWHEELS FAMILY FUN DAY: BIGGER & BETTER



Nearly 400 children, families, community partner agencies and youth performers attended our ninth annual Pinwheels Family Fun Day on Sept. 21 at Cole Park Amphitheater.

Guests enjoyed entertainment, free food, community resources and giveaways – and even visits from the Corpus Christi Fire Department and superheroes! A total of 1,667 pinwheels were displayed, representing the number of children who were forensically-interviewed at the Center due to allegations of abuse in 2018.

Our list of performers included Moody High School Cheerleaders and TJ Strutters; Carroll High School Tigerettes; Ray Tex-Anns Dance Team; Kaymoni Guerrero; Cinderella School of Dance; Ballet Folklorico Viva Mexico de Corpus Christi; and Matt Rodd.

We had around 25 community agencies participate (more than double from last year) including CASA of the Coastal Bend, the United Way's Success by 6 Program, the Purple Door, Corpus Christi Police Department Crime Prevention Unit, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and more. Thanks to our participants and several volunteer groups (Moody Key Club, the Corpus Christi Police Explorers, TJ Maxx) and many other volunteers.



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children, some of whom aren't even old enough to speak. **5). We're often the first place where the child is able to freely discuss the full scope of the abuse** that has occurred and where they can begin their healing.

This year, 25 local funders have pledged \$950,000 in matching grants. Any amount over \$10 donated will be matched and doubled, so we can raise at least \$38,000.

If you need one more reason to give, consider this: the Day of Giving is the one day out of the year where any donation made to our Center will be matched and doubled. So, your \$50 donation becomes \$100 and so on!

GIVE AT: [COASTALBENDDAYOFGIVING.ORG/CACCB](https://CoastalBendDayofGiving.org/CACCB)

PRE-SCHEDULE DONATION:

Pre-schedule gifts between **Nov. 3-11** at [CoastalBendDayofGiving.Org/CACCB](https://CoastalBendDayofGiving.org/CACCB). Set up your donations early to be charged to your credit or debit card or by electronic check on Nov. 12.

FUNDRAISER:

Join us for a fundraiser on **Saturday, Nov. 9**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Wal-Mart at 6101 Saratoga Blvd. Bring cash to purchase snacks; or make a donation! Every dollar received will go toward the Day of Giving!

PINWHEELS (CON'T FROM P. 2)



Pinwheels would have not been possible without our generous sponsors. Thank you to:



BEHMANN BROTHERS AWARDS CACCB \$4,000



The Behmann Brothers Foundation recently awarded the CACCB \$4,000. This includes a \$1,000 Community Outreach & Education Grant, as well as \$3,000 for General Support. The Corpus Christi-based foundation was established in 1979. The foundation focuses its charitable contributions primarily in the areas of agricultural research and education, youth groups, healthcare, and service organizations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Clarissa Mora

Did you know that nearly half of all U.S. children have endured some form of childhood trauma? According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, with evidence-based treatment, like Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, trauma symptoms can be reduced by up to 75 percent.

The Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend focuses on the healing process for children after they've experienced abuse by utilizing trauma informed care. Just as all services at the CACCB, therapy is provided at no cost. In the Center's most recent quarter (July – September 2019), we provided more than 80 on-site mental health sessions to children who were victims of abuse and their non-offending family members. Research has shown that children who experience abuse, neglect, family violence, or endangerment experience higher levels of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide. A positive event in the healing process, such as providing a safe place to offer trauma informed care, can act as a motivating factor and beacon of light for child abuse survivors and is life changing.



PARTNER PROFILE: MARGIE SILVA FLORES

Assistant District Attorney Margie Silva Flores believes that the strength of a community is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable of victims, children.

"The voice of every child matters," said Flores, who has worked with the CACCB for the past three years as the prosecutor who handles Family Violence, Sex Crimes and all crimes against children cases, in the 79th Judicial District Attorney's Office (Jim Wells and Brooks counties). She said that the CACCB provides invaluable resources for small jurisdictions with limited resources for training and a limited number of officers.

"The expertise of the Children's Advocacy Center



forensic interviewers is crucial for Child Sexual Abuse cases," she said. "In trials, the expert knowledge of the forensic interviewer is vital for the jury, as it helps a jury understand children and how the outcry process of a child's sexual abuse unfolds."

In addition to interviewing

children, Flores said the CACCB provides aftercare services for children and their family, such as counseling.

"Counseling is absolutely necessary for a child to overcome the trauma and scars of sexual abuse," she said. "It is an experience that they will live with for the rest of their lives. The strength and courage that it takes for a child to tell their story of abuse initially and then one final time to a jury, while their abuser watches, is unimaginable. The (children) are true heroes."

Flores said the CACCB staff always goes the extra mile for children. She is thankful for the open communication between her offices and the Multi-Disciplinary Team to solidify a strong case for trial.

"There is no greater endeavor than fighting for the justice of a child victim," she said.

ART FROM THE HEART: KILEY LOCHNER CREATES PAINTINGS FOR THE CACCB



In August, we received 18 colorful canvases created to display at the CACCB by Kiley Lochner. This was part of her 50-hour Girl Scouts Silver Award Project, which she started in January and completed in July.

Lochner, 14, wanted her project to focus on abused children, and after doing some research, she found the Center.

"I wanted to lift their spirits and make sure they know that others pay attention to them," said Lochner. "I wanted to create something bright and happy for them."





BACK-TO-SCHOOL ROUNDUP



We love to give back to our community! The CACCB was invited to participate in several back-to-school events around the Coastal Bend.

We provided information ranging from recognizing the signs of child abuse to informing parents about dangerous social media apps. From late July through August 31, we served 860 children and 557 adults.



STEWART TITLE DONATES BACKPACKS

Thank you Briana Cox, Lori Cox and the staff and clients of Stewart Title of Corpus Christi for collecting backpacks filled with school supplies and a monetary donation for the CACCB at your recent supply drives. We are grateful for your generosity!



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: ROBERT GOMEZ

MEP Intake Coordinator Robert Gomez played a crucial part in gathering important information on behalf of the CACCB.

He assisted in presenting to community partners. He also entered all forensic interview follow-up therapy data. This was a huge help and was instrumental in finalizing our reports. In addition, he played a vital role in collecting signatures on all MOUs with law enforcement in our catchment areas.



Supervisors added that the project would have not been completed if it weren't for Gomez's help.

UPCOMING DATES

Oct. 3 - CACCB Fundraiser, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fuddruckers, 1949 S. Padre Island Drive.

Nov. 3 -11 - Day of Giving donation pre-schedule

Nov. 9 - CACCB Fundraiser, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wal-Mart, 6101 Saratoga Blvd.

Nov. 12 - Coastal Bend Day of Giving online event, midnight to midnight

Nov. 28-29- Closed for Thanksgiving

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