



Martha Castilla Board Member

Ms. Castilla is the youngest of seven siblings and the first of five generations of her family attending Edgewood schools. Ms. Castilla has lived, worshiped and worked in the Edgewood School District most of her life.

Ms. Castilla worked in the health field for 23 years as a Medical Business Manager for an OB/GYN Clinic before moving into Community Health Work.

She attended UTSA's nonprofit management program and became the founding executive director of the *Edgewood Family Network*. A non-profit founded by Ms. Castilla and five other Edgewood mothers and grandmothers to help families in Edgewood with Basic Needs, Health, High Education, Employment, Financial Literacy, and Home Ownership. These pathways were developed as six or more families seeking help in that area and committed to join forces to share their experience to help others. Soon she realized that in order to help meet the need and help all the families in Edgewood that were seeking assistance, a cadre of leaders needed to emerge. So, the simplest thing to do is ask those families helped to join the effort to help other families.

She developed the *Promotores De Buena Vida* model to prepare residents as servant leaders and developed a social movement to engage Edgewood Families in efforts to improve their lives and help others do the same. To formalize the model and develop a workforce, she and 35 women of Edgewood graduated from the Northwest Vista College Community Health Worker Program. She became a state certified trainer and has trained more than 700 women as promoters throughout San Antonio.

Ms. Castilla also co-founded *Heart for the Neighborhood*; faith-based, grassroots, non-profit, focused on visiting, feeding, and supporting isolated seniors in Edgewood. The weekly home visits, by volunteers, include delivery of food for the body, the mind, and the spirit. Women in Edgewood are also encouraged to practice their gifts of sewing, crocheting, and other crafts to sell at community events.

She also co-develops the *Promotores en Presencia Viva* for UTHSC. Where promoters from the family and community medicine department visit patients at home and are a big part of the care team.

Ms. Castilla is currently working at the Madonna Center starting a pilot program in partnership with the Health Collaborative. Growing Healthy Together is a holistic approach to family health with twenty pathways to resources and education. *Promotores* from ten agencies will be trained on the *Promotores de Corazon Model*.

Ms. Castilla's passion is to develop community through resident leadership, building positive trusting relationships, and bridging gaps between families and resources.

Her best compensation is seeing families going from *SURVIVING* to *THRIVING*.