



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
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 ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Hidalgo County awards \$75,000 to Safe Haven for Kids

EDINBURG – Hidalgo County Commissioners Court approved \$75,000 in funding to the county's only emergency shelter for abused children. A formal check presentation ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at the shelter.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu, who is hosting the check presentation, said until Safe Haven for Kids, children who were removed from their homes by Child Protective Services were taken to shelters San Antonio, Corpus Christi, or Laredo and many spent up to several nights at CPS offices.

"About seven months ago we learned that there was no overnight shelter for children who have been removed from their homes by CPS due to child abuse, neglect or abandonment," said Pct. 2 Commissioner Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu. "That was unacceptable and the county began working on a plan to provide funding."

Although not officially open, the shelter has been providing services since February. The county's funding will be used for operations and to provide services for children from newborn to 17-years. Children will be able to stay at the shelter for up to 60 days, said Safe Haven Founder and Executive Director Angela Ridling.

"Of the 254 counties in Texas, Hidalgo County ranks seventh in the number of child abuse cases reported," Ridling said. "With the funding provided, these children will be taken to a home environment until their parents can come pick them up or until CPS finds placement for them."

Funding comes from unclaimed property monies received from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

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WHO: Hidalgo County Commissioners Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu, Pct. 2; David L. Fuentes, Pct. 1; Joe M. Flores, Pct. 3; Joseph Palacios, Pct. 4; County Judge Ramon Garcia; and Safe Haven Founder and Executive Director Angela Ridling.

WHAT: Presentation of \$75,000 check from Hidalgo County to Safe Haven for Kids.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018

WHERE: 1700 N. Alamo Rd., in Alamo

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. 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.