

IT'S TIME TEXAS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Presented by 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact: Tracy Walker
IT'S TIME TEXAS
512-638-7761

Rio Grande Valley Sweeps Annual Health Challenge *Cities of McAllen and Harlingen Receive Distinguished Award*

(McAllen, TX) — The communities of McAllen and Harlingen, Texas, will be honored for winning the IT'S TIME TEXAS Community Challenge in their respective size categories. This growing statewide competition encourages communities of all sizes, including schools, businesses, organizations and mayors, to commit to healthy living and ultimately transform the community's health.

McAllen Mayor Jim Darling and the city of McAllen will be honored and recognized for winning the 2018 Community Challenge in the large community category, at a presentation at the McAllen City Hall on Monday, April 9, at 10:00AM. Participants and constituents are invited to attend and to celebrate the occasion. In addition to being honored for their efforts and initiatives to keep McAllen healthy, Mayor Darling will receive an \$1,800 grant on behalf of IT'S TIME TEXAS in contribution to a health-related project in the community.

The city of Harlingen will be honored and recognized for winning the 2018 Community Challenge in the mid-size community category on Wednesday, April 11, at 2:45PM at the Harlingen School of Health Professionals located at 2302 North 21st Street. The city of Harlingen's Mayor Chris Boswell will receive the winning trophy and a grant award of \$1,800 on behalf of IT'S TIME TEXAS to support a health-related project in McAllen. Mayor Boswell will be joined by key community champions who were instrumental in helping Harlingen clench the title, including; Valley Baptist Medical Center, Su Clinica, City of Los Fresnos, City of Harlingen Parks and Recreation, City of Harlingen Public Works, Healthy Harlingen, Harlingen CISD, Point Isabel ISD, and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD.

More than 14,481 healthy actions were taken by individuals within the McAllen and Harlingen communities, representing schools and school districts, mayors and municipalities, workplaces,

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and families. Actions included participation in Zumba classes, neighborhood family walks, training for a 5k, healthy potlucks, making healthy food choices, and consuming more water.

The Community Challenge is generously supported by H-E-B and the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). To receive assistance purchasing healthy foods, sign up for SNAP benefits at yourtexasbenefits.com.

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About IT'S TIME TEXAS:

IT'S TIME TEXAS, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Austin, is a statewide organization that believes Texas is best when Texans are healthier. It champions the movement for a healthier Texas by making healthy lifestyles more accessible for all Texans. Our programs and partnerships empower Texans to lead healthier lives, build healthier communities, and contribute to a healthier state. Simply put, they make healthy easier in the Lone Star State. Learn more at itstimetexas.org.

Award Presentations & Photo Opportunities

McAllen Award Presentation

DAY/DATE: Monday, April 9, 2018
TIME: 10:00AM
LOCATION: McAllen City Hall
[1300 W. Houston Ave. #220](#)

SCHEDULE:
10:00AM
Cindy Salazar-Collier
Rio Grande Valley Regional Manager, IT'S TIME TEXAS
Presentation of Cash Grant and Community Challenge
Trophy to Mayor Darling

Harlingen Award Presentation

DAY/DATE: Wednesday, April 11, 2018
TIME: 2:45pm
LOCATION: Harlingen School of Health Professions
[2302 North 21st Street](#)

SCHEDULE

2:45PM
Opening Remarks
Baker Harrell, PHD
CEO, IT'S TIME TEXAS
2:50PM
City of Harlingen Mayor-Chris Boswell
2:55PM
Harlingen CISD Superintendent- Dr. Arturo Cavazos
3:00PM
Sandra Flinn- Mayor's Health and Fitness Council Chair
Luis Solorio- Harlingen CISD Health and Wellness Coordinator