



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO & STARR COUNTY, INC.

6/11/09

Executive Officers:

Bobby Garcia, President
Tina Martin V.P.
Lorena Castillo, Treasurer
Rosie Escalon, Secretary

Attn: Honorable J.D. Salinas III
Hidalgo County Judge
100 E. Cano, Second Floor
Edinburg, TX 78539

Dear Judge:

Hidalgo County Board Members:

Magdalena G. Hinojosa, A.D.A.
Sgt. Joel Morales, McAllen P.D.
Dr. Carolina G. Huerta UT-Pan American
Betzabel Guerra, CPS
Mark Kent, Juvenile Probation
Roseann Jean
Linda Kostenko
Karen Griffin Munoz
Daniel Torres, Target Store Director
Sandra Garcia, Region One Education Center
Maria Wissinger
Stephanie Cassity

It is that time of year when the Children's Advocacy Center requests funding assistance from the 381.004 (f) of the Local Government Code: Section (f) states "The commissioner's court of a county may support a children's advocacy center that provides services to abused children." As you may know last year you and the commissioner court supported the center in the amount of \$30,000. I think this coming year there will be approximately \$39,000 from this particular fund.

Our mission is to reduce the emotional trauma to child abuse victims by facilitating a multidisciplinary team approach, which supports the prevention of child abuse through community education and promotes the effective prosecution of those who perpetrate crimes against children.

Starr County Board Members:

Heriberto Silva, Starr County District Attorney
Alonzo Alvarez
Kevin Hiles, Mayor RGC

"Last year alone, more than (1,052) new child abuse cases were reported to the Children Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County. The serious nature of this problem is of major concern because children in our community are being victimized and robbed of their childhood. We have an obligation as a community non-profit to recognize and deal with this perpetuating cycle of abuse. Studies show that abused children who get early professional assistance are more likely to succeed in dealing and coping with the abuse. With early intervention, we can help break the cycle of abuse and, more importantly, significantly increase a child's chances of becoming a healthy adult and a good parent.

Associate Board Members:

Mano Lizcano
Jessica Galloso
Dominic Pena
Melissa Moreno
Jane Alonzo
Gilda Bowen
Heidy Berenice Castillo

However, we currently find ourselves fiscally stressed and operating with a 20% budget decrease for the first time in eight years, as we struggle through a severe and extended recession. With slow economic growth, the prospects of private donations have been decrease by 90% year-to-date.

As we navigate the unfamiliar tides for our current budget and the never ending demand for child abuse services we are formally requesting funding support from **Funding Source 381.004 of the Local Government Code in the amount of \$39,000.** The requested funding will continue to put us in the forefront of providing vital victims services by filling needed child forensic interviews, medical and mental health services to child abuse victims throughout Hidalgo County.

Executive Director:
Roberto M. Garcia, MS

It is our sincere belief that a community united together to combat child abuse can make a possible higher quality of life and a safer place for all children to live. We are extremely appreciated of your unwavering commitment, support and the county commissioners in fight against child abuse. Thank you for being a champion for Kids!

We look forward to continue working with you in a productive partnership so we can sow the seeds of hope in rebuilding their lives; re-join the community, and developing trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at (956) 287-9754. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your time, your consideration, and your help in fighting the scourge of child abuse.

Thank You and God Bless,

Roberto M. Garcia, MS
Executive Director-CACHC

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