THE TCCI TIMES GTCCI



FALL 2023 EDITION

HILDA GARCIA NAMED NEW CEO

BREAKING

NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

he Children's Center, Inc. entered a new exciting phase on September 29th when the Board of Directors chose Hilda Garcia as the new CEO of the organization. Garcia, who has worked with TCCI for the past fourteen years, has developed a great deal of expertise as a advocate for victims of human trafficking on a local and state level. She is a trained Clinician and has a B.A. in Sociology, a M.A. in Mental Health Counseling and a M.S. in Social Work.



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Hilda Garcia, CEO The Children's Center, Inc.

Garcia has spent years cultivating relationships with other partner agencies such as: The Texas Victims Assistance Program and Unbound. Additional collaborations and memberships: Brazoria County Alliance for Children Inc.; Catholic Charities Human Trafficking; CASA Anti-trafficking; City of Houston Mayor Office of Human Trafficking; Crime Stoppers of Houston Trafficking Coalition; Compassionate Hope Foundation – Rescuing Trafficking Children; Efrain Villarreal. Jr. Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking; Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition; Hidalgo County Trafficking Coalition; Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition; Operation Underground Railroad; Project Protect our Children in Brazoria County; Rio Grande Valley Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce; Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program; UAHT- United Against Human Trafficking and YMCA Human Trafficking.

Garcia has pledged to work more closely with the communities served by The Children's Center, Inc. in eight locations throughout the Texas Gulf Coast.

"We are going to address some of the most critical issues in our state, including the rise of fentanyl use in our young people," she said.

Garcia, was chosen by the board over several other well-qualified candidates.

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Hilda Garcia, the new TCCI CEO is helping Mayela Ortiz, give families fingerprint kits as a protective measure for children in our community.

Newsletter Contributors: Editorial/Layout/Photos: Marsha Wilson Rappaport, Photos: Donna Henderson, Joyce Dozier, Julie Minerbo. Staff Thanks, Hilda Garcia, Mayela Ortiz, Violeta Fluentes; Pierre Alsheikh, Ignacio Batista, George Blakley, Julie Minerbo, Joyce Dozier,

Why Host Homes Matter: A Success Story

ike other Host Home families, Gil and Mary have cared for a number of runaway and homeless youth in their home. To qualify, they underwent child abuse and criminal background checks, training and home assessment. These efforts allowed them to register as a Host Home with The Children's Center, through its Jameson Family



Resource and Technical Assistance Center and be available to runaway and homeless youth and their families.

Most recently Gil and Mary cared for Paulo, whose mother unexpectedly died and whose father subsequently abandoned him, having traveled to live in another state. Paulo was an only child and remained in the modest support while case managers from The family home in the Clear Lake area until he was injured in a sporting accident requiring medical attention. The school and hospital, unable to reach his family, contacted child protective services. Because Paulo was an older teenager, and not in apparent distress, child protective services took no action. Paulo was attending school full time, was an honor student and worked part-time to purchase food and other essentials. The home had leaks, plumbing and utility problems, was basically uninhabitable, but Paulo had improvised to manage basic needs.

The hospital contacted The Children's Center. Staff visited Paulo in the hospital and were able to obtain contact information and reach Paulo's father. He was unwilling to return for Paulo and Paulo did not want to be

with him. With the assistance of The Jameson Center, Paulo's father entered into an agreement with Gil and Mary to care for Paulo.

Paulo was discharged from the hospital, moving in with Gil and Mary. He was provided medical, dental and counseling Jameson Center made contact with relatives of Paulo's deceased mother, who lived in the nearby area. Within three weeks, with his father's consent, Paulo joined an aunt and cousins. He is completing high school this year as an honor student and has been accepted into a local university for classes beginning next August.

Paulo's situation was unique, he was both abandoned and homeless. Had creative solutions not been exercised, his future may have been far different. Paulo is truly grateful and positively striving for his place in the world.

Call Us Today To Be A Host Home 409-765-5212

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Jameson Family Resource and Technical Assistance Center

n the early 1970's the nation's attention was riveted to the greater Houston area when a significant number of young teen runaways were discovered to be victims of a serial killer. In response, a national Runaway and Homeless Youth act was passed by congress to create a federal initiative to support programs to help ensure that children and youth had better options, when faced with runway or homeless status. The Children's Center was established in 1878 to create options for these youth. Today through U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and private support, TCCI works to better serve these youth. The Children's Center's Jameson Center, in memory of Hank and Grace Jameson spearheads this work with Runaway and Homeless youth. Runaway and Homeless Youth are served along the Texas Gulf Coast in Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Galveston Bay, Houston, Rio Grande Valley and Victoria areas. Services include crisis response, outreach and host home support.

Short-term shelter is made available for runaway and homeless youth through Host Homes. Host Home families care for children and youth whose life experiences have caused them to run away and/or

become homeless. Host Home families provide care in support of the runaway and homeless youth and their family or guardian. Becoming a Host Home is short-term, up to 21 days in time. It involves the Host Family sponsoring a child or youth in their home, providing safety, nurturing, love and care. While the child or youth is with the Host Family, the child or youth's life situation is assessed, as are their options for family reunification or healthy alternatives that may better meet their needs.

Becoming a host home family involves three activities. Host Home families seek Host Home Registry, Host Home Technical Assistance and Support, and establishing agreements with the runaway or homeless child or youth and their family, and the Jameson Family Resource and Technical Assistance Center..

Serving these children involves commitment and collaboration. We hope you will consider opening your heart and home and help to make this a better world.

Families interested in becoming host homes should contact Hilda Garcia, CEO at hgarcia@tcc1878.org

Out and About in Texas — Community Outreach Highlights



Hannah Hagg, drew delightful caricatures for our community at our festival.



Community members stopped by to be sketched by our artists

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TCCI—Bay Area/Galveston Outreach

Artist Suzanne Redmond Hornbuckle painted the

neighborhood children who dropped by.













RMAN MUSIC SCHOOL SHOWCASED THEIR MUSIC AND THE MUSICAL TALENTS OF THEIR YOUNG STUDENTS.



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Giveaways included sweet treats, water, juice, clothing and toys.





The holidays started early for children who enjoyed facepainting and the toys donated by TCCI.

This young lady from the GISD Ballet Folklórico Dance Group at Burnet Elementary STREAM Magnet School dropped by the TCCI Festival.



ETCCI The Children's Center, Inc Para La Familia Annual de Otoño



Sábado 18 - Hora: 11am a 4pm Place: Iglesia Baltista Live Oak En su parqueo: 1020 32nd St. Galveston,TX

El parqueo de la Iglesia está en el oeste de la Calle 32 medio de la avenida K y la Broadway.

77550

Noviembre

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20









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HOME DEPOT PARTNERS WITH TCCI



Forty-nine years after the Albertine Yeager Building was opened as a haven for Galveston's Children, "Team Home Depot" has offered to provide much needed repairs for the site. Following their motto "Good in Action", Team Leader, NW Houston, has assembled a team that includes a team from the League City Store. Their act of kindness, will also enhance the site in time for the celebration of an award from the Texas Historical Commission in honor of Albertine "Mama" Hall Yeager. And "Undertold Story Site Marker, a plaque is being prepared by the THC that commemorates Yeager's tireless work for children from 1917 to her death in 1969. The building currently houses the administrative offices of TCCI which serve runaway and homeless youth in eight cities, along the Gulf Coast of Texas.



Beaumont—Community Outreach Highlights



Back-to– School Event Provides Supplies for Community

ase Manager LaKaren Granger, worked hard to provide a wide-range of school supplies for local children. She noted that 86 youth attended the August event.





Congratulations, TCCI Case Manager in Beaumont, Dr. Andrea Richard, who graduated from the Ruach School of Theology, with a Doctorate.

Corpus Christi—Outreach Highlights Corpus Children Get Back-to-School Hair Cuts

Remember the first day of school? We dressed our best, shined our shoes, cleaned our backpacks and if our family could afford it we had new clothes. However, getting your hair right was a priority. That meant a trip to the hair dresser or barber for a trim or a new do. Unfortunately, the cost of those hair cuts and ribbon ready styles have risen dramatically. Many families, simply can't afford those annual trips that often mean so much to a child's self-esteem.

Enter the team from the Children's Center. Inc. in Corpus Christi. Summer of 2023, the TCCI worked with Salon Modesty in Corpus to donate haircuts to community children. The event was very well-attended and the end of the day, 121 children received stylist new hair cuts for their first day at school. At \$40 a hair cut the total donation was worth \$4,840.00.



Salon Modesty in Corpus Christi donated 121 haircuts to community children.

At \$40 a haircut, it was a gift worth:

\$4,840.00

Thank you from The Children's Center, Inc.





Rio Grande Valley—Community Outreach Highlights



Glendaliz Garcia from Women Inspiring Success— WISE/CVS with Annette Gonzalez, MSSW, Supervisor/Senior Case Manager TCCI

Annette Gonzalez, MSSW, Supervisor/Senior Case Manager TCCI, Glendaliz Garcia from WISE/CVS and Mrs. Garcia, provide feminine hygiene products for the community served by the TCCI team.

Team RGV Promotes Vibrant Activities and Partnerships

he TCCI Team in the Rio Grande Valley partnered with the community in order to stage several wellattended community events. The Back-to-School events in Hidalgo County was attended by 247 community members. The events were hosted at the Alonzo De Leon Middle School in McAllen and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office in Donna, Texas.

The well-attended outreach and prevention activities in RGV are a result of the robust networking activities of the TCCI Team that have built trust in the RGV. Partners in the RGV include: Provecto Axteca RGV, County Judge Richard Cortez, Border Public Health, Endeavors with Dr. Melissa Escamilla, EM3 Hope Foundation, McAllen Independent School District; Alton Police Department/Hidalgo County; New Corporate Partner, CVS Pharmacy and WISE - Women Inspiring Success who donated women's hygiene bags to TCCI/RGV.

The TCCI team met with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to set up new incentives for interns that will work with TCCI in the new school year. The TCCI team took at training at University of Texas RGV on Latino and LGBTQI mental health in June. Other networking events includes a Child Abuse Prevention Presentation in Harlingen in April. The TCCI team provided resource information to the Social Worker at Weslaco East High School in Weslaco. The TCCI team provided flyers with the Crisis Hotline information to the McAllen and Pharr Libraries.

Need Help? Call Our Crisis Hotline: 1-844-763-8861 Text to Give: Text: HELPRUNAWAYS TO: 53555

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Galveston Bay Area — Community Outreach **TCCI Celebrates Juneteenth with Island Families**

alveston is the "official home" of Juneteenth. Now, **J** a national holiday, June 19th celebrates the day the news of the end of slavery was brought to the Island in 1865. The Juneteenth Family Event was well-attended with 90 children with their families on hand for activities and giveaways. In July, the TCCI team hosted a Back-to-School event that was attended by 150 children and



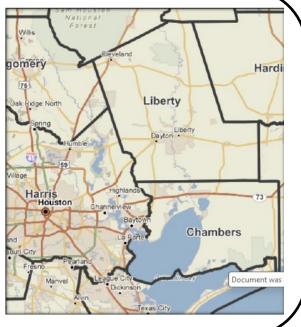
family members. At both events, families received information about TCCI services including information about the Crisis Hotline at 1-844-763-8861. The TCCI Team was also on hand to provide prevention information to families about human trafficking.

TCCI was a participant in the creation of the Juneteenth Mural which is painted on the site of the museum site on the Strand in Galveston. Several residents of TCCI programs, painted the mural as "artists apprentices" due to a grant awarded to TCCI by the Texas Commission the Arts. Those lucky youth became part of history when June 19th was declared a national holiday.



Blessing-In-A-Bag Events Held in East Harris BCP

he TCCI Team in East Harris County held Back-to-L School events this period. They also started a Saturday initiative "Blessing-in-A-Bag" that included water, sandwiches and fresh fruit like oranges. Per the map show here, the East Harris County Basic Center teams serves in an area with high levels of poverty and food insecurity. For example, in most rural Liberty County there are little or no resources for homeless citizens. Agencies in Liberty routinely call Houston and even Galveston when a runaway or homeless youth is in crisis.



Community Youth Development Outreach Highlights

The Community Youth Development (CYD) Youth Summer Work Experience Program 2023

hat an adventure we had this year. In the month of June, our Galveston youth, ages 12 -16, acquired a wealth of knowledge in the areas of "soft skills, careers, trades and education through fun and adventurous activities. CYD participants made and painted picnic benches, and completed tasks at Sea Star Base and Odyssey Academy. They enjoyed a picnic at the park and a field trip to the Museum of Natural Science in Houston. Youth participated in a contest to design the logo for their Summer Work Experience T-shirt. Two students won best design, 1 for the front and 1 for the back.

Sea Star Base Galveston graciously rewarded the "work crew" with a sailing adventure on their last day.

Youth worked on a variety of tasks and activities from working with resin, and making soy candles and soap while learning "soft skills" that are so important to success in the work environment. "Soft skills" include effective communication, taking initiative, problem-solving and leadership. They used these soft skills while participating on a "work crew" where they helped their team complete tasks building and designing unique benches, working and learning to complete tasks at Odyssey Academy, and working and learning to complete a variety of tasks at Sea Star Base Galveston.

Youth experienced sailing adventures at Sea Star Base, met the Captain on the Carnival Breeze Cruise Ship and designed a logo for their Summer Work Experience T-Shirt (shown right) in an adventure packed summer with the

Community Youth Development

Program.

IT SELF SAYS

MEELING CARNIVAL BREEZE, JUNE 29, 2023 | ODYSSEY SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM



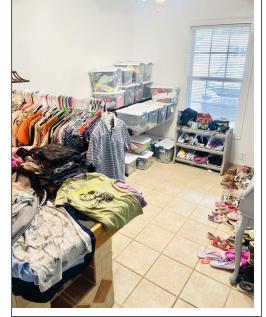




Victoria/Golden Crescent —Community Outreach Highlights Victoria Ramps Up Community Outreach and Services



Outreach by Case Managers in Victoria includes providing prevention and Crisis Hotline information to the community.



The drop-in center at TCCI is stocked with clothing and food which are the most requested items from runaway and homeless youth and families with children who are in crisis.



Runaway and homeless youth have a welcoming environment if they need emergency shelter/host homes in Victoria.



Harris County West — Community Outreach Highlights

Outreach at Texas Children's Hospital included some "Serious Fun"

he team in West Harris County, Waller and Fort Bend Counties were busy forming critical partnerships this spring and summer. Case Manager Joyce Dozier and her team participated in two big events at the Texas Children's Hospital. The group gave away backpacks and prevention information at the Baby Giveaway and Back-to-School events which attracted hundreds of people. The team has also formed a new important partnership with TAPS-Teen and Police Service Academy in Harris County.

The TCCI team in West Harris, Waller and Fort Bend Counties have been proactive in visiting both public and private schools in this area. They have done prevention presentations at Willowridge High School, as well as a host of elementary schools.



The Incredible Hulk was on hand with along with parking lot size bounce house for families who received, backpacks, back-to-school supplies and baby supplies along with critical information on runaway prevention and the TCCI crisis hotline at events in West Harris County.

nvenido





Joseph Trahan

Joseph joined the board in 2021 and was elected chairman in 2023. He is the corporate liaison at Riceland Healthcare in Beaumont and a prominent community leader in Jefferson County. His goals as board chairman include increased oversight of organizational activities, greater board participation, the diversification of revenue streams, and improvements to existing programs.



Annual TCCI Training Motivates Staff

The Children's Center's training conference in July, became more than just an educational experience. It became a way to make professional connections with each other, share experiences and tips, exchange a variety of ways to do outreach to the Community, among many other positive interactions. The change of atmosphere gave way to the flow of ideas and solutions to the challenges Case Managers face on a daily basis. Having the time to meet with and hear their client stories, was inspiring and rewarding to us all.

Hilda Garcia, who was named new CEO in late September, emphasized the need for staff to be resilient in the face of upcoming changes in the organization. Ignacio Batista, did a comprehensive training on leadership skills based on works by nationally recognized experts.

It also gave the administrative staff in attendance the ability to understand and better meet the needs of the Case Managers in the field. It reminds us of how important it is to never stop learning and never stop growing. The developments which came out of that time have changed the way The Children's Center is slated to move forward and grow in this upcoming year.



New CEO Hilda Garcia and Ignacio Batista, Director of Programs, training staff at retreat.



Our First Annual Fall Festival Was A Success Because of Your Donation of the Parking Lot.

Live Oak Volunteers

Dr. Vernon Baines, Pastor Live Oak Baptist Church



TCCI Attends Conference for Runaway and Homeless Youth



New CEO Hilda Garcia, and seven other staff members attended the training at the Kaleidoscope of Empowerment-**Building Bridges for** Youth through Development Conference. The group flew to Seattle, for training by the Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

TCCI AWARDED TWO FEDERAL GRANTS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the award of two Basic Center Program grants to The Children's Center, Inc. in September 2023. The grants are designed to assist runaway and homeless youth who have not been served by the state protective services agencies or the juvenile justice system. These two grants will be utilized in the Victoria/Golden Cresent region in Texas and the Houston Metropolitan Area.

These grants serve youth by having case managers who are usually degreed professionals, are all trained in trauma-informed care and all culturally competent. The intent of the grants is to reunite children with their families if that is possible. Case Managers work with runaway youth and their families to ensure they receive counseling and other support they need. Unfortunately, many children runaway due to family dysfunction including child abuse. Other children who have been trafficked, need crisis intervention because they are at risk and their families are at risk as well.

Helping runaway and homeless youth has become a critical need on a national level. According to Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB): The Overlap of Human Trafficking and Runaway and Homeless Youth-Youth who run away are at considerable risk of homelessness and victimization, including through sex and labor trafficking. The Polaris Project, one of the largest organizations serving trafficking victims, includes RHY among those at high-risk, with "a higher susceptibility to victimization and human trafficking." Researchers are finding that running away significantly increases young people's risk of commercial sexual exploitation as well as labor trafficking. Therefore, reducing runaway incidents is crucial to prevent young people from becoming homeless and falling into trafficking situations.

The BASIC Center Program is a federal program that is awarded from: The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family and Youth Services Bureau. The Children's Center, Inc. currently operates eight Basic Center Programs along the Gulf Coast of Texas from Beaumont to the Rio Grande Valley.

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In Memoriam—TCCI Honors Former Colleagues



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TCCI?

Go to our Video Channel:

The Children's Center, Inc

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq3rR-H09HplqfxpzIVIIAA



www.youtube.com/@thechildrenscentershowcase5975

Follow Us on Social Media:



https://www.facebook.com/ profile.php?id=61552528191



https://www.instagram.com /yeager_1878/



https://twitter.com/TCCI78



Out and About in Texas — Community Outreach Highlights



George Barkley provided information about our Community Youth Development afterschool programs.



Raquel Pèna entertains the crowd with her powerful voice at the event.



Ignacio Batista Morales, our TCCI Programs Director also has talent as a DJ.



Joyce Dozier from one of our Houston programs rolls out the red carpet with festive giveaways.



Julie Minerbo enjoys face painting kids from our

Para La Familia

Noviembre

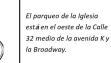


Artist Suzanne Redmond Hornbuckle painted the neighborhood children who dropped by with Julie.

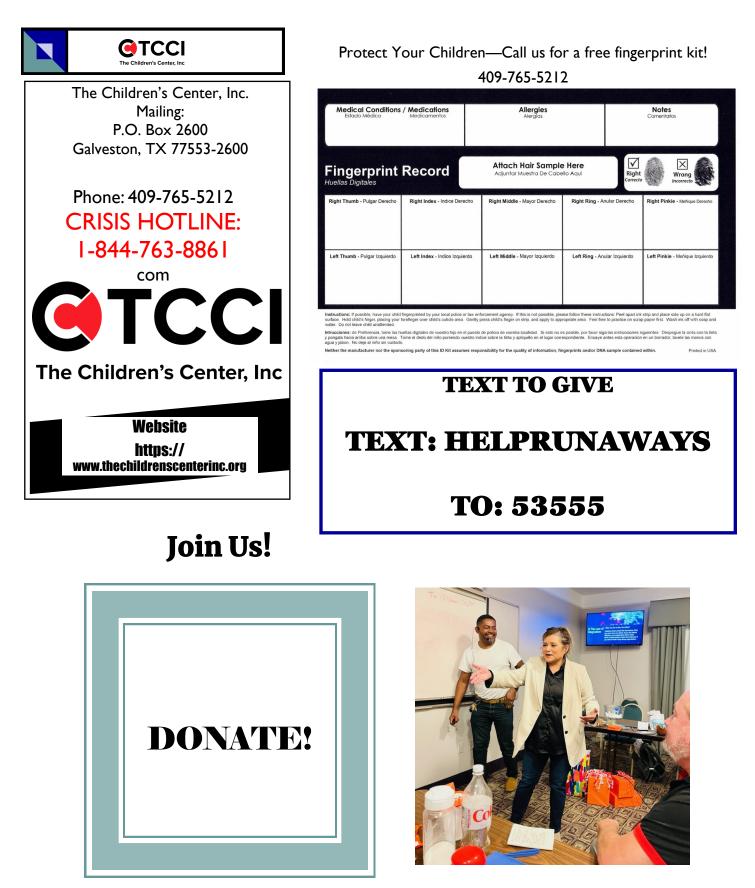
Annual de Otoño

Sábado 18 - Hora: 11am a 4pm Place: Iglesia Baltista Live Oak En su parqueo: 1020 32nd St. Galveston,TX 77550

CTCCI Primer Festival







https://thechildrenscenterinc.org/donate-today/ https://givebutter.com/9xA0R1