



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

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

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Hidalgo County Clerk's office raises \$3,500 for Estrella's House

EDINBURG – The Hidalgo County Clerk's Office hosted its annual "Go Blue Campaign," displaying posters and blue pinwheels advocating against child abuse and collecting donations from the public to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County, Estrella's House. Through their efforts, the office tripled last year's donation by raising \$3,500 for the charity.

This is the eighth year that the County Clerk's Office has raised funds for various charities in Hidalgo County. Every Monday in April was designated as "Blue Day" and employees, through a one-time donation of \$5, were allowed to wear their official blue County Clerk t-shirts or polo's and jeans. Donation slips were placed on the counters, and members of the public who were doing business at the office also had the opportunity to donate toward the cause. In addition, the clerks took it upon themselves to go outside the confines of the office in hopes to increase the public's awareness. Their extra effort yielded a great response from the public as was evident in the total amount of contributions.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County is dedicated to promoting awareness and providing resources for children and families affected by abuse and neglect. The center was established in 2000 in tribute to Estrella Rojas, a victim of child abuse whose life ended tragically. County Clerk Arturo Guajardo Jr. applauded the efforts of his staff on the success of the campaign.

"Some of the most horrible cases that come through our courts every year involve the sexual abuse of a child," said Guajardo. "Estrella's House is often the only place that the victims can turn to for assistance. Any and all financial contributions to them go a long way to helping the victims and their families. I am proud of our team at the County Clerk's Office for stepping it up once again."

Children's Advocacy Center Executive Director Victoria Medina, who accepted the donation in a check presentation held Tuesday, May 17, at the Hidalgo County Courthouse, said the funds assist child abuse victims and their non-offending families.

"The fact that the community is aware and that awareness comes in the form of a donation speaks volumes," said Medina. "It speaks volumes not only to us who are serving the children but the children understand that the community supports them."

Medina also spoke about the realistic impact the donations would have. "Every dollar raised in the community goes to direct services to the child without any cost to them or their families. Also, for every dollar raised, we're able to match up to \$5 in grant money so your \$1 is really \$6."

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Photo L to R: CAC Associate Director Jesus Sanchez, Hidalgo County Clerk Arturo Guajardo Jr., CAC Executive Director Victoria Medina, Velma Ybarra, Mariana Garza

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.