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Nueces County  
Commissioners Court  
Administration

July 3, 2012

**County Judge Loyd Neal**  
**Nueces County Commissioners Court**  
901 Leopard Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

FY 11-12

Diabetes  
REPORT

\$1,000

Commissioner  
PLT 2

Dear Judge Neal,

This letter serves to thank the entire Nueces County Commissioners Court for putting in place the very successful diabetes education program known as "Diabetes Hands On". The Commissioners Court provided the initial funding in 2008 as well as continued subsequent funding to Diabetes Hands On. The Commissioners Court support of Diabetes Hands On has made a significant impact on many people in Nueces County. Without the Commissioners Court initial and subsequent commitment to the "Diabetes Hands On" the program would not have succeeded.

The initial concept for Diabetes Hands On was born out of local endocrinologist Dr. Melissa Wilson's experience in treating diabetes in South Texas combined with Joe P. Fulton's experiences as a person with Type 1 diabetes attending Joslin Diabetes Clinic in Boston, Massachusetts over a period of 20+ years. The concept continued to manifest itself with the help of members from the local community including Tom Schmid, Caroline Nudelman, John Davis, Bea Hanson and Georgiana Bradshaw, C.D.E. Each of these people made a significant impact in getting Diabetes Hands On off the ground, but their efforts would have been in vain without the Commissioners Court commitment to helping start the Program.

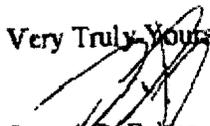
Due to the progressive environment of the Corpus Christi Food Bank, under the leadership of Bea Hanson, Diabetes Hands On has thrived. The program is a data driven program that has continued to show improved outcomes. Participants enter into the eight (8) week program where they participate in hands on experiences that allow them to effectively manage their diabetes, or in the case of those at-risk for diabetes to prevent the progression to diabetes. Support and continuing education continues after class through monthly newsletters and monthly reunions. Our reunion attendance has increased to over 50 participants attending monthly.

The data results and individual results of the participants in the Diabetes Hands On Program have proven to be so remarkable that the Program has received a grant from Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation for \$867,000 over a period of three (3) years to continue and grow the Program in Nueces and other counties served by the Food Bank of Corpus Christi. The program has been specifically expanded to educate and address

the needs of food-insecure individuals. Additionally under the Bristol Myers Foundation grant, the Program will be the model program for diabetes education programs that will be started by the food banks in Cleveland, Ohio, and San Francisco California. In essence, the Commissioners Court initial and continued commitment to Nueces County residents is now paying dividends for people with diabetes and those who are at risk for diabetes around the United States, to gain the proper education to effectively manage and/or prevent diabetes. But for the Commissioners Court commitment we do not believe the Diabetes Hands On Program would have achieved the success that it has.

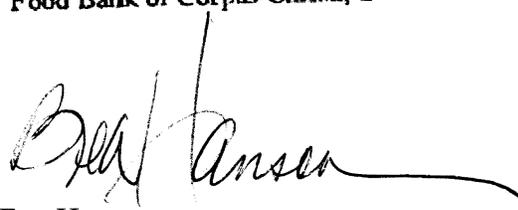
Though Bristol Myers commitment is sizeable, it does not cover all of the cost of the healthy food items and medical testing supplies due to the tremendous need in our community of people who have the dual disparity of diabetes and food insecurity. As such any grants by the Commissioners Court for the continued success of this data driven program are greatly appreciated. Thank you for making the significant effort to provide in-depth diabetes education to people in Nueces County.

Very Truly Yours



Joseph P. Fulton

Food Bank of Corpus Christi, Board of Directors



Bea Hanson

Executive Director

Food Bank Of Corpus Christi