



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA of Hidalgo County, Inc.

1001 South 10th Ave

Edinburg, Texas 78539

TEL: (956) 381-0346 FAX: (956) 381-9232

February 15, 2013

Valde Guerra
Executive Officer
Hidalgo County
2818 S. Bus. Hwy 281
Edinburg TX 78539

Dear Mr. Guerra,

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Hidalgo County, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that speaks for the best interest of abused and neglected children during court proceedings. During fiscal year 2012 a total of 2,685 children were confirmed to be abused and neglected within Hidalgo County.

The month of April is National Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, CASA encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Hidalgo County a better place for families.

CASA and our social services community partners annually organize the Candlelight Vigil in remembrance of the children who have lost their lives due to abuse and neglect. This year our Vigil will take place on Wednesday April 3rd 2013. We would like to use the Hidalgo County Courthouse grounds for this event.

Every year we post our banner outside the courthouse during the month of April as part of the National Abuse and Prevention Month. We would respectfully ask for the County's permission to allow CASA post our banner, (1) wooden cross to represent the child victim who lost their life in 2012, and include the community in a closing moment to release helium balloons into the sky.

We hope to receive a favorable response.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (956) 381-0346 or via email rpena@casaofhidalgo.com

Sincerely,

Rebekah Pena
Volunteer Coordinator

Executive Committee

Emilio Santos Jr.
Board Chair

Dr. Mona Parras
Vice-Chair

Daniel Santos
Treasurer

Diana Delgado
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Dr. Michael Seiba
Dr. Richard Gillette
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Executive Director

Diana Almaguer

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 64,366 victims of child abuse and neglect were confirmed in Texas in Fiscal year 2012; and

WHEREAS, In Hidalgo County Child Protective Services had 7,167 investigations of child abuse and neglect in Fiscal Year 2012; and

WHEREAS, Of those cases investigated for abuse and neglect, a total of 2,685 were confirmed as victims of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, 1 child fatality was a result of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people; and

WHEREAS, Communities must make every effort to promote programs that benefit children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, everyone in the community should become more aware of child abuse prevention and consider helping parents raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2013 to be *Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month* in Hidalgo County, Texas, and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect significantly in years to come.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2013.

Ramon García
Hidalgo County Judge

A.C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner Pct. 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner Pct. 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner Pct. 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner Pct. 4