

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 2016 AS  
NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, approximately one in every 691 children are born with Down syndrome, representing an estimated 5,000 births per year in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 250,000 individuals living with Down syndrome in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, while research and early intervention have resulted in dramatic improvements in the life span and potential of those who are affected, more investigation is needed into the causes and treatment of Down syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, possessing a wide range of abilities, people with Down syndrome are active participants in educational, occupational, social, and recreational circles of our communities; and

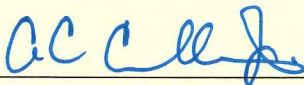
**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association has been working to educate and support parents and individuals with Down syndrome locally and currently serves over 200 families; and

**WHEREAS**, the fourth annual Step Up for Down Syndrome Awareness Walk will be held Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Edinburg Municipal Park; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with Down syndrome should have equal opportunity to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, inclusion in their community and reaching their fullest potential.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims the month of October 2016 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month and commends the Rio Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association in the work they do with families, schools, healthcare professionals and government to help create opportunities, raise awareness, and facilitate solutions for these valued members of our community.

**Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016.**



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



RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge



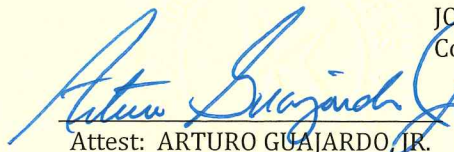
EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk