

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2015 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN HIDALGO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Team Mario is an Edinburg-based, Autism Awareness organization dedicated to serving children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); and

**WHEREAS**, 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. It is more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals affected by ASD may suffer from neurological and developmental disabilities, which cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges. There is no cure for ASD and most individuals affected by ASD will need support and services throughout their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, Team Mario was inspired by Mario, who was diagnosed as severely autistic before his second birthday. Despite the many challenges that Mario has faced, he has made significant improvements and inspired his parents and therapists to create Team Mario to help children and families affected by ASD; 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

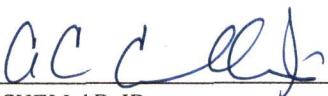
**WHEREAS**, nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self determination for all, and to assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. That effort sparked National Autism Awareness Month with various community events; and

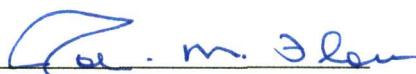
**WHEREAS**, Team Mario, is a coalition of families, friends and professionals dedicated to inspire hope, academic success, and a higher quality of life. They are dedicated to their mission of educating, supporting and advocating for individuals affected by ASD; and


**WHEREAS**, in an effort to raise awareness and provide an opportunity to educate the citizens of Hidalgo County on the issues of autism Team Mario will host a Superheroes 5K Run for Autism and Buddy Fun Walk on Saturday, April 11 and an Autism Awareness "Piece" Out Campaign in the community and schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month and encourages our communities to participate in autism awareness events, such as the Superheroes 5K Run for Autism and Buddy Fun Walk on Saturday, April 11 at Edinburg Municipal Park.**

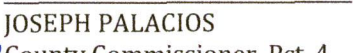
Dated this 31<sup>st</sup>, day of March 2015.

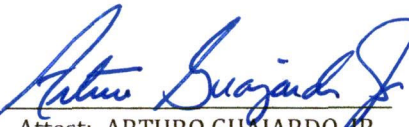
  
A.C. CUELLAR, JR.  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

  
JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct.3

  
RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

  
EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

  
JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

  
Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk