Greetings!

Spring is officially here, bringing with it blooming flowers, warm and sunny weather, and busy preparations for the annual Building Hope for Children gala on May 5, 2019.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Primary to the mission of Casa de Esperanza is our effort to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect. In 2017, more than 63,650 cases of child abuse or neglect were confirmed in Texas by Child Protective Services. An estimated 1,750 children nationwide died from abuse or neglect; 217 of those children resided in Texas. We know that the long-term physical, emotional and social consequences of abuse are wide-ranging.

We also know that this cycle can be broken. With a focus on the strength of long-term relationships, Casa de Esperanza supports families in promoting healthy medical, social, environmental and behavioral outcomes. It takes an entire community to ensure the safety of our children. As Ronnie Koehn, Ph.D., Casa de Esperanza’s staff psychologist and Associate Director states, "It is society’s responsibility to keep our children safe."

You can help us break the cycle of Child Abuse! Casa de Esperanza has set a goal to raise $10,000 during the month of April. These funds will be used
to further our efforts at breaking this cycle of child abuse. There are several ways to contribute and I hope you'll join us in our efforts.

On behalf of all at Casa de Esperanza, thank you for your support!

Shelley Starr
Executive Director

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**Our 2018 Program Overview**

At Casa de Esperanza, our work never stops as we focus our efforts on keeping children safe and providing their families with comprehensive support services. Strong relationships and community support makes this work possible, and we truly value each of those relationships.

In 2018, your support made it possible for 252 children and their families to receive services through our residential program, with safe homes established for 89 children. I hope you'll take a few moments to read our 2018 Annual Report and see the full impact your support has on those we serve.

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**Mission Moment**

Sofia came to Casa de Esperanza at three-weeks old with a skull fracture and was already behind developmentally. She was unable to connect well with her caregivers, and sometimes took four hours to eat a bottle. Sofia was placed in a loving home in the Casa de Esperanza neighborhood where Hands of Hope interns provided her with continuous care and love. Sofia’s medical needs were met, and she quickly began receiving the therapies she needed. Today, Sofia is thriving. She is reaching her milestones, eats well and is a happy baby who loves to interact with those around her.

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**Young Professionals Group Save the Date!**

Come enjoy light bites and tasty beverages at The Union Kitchen on Washington!

All paying Young Professional
Group members will receive (1) complimentary drink.

April 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
6011 Washington Ave, 77007

RSVP Here!

Help us prepare for our Easter Egg Hunt and consider bringing a donation of plastic eggs or treats to fill the eggs!

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Help give our children an experience to remember for a lifetime!

Our YPG will host an Easter egg hunt for the children of our residential neighborhood followed by Easter treats and fun on the playground.

April 14, 10a.m.-12p.m.
2811 Corder, 77054

RSVP Here!

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Gala Honoree Spotlight

Community Volunteer of the Year

Arza Funk

For nearly six years, Arza Funk has been a fixture in the Casa de Esperanza neighborhood. Each week Arza volunteers for 3-hours in a Casa de Esperanza neighborhood home playing with the children and assisting the house parents. An avid cook, Arza picks up weekly donations of fresh produce and prepares delicious and healthy meals each week. She is also a wonderful advocate, spreading the word, recruiting additional volunteers and connecting Casa de Esperanza to other community resources. While she loves playing with the children each week, Arza has developed a deep respect for the Hands of Hope Interns and feels that a big part of her duties as a volunteer is to support them so they can better care for the children in their home. The interns view Arza as part of the family and respect her as a motherly figure.
Interested in attending our Gala?

SUNDAY • MAY 5, 2019 • 6:00 PM
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
800 Bagby Street

EVENT CO-CHAIRS
LYNNE and MIKE MORRIS
 DANIEL MORRIS
 KELLEY and MATTHEW MORRIS
 KATIE and PATRICK MORRIS

CORPORATE CHAIRS
MARY D. BASS and MEG GENTLE

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
TOM KOCH
Anchor, KTRK TV, ABC 13

Fiesta Casual Attire  Complimentary Valet Parking

Ticket and Underwriting Opportunities

Want to volunteer?

*Please note, the deadline to be listed in the program is April 8th.

Help support our Gala by donating to our wine pull!

Our annual wine pull has historically been a TREMENDOUS success at the gala and is supported by our board and host committee members.

Last year, the wine pull raised $8,750!

Please consider helping with this fundraising effort by purchasing wine HERE, OR if you have your own collection and want to participate we welcome that support as well…we ask that the value of the wine be a minimum of $50 per bottle.

As a convenience to donors, all wine donated through Double Decanted will be delivered directly to Casa de Esperanza.
Thank You to Our February and March Group Volunteers!

Thank you to the following groups for coming to Casa de Esperanza and interacting with our children. They enjoyed each visit and always look forward to seeing you again. The time you spend laughing, teaching and playing with them makes each of their days brighter.

Baylor College of Medicine
Cavatore
Comcast PMO
Comcast Young Professionals
Gluck
The Junior League of Houston
mStrategic Partners
Palazzos
Pondicheri
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Wells Fargo

Also, thank you to Miller Intermediate Middle School in Alief ISD for hosting their annual Casa de Esperanza donation drive. The 6th and 7th grade students helped ensure that Casa de Esperanza had enough supply of diapers, wipes and cleaning supplies for a month.

Ways to Help

Amazon Wish List  Basic Needs Donation  Volunteer Rewards Programs  Employer Contributions