



# SPRING TO SUMMER EDITION

## APRIL-JUNE NEWSLETTER

### APRIL SHOWERS

"April is a reminder that life is a beautiful, ever-renewing cycle."

— EE Cummings

### BRING

"Then you have to remember to be thankful; but in May one simply can't help being thankful that they are alive, if for nothing else."

— L. M. Montgomery

### MAY FLOWERS

"And since all this loveliness can not be Heaven, I know, in my heart, it is June."

— Abba Goold Woolson

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“**EMBRACE THE CHALLENGES, FOR WITHIN THEM LIE THE SEEDS OF GREATNESS.**”



# welcome Letter

What does spring mean to you? For birds, the changing season signals transformation, renewal, and survival. Many begin to migrate back to their breeding grounds, guided by instinct and memory. Spring also brings physical changes as birds molt and shed dull winter feathers, revealing brighter plumage marking the beginning of a new cycle. Along with these changes, birds become far more vocal, using their songs to establish territories, defend their space, and attract partners. Yet spring is not only gentle renewal; it is also a season of challenge. While food and resources become more abundant, birds must remain alert to predators and the many dangers that come with increased activity and visibility. In many ways, our own lives mirror what birds experience during this season. We often feel an instinctive pull toward change, knowing when it is time to leave behind what no longer serves us and return to the places or people that ground us. Like birds shedding old feathers, we outgrow previous versions of ourselves in order to evolve. We learn to find our voices, defend what matters to us, and remain careful even in moments of abundance. Spring reminds us that growth is both beautiful and demanding, requiring courage, instinct, and resilience. We are grateful for each of you who helps create spaces of support, renewal, and hope as we move through seasons of change together.

Welcome  
New Foster Parents

**Dorci Cotton**  
**Ebony Moore**  
**Brenda Salinas**

**Blanca Serna**  
**Diana Carr**  
*thank you*



# WHO WE ARE

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to deposit seeds of balanced mental health, happiness, and hope into the hearts and minds of Youth and Families, by creating a nurturing, supportive, and structured environment that will instill in them tools, principles, and values that will empower them to become productive members of society and fulfill their purpose and destiny.

## Our WHY is.



**W** Who we are as an organization and what we stand for.

**H** How we show up in the lives of the children and families that we serve.

**Y** Our yearning to be impactful in everything that we do.

# ICAREE

### Integrity:

We uphold the highest ethical standards, maintaining transparency and honesty in all our endeavors, earning the trust and respect of the community we serve.

### Compassion:

We believe in approaching all individuals with empathy, kindness, and understanding, fostering a culture of care and support for those in need.

### Accountability:

We take responsibility for our actions and decisions, ensuring accountability at all levels of the organization to maintain the highest standards of performance and service delivery.

### Respect:

We treat everyone with dignity, valuing the perspectives, contributions, and inherent worth of each individual, and honoring their rights, choices, and autonomy.

### Excellence:

We are committed to delivering the highest quality of care and support, continuously striving for excellence in our services, programs, and initiatives.

### Equality:

We are dedicated to ensuring fairness and equality in all our practices, providing equitable access to resources, opportunities, and care for all individuals, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances.

# COO LETTER

Hello Hands of Healing Family,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying your summer. It has been a busy and rewarding year at Hands of Healing. Since our last newsletter, we've celebrated Foster Parent Appreciation, Mother's Day, and Father's Day. We are deeply grateful to each of you and your continued partnership. Your support makes our work possible.

We are only days away from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! As we celebrate Independence Day, let us enjoy time with family and friends, fireworks, and summer traditions while also reflecting on the freedoms and opportunities we are privileged to have.

Summer is also a wonderful time to invest in family. Whether it's a beach trip, picnic, or game night, I encourage you to make the most of these moments together. With back-to-school season just around the corner and so much uncertainty in the world, let us cherish the gift of family and live each day with gratitude.

There is so much happening here at Hands of Healing, and I am excited to share that we officially opened a new program called "Seed of Hope." We recently received a new grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide Long-Term Foster Care services. This grant allows us to serve more children in need of stable, loving homes. We are especially honored to be one of fewer than 10 programs worldwide selected for this opportunity. This is an achievement we all share, and one you can be proud to support. If you know of anyone who can provide a safe and loving home for a child, please share our information with them. The contact information can be found on our website:

[www.handsofhealing.org](http://www.handsofhealing.org). Please note that we are a nonprofit organization, and donations can be made there as well.

As I close this letter, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support. Please stay safe, care for others, and continue to live our core values: Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Excellence, and Equity. This spells out I-Care, and we do! Together, we remain committed to serving children and families every day.

To our incredible staff and partners, thank you. You are the heart of Hands of Healing—second only to the children we are privileged to serve.

**BLESSINGS, SHEILA WEETLY - CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**



## HR BUZZZZ



**"BEHIND EVERY ACHIEVEMENT IS A TEAM OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE DEDICATION, COMPASSION AND HARD WORK MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY. OUR GREATEST STRENGTH ISN'T WHAT WE DO - IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE EVERY DAY."**

# A GIFT OF GRATITUDE: FOSTER PARENTS HONOR OUR RGV-CPA TEAM

Official Publication of Hands of Healing



The RGV - CPA Staff Team were gifted a 30 minute massage and a "self care bag" by the Milum Family. They are truly grateful to work with such giving, compassionate, and thoughtfulness families.



Ronnie showered the RGV- CPA by filling up their break room in the state office. They made sure to take care of them with several snacks, drinks and fruits. The RGV- CPA team are truly grateful and this is definitely something new to them where they are showered with appreciation and gratitude.

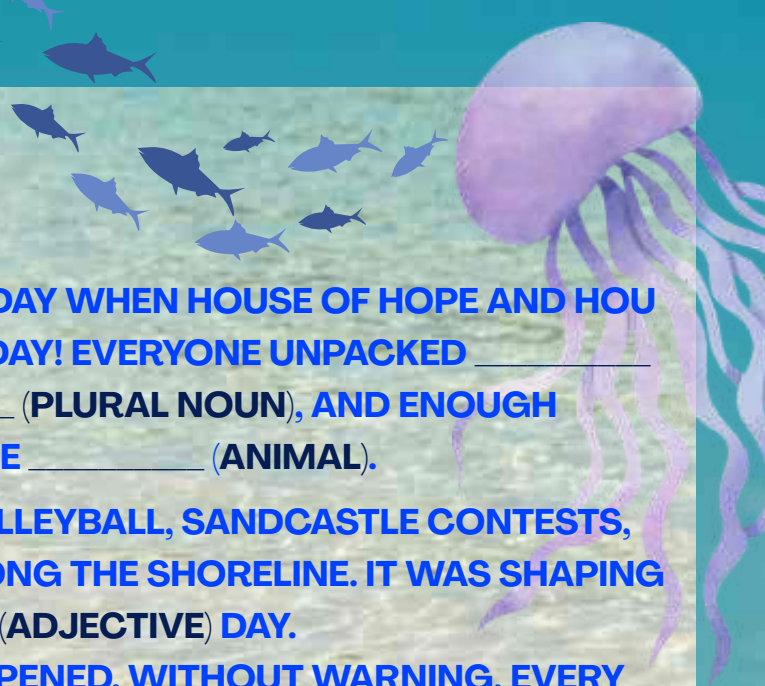


Refrigerator stocked with variety of drinks & snacks.



Self-Care Gifts

"Speaking on behalf of both myself and the team, thank you for reminding us that what we do matters, that our work is seen, and that it is appreciated. We are grateful to have each of you as part of our team and our Hands of Healing family." ~Elizabeth Cavazos, Administrator



IT WAS A \_\_\_\_\_ (ADJECTIVE) SUMMER DAY WHEN HOUSE OF HOPE AND HOU  
CPA ARRIVED FOR THEIR ANNUAL BEACH DAY! EVERYONE UNPACKED \_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OF FOOD), COLORFUL \_\_\_\_\_ (PLURAL NOUN), AND ENOUGH  
SUNSCREEN FOR AN ENTIRE \_\_\_\_\_ (ANIMAL).

THE BEACH BUZZED WITH GAMES OF VOLLEYBALL, SANDCASTLE CONTESTS,  
AND \_\_\_\_\_ (VERB ENDING IN "-ING") ALONG THE SHORELINE. IT WAS SHAPING  
UP TO BE A \_\_\_\_\_ (ADJECTIVE) DAY.

THEN...SOMETHING VERY STRANGE HAPPENED. WITHOUT WARNING, EVERY  
SINGLE BEACH TOWEL DISAPPEARED! ALL THAT WAS LEFT BEHIND WAS ONE  
LONELY \_\_\_\_\_ (BEACH ITEM) AND A NOTE THAT SIMPLY READ: " \_\_\_\_\_ (SILLY  
SOUND/EXCLAMATION)! BETTER COME FIND THEM!"

THE TEAMS IMMEDIATELY QUESTIONED \_\_\_\_\_ (STAFF MEMBER), WHO  
LOOKED EXTREMELY \_\_\_\_\_ (EMOTION) BUT CLAIMED THEY HAD ONLY BEEN  
COLLECTING \_\_\_\_\_ (PLURAL NOUN) BY THE WATER. SUDDENLY, THE  
WEATHER TURNED \_\_\_\_\_ (WEATHER TYPE), AND A GIANT \_\_\_\_\_ (OBJECT)  
FLOATED ONTO THE BEACH! EVERYONE STOPPED SEARCHING LONG ENOUGH TO  
\_\_\_\_\_ (VERB) AROUND IT BEFORE REMEMBERING THE MISSING TOWELS.  
WITH ONLY \_\_\_\_\_ (NUMBER) MINUTES BEFORE LUNCH, HOUSE OF HOPE AND  
HOU CPA WORKED TOGETHER, FOLLOWING MYSTERIOUS FOOTPRINTS SHAPED  
LIKE \_\_\_\_\_ (BODY PART).

THE CLUES LED THEM BEHIND A \_\_\_\_\_ (ADJECTIVE) SAND DUNE WHERE THEY  
DISCOVERED...EVERY BEACH TOWEL HAD BEEN STACKED INTO THE WORLD'S  
LARGEST TOWEL FORT! NO ONE KNEW WHO BUILT IT, BUT EVERYONE BURST  
INTO LAUGHTER. INSTEAD OF TAKING IT APART, BOTH TEAMS CELEBRATED  
INSIDE THE FORT WITH AN EPIC \_\_\_\_\_ (CELEBRATION DANCE) WHILE  
SHOUTING, " \_\_\_\_\_ (FUNNY WORD)!"

AS THE SUN BEGAN TO SET, EVERYONE AGREED THAT THE UNEXPECTED  
MYSTERY MADE BEACH DAY EVEN MORE MEMORABLE. BUT ONE QUESTION  
REMAINED... WHO BUILT THE TOWEL FORT IN THE FIRST PLACE? ...ONLY  
\_\_\_\_\_ (NOUN) KNOWS!



*Mad Libs*



**Because ICAREE is at the core of our organization, we felt it was important to recognize and highlight real-life examples of these values exemplified across our programs.**

## Integrity

**Casa Sunshine's** Ms. Italia Navar recognizes PSA Compliance Manager Ms. Irma Cervantes as an outstanding example of integrity. Through her commitment to compliance, accountability, and ethical decision-making, she ensures policies and procedures are followed accurately and fairly. Even under tight deadlines, Ms. Cervantes remains diligent in reviewing documentation and compliance requirements, helping maintain high standards and ensuring families receive services that meet all requirements.

## Compassion

**Casa Harlingen's** Ms. Alma Posadas shares that compassion is reflected daily through the kindness and support staff provide to both children and coworkers. Ms. Idalia Torres consistently exemplifies this value by assisting Youth Care Workers, stepping in during staff absences, and ensuring urgent tasks are completed. She is also highly attentive to the children's individual needs, consistently demonstrating care, patience, and concern for their well-being.

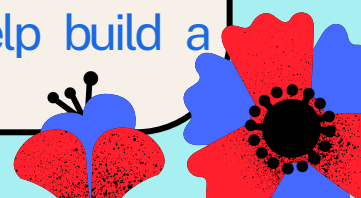


## Accountability

**Sunshine Foster's** Ms. Rosalinda Carlos shares that accountability is a core value that has allowed the team to operate effectively while fostering trust and open communication. She has observed colleagues arrive early to provide transportation for youth, ensuring they arrive. Staff members such as Karim and Tabitha Morales consistently take the initiative to encourage minors to continue their education, assisting them with public school enrollment and motivating them to pursue opportunities that will help build a brighter future.

ICAREE

IN ACTION





## Respect



**House of Hope's** Ms. Hilda Flores recognizes Program Director Alder Valdez as an outstanding leader who consistently values and appreciates every staff member, regardless of their role. His respectful and inclusive leadership fosters positive relationships, mutual understanding, and a supportive environment for both staff and the minors we serve.

## Excellence

**At HOU CPA,** excellence is reflected in the daily efforts of our staff, who consistently demonstrate dedication, compassion, and a commitment to serving children and families. Among these outstanding team members, Ms. Maddie was spotlighted for her unwavering support of both clients and colleagues. She frequently stays beyond her scheduled hours to ensure tasks are completed while also dedicating time to training new employees and assisting coworkers when challenges arise. Her willingness to go the extra mile makes a meaningful impact on the team and those we serve.

## Equity



**RGV CPA's** Ms. Kassandra Zamorano shared that, as a Child Placement Manager Specialist, she practices equity by carefully matching children with foster homes that best meet their individual needs. She considers factors such as age, cultural background, behavioral and emotional needs, medical needs, sibling relationships, and level of care to ensure each child is placed in a supportive environment. By identifying foster families with the right training, experience, and resources, she helps promote placement stability and positive outcomes for the children in her care.



# The Heart Behind the Honor

## CONGRATUALATIONS TO THE MILUM FAMILY!

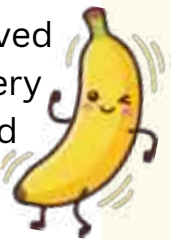
RGV- CPA



Austin and Bailey Milum are the proud parents of two biological children and are currently opening their hearts and home to three foster children. Their unwavering commitment to providing love, stability, and hope to children in need is truly inspiring.

The Milums are always willing to help as many children as they are able, and if it were possible, they would welcome every child in need into their home. Their compassion, selflessness, and dedication to fostering make a lasting impact on the lives of the children they serve.

In recognition of their extraordinary commitment, the Milum family was honored with the **"Best Foster Family (BFF)" Award by Bananas Foster.** This well-deserved recognition reflects the love, kindness, and positive difference they make every day. We are incredibly grateful for families like the Milums, whose hearts and actions exemplify the true spirit of foster care.



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## WHAT IS BANANAS FOSTER?

Established in 2023, Bananas Foster is dedicated to Bringing Families Together by shining a light on those making a difference within the foster care community. Our mission is to celebrate the foster care community while educating and inspiring others to get involved.

Across the United States, there are over 400,000 children and teens in foster care without a permanent home. Our vision is a world where every child and teen experiencing foster care has a safe, loving place to call home. By celebrating those making a difference in the foster care community, we aim to create awareness and inspire people to get involved.

# PD'S

## POINT OF VIEW

My greatest accomplishment at House of Hope has been contributing to the growth and success of both our staff and the program as a whole. Through ongoing training, guidance, and collaboration, I have helped strengthen staff knowledge, preparedness, and confidence in carrying out their responsibilities. Watching our team continue to develop and excel has been incredibly rewarding.

The results of these collective efforts are evident. Since joining the team, each ORR monitoring visit has demonstrated measurable improvement, reflecting the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our staff to maintaining high standards of care and compliance. These achievements are a testament to what can be accomplished when everyone works together toward a common goal.

While I am proud of the progress we have made, I recognize that there is always room for growth. Our work is never truly finished. Moving forward, our focus remains on maintaining consistency, strengthening our practices, and continuing to build upon our successes. Most importantly, we remain committed to providing exceptional care, support, and services to the children we serve, ensuring they receive the highest level of compassion and attention every day.

Alder Valdez, P.D. ~ House of Hope

From my perspective as a PD, the most effective part of my leadership has been supporting and guiding my staff to ensure they feel confident and equipped in their daily work. I've learned that leadership isn't about position it's about people. When staff feel supported, trusted, and clearly guided, they are able to perform at a higher level, and it directly improves the quality of care we provide.

I make it a priority to stay present and accessible, whether that's helping problem-solve in real time, providing clear direction, or checking in to ensure my team has what they need to be successful. This approach has helped create a work environment where each team member understands their role, takes ownership of their responsibilities, and is willing to step in and support one another when needed. Over time, this has built a strong culture of teamwork, accountability, and consistency.

One of the accomplishments I am most proud of is the growth of our program not just in numbers, but in strength and stability. We have expanded in the children we serve, the foster parents we support, and the staff who continue to grow within the program. Seeing this growth while maintaining a supportive and structured environment has been incredibly meaningful. It reflects the dedication of the entire team and our shared commitment to making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

Elizabeth Cavazos, P.D. ~ RGV CPA

# ◆ Captured Moments ◆

## HANDS OF HEALING- FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION

**ONE TEAM.  
One MISSION.  
FOR THE  
CHILDREN.**



Each year, we come together to honor and celebrate the incredible foster parents who open their hearts and homes to children in need. Through the dedication and teamwork of our staff, we strive to make this event a memorable and meaningful evening for those who give so much of themselves every day.

## Alpaquita Ranch



We are honored to work alongside such exceptional foster parents who provide care and stability for the children in our programs. Your efforts make a lasting impact, and we are sincerely grateful. You are greatly appreciated, and we want to express how much you mean to the entire Hands of Healing team.



# Trashonista Fashion Show: Recycling Never Looked So Fabulous!

“TURNING  
TRASH INTO  
TREASURE,  
ONE  
RUNWAY  
AT A TIME!”



May 20, 2026



5/20/26



HOH Casa Sunshine

TRASHONISTA  
*Fashion Show*

JOIN  
US

20 MAY  
2026

SHOW  
LUNCH  
PUSH-UP  
STREET  
DANCE  
10:00 AM  
12:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
2:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
4:00 PM  
5:00 PM  
6:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
8:00 PM  
9:00 PM  
10:00 PM  
11:00 PM  
12:00 AM

ADMIT ONE



0123-4567



# House of Hope

## All Staff Meeting

May 2026



## Dia de los Ninos



SUN & FUN



## Spotlight

Joe Castro and Stanley Alexander generously volunteered their time and talents to prepare a delicious meal for the House of Hope staff. Their thoughtful gesture was a meaningful way to recognize and thank their fellow team members for their dedication and hard work.

Acts of kindness like this reflect the culture we strive to build at Hands of Healing. Joe and Stanley's selflessness, compassion, and willingness to serve others are a true example of teamwork in action. We are grateful for their generosity and for the positive impact they continue to make on our team. Thank you, Joe and Stanley, for reminding us that appreciation is often shown through simple acts of service and kindness.



# FROM BLOOMS

## To BEACHES

### Challenge

- Which U.S. holiday is celebrated on the last Monday of May and unofficially kicks off summer?

- Which fruit is traditionally harvested during late spring and early summer?

- What date does summer officially begin in the Northern Hemisphere in most Years?

- What causes seasons to change on Earth?

What is the approximate tilt of Earth's axis?

- What weather phenomenon causes a rainbow to appear?
- What spring flower is technically part of the lily family?

- Which U.S. state is famous for its annual spring bluebonnet bloom?

- What is the longest day of the year called?

Which bird is famous for returning north in spring and migrating south in the fall?

Ready to Test

CLICK



# INTRODUCING THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

"THE FUNCTION OF LEADERSHIP  
IS TO PRODUCE MORE LEADERS,  
NOT MORE FOLLOWERS."



- **VICTOR WEETLY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
- **SHEILA WEETLY: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**
- **G DAVIS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HR & PAYROLL**
- **ASHLEY HURST: EXECUTIVE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**
- **TAMIKA MCKINDRA: EXECUTIVE QUALITY ASSURANCE DIRECTOR**
- **GAYLE CURRY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

WE'RE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM, A GROUP OF EXPERIENCED LEADERS WITH DIVERSE EXPERTISE, DEDICATED TO DRIVING GROWTH, IMPACT, AND EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION.

# FOSTER PARENT COMPENSATION

WITH ALL THAT YOU DO, MAKE SURE THAT THE COMPENSATION YOU ARE RECEIVING IS ACCURATE. BELOW ARE THE "LEVELS OF CARE" DESCRIPTIONS FOR YOUR REVIEW.

## BASIC SERVICE LEVEL:

\$27.07 Per Day

The Basic Service Level supports children in a safe, nurturing home environment. It is designed to help children feel secure, supported, and cared for in their daily lives. This level includes:

- Daily supervision and guidance to keep children safe and help them feel secure.
- Love, reassurance, and age-appropriate activities that support emotional well-being and healthy development.
- Appropriate contact with family and important people, when it is in the child's best interest, to support identity and cultural connections.
- Access to medical, therapeutic, or supportive services when needed to help children thrive at their developmental level.

## MODERATE SERVICE LEVEL:

\$47.37 Per Day

Moderate Service Level is designed for children who need more structure and support in their daily routines. Care is typically provided in a family setting and focuses on helping the child grow, heal, and function at their developmental level. This level includes:

- Increased supervision and guidance beyond routine care to support safety, structure, and emotional security.
- Consistent affection, reassurance, and structured activities that support emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs.
- Appropriate contact with family members and important people, when in the child's best interest, to maintain identity and cultural connections.
- Regular access to therapeutic, medical, or habilitative services to help the child maintain or improve daily functioning.

Additional support may include:

- Intermittent care from a skilled caregiver for children with medical or specialized habilitative needs, provided by someone trained and competent in those areas.

## SPECIALIZED SERVICE LEVEL:

\$57.86 Per Day

The Specialized Service Level is designed for children who need intensive, consistent support due to medical, behavioral, or developmental needs. Care is typically provided in a family setting by caregivers who have specialized training to meet these needs. This level includes:

- 24-hour supervision and close monitoring to ensure safety, structure, and emotional security.
- Ongoing affection, reassurance, and therapeutic activities tailored to the child's age and developmental needs.
- Appropriate contact with family members and significant individuals, when it is in the child's best interest, to support identity and cultural connections.
- Regularly scheduled therapeutic, habilitative, and medical services that are professionally designed, supervised, and focused on improving the child's daily functioning.
- Additional support may include:
  - Regular hands-on care from a trained and competent caregiver for children with ongoing medical or specialized habilitative needs.

TAKE A LOOK, AND IF YOU BELIEVE THE CHILDREN YOU SERVE REQUIRE A REVIEW OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN ACCEPTING CHILDREN WHO REQUIRE A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE, DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CASE MANAGER TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGES.

# REFERENCES & SOCIALS

## Content Creators



Lauryn  
Weetly



Yvette  
Garza

- Quotes for the month of April
- Quotes for the month of May
- Welcome to the start of Summer
- Inspirational Leadership quotes
- Bananas Foster
- What Happens During Spring?

**Comments, questions, or concerns  
please reach out to Lauryn or Yvette  
via email.**

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**Don't forget to visit our website, Facebook, and  
Instagram!**

