

# CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO AND STARR COUNTIES

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Interim Executive Director:  
Inex Vargas

January 20, 2025

Dear Judge Cortez,

Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County. Since 2000, we have provided a safe space for over 10,000 children to disclose abuse and access critical services. Over the past 25 years, our doors have remained open thanks to the unwavering support of Hidalgo County.

This past year, we witnessed a significant increase in demand for mental health services, with sessions rising from 683 to 1,288. This sharp rise underscores the growing complexity of the cases we encounter. The children and families we serve face difficult challenges, including crisis situations and complex trauma requiring extensive monitoring and follow-up.

While we continue to offer forensic interviews, medical evaluations, therapy, and family advocacy, rising operational costs have placed a significant strain on our resources. One particularly tragic case involved a young trafficking survivor in Hidalgo County who, despite months of community support, ultimately succumbed to the weight of her trauma and took her own life. Her story is a poignant reminder of the critical need for our services and the urgency of our mission.

We respectfully request your support in the amount of \$150,000.00 to sustain our operations and continue providing these essential services. Your contribution will directly impact on the lives of abused children, offering them a chance to heal and prevent future harm.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 287-9754 if you have any questions or need further information. Thank you for your time, consideration, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of children in Hidalgo County.

Sincerely,

Inex Vargas  
Interim Executive Director

Cc:  
Jennifer Szutz, Board President  
Tina Martin, Vice President  
Ricardo Guerrero, Past Board President

