

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2017 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN HIDALGO COUNTY

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. The incidence of autism has risen from 1 in 10,000 children 30 years ago to 1 in 68 children, according to the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, individuals affected by ASD may suffer from neurological and developmental disabilities, which cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early and intensive treatment throughout their lives, they lead significantly improved lives,; and

WHEREAS, autism affects each individual in different ways and can range from very mild to severe, knows no racial, ethnic or social boundaries and affects young and old alike in the County of Hidalgo. Research shows that with early intervention and specialized therapies, individuals with ASD can make significant improvements; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism can present; and

WHEREAS, nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year we want to go beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in movement toward acceptance and appreciation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim April 2017 as Autism Awareness Month, representing an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness and acceptance, for everyone affected by autism.

Dated this 18th day of April 2017.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk