

TEXAS BOYS RANCH

CIRCUIT RIDER



SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2017-2



BECAUSE OF YOU:

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Is That Normal?



There is a recent positive trend for children in foster care. It seems that the voices of many youth that have aged out of care have finally been heard. This new idea will make a substantial difference in the self-esteem and self-worth of children in foster care.

It's called NORMALCY.

That's right. The Department of Family and Protective Services has written minimum standards that require children to participate in normalizing activities in accordance with their age, needs, and maturity. It may seem silly that regulations had to be written in order to allow children and youth to be able to play, visit friends, and participate in sleepovers. Until now, child safety has been the focus of foster care regulations. Child safety is indeed absolutely essential, but not to the point that children and youth are denied experiences that support normal child development and greatly improve outcomes for youth aging out of the foster care system.

In truth, most private agencies have been providing NORMALCY for children for a very long time, and occasionally we have been criticized for our efforts, and even sued. But personally, I can't imagine what my childhood would have been like without the opportunity to hang out with my friends, to go inside a store without supervision, or to go fishing and hunting with my dad or older brothers.

All children crave the opportunity to take a

few risks: to dare to venture into the woods or to dive into a lake. TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO SUCCEED without a grownup always telling them what they can't do or eliminating every obstacle they might have to face. The possibility of failure is what makes adventure possible. Young people long for adventure. They desire time away from their parents and caregivers.

Nothing satisfies these goals like attending summer camp.

This time each year, we ask you to help us send our children and youth to camp and every year we share the amazing spiritual benefits that our children gain from attending a Christian camp. But here is the amazing part: the spiritual blessings, the Bible lessons, and moral truths are imbedded in ADVENTURE! Our children return to Texas Boys Ranch excited and motivated to know Christ better because they met Him in the normal experience of church camp disguised as FUN and ADVENTURE.

Now that I think about it, there is nothing normal about meeting Jesus. It is truly an extraordinary experience. I thank you for your commitment to help us support the spiritual development of the 200 or so children we will care for in 2017. And I thank God for each of you and your love for our children.

John Sigle

Foster Focus

A sweet childless couple with a strong desire for children came to us wanting to adopt. During their training, they met a sibling group of four. Although available for adoption, these youngsters had been in other placements that did not work out. The children were heart broken and grieved hard for their loss. This couple truly believed this sibling group was meant for them. Taking on four children all at once was a huge adjustment. The children tested limits and possessed some challenging behaviors. Handling everything with grace and love, this couple actively sought out services that met the needs of the children. Their love for the Lord and for their Christian family poured out into the hearts of their kiddos.

This couple has done a wonderful job of living out our mission of “sharing Jesus, healing hearts and transforming lives.” The children’s behavior has shown marked improvement over the past few months. They now feel safe and know that they will get to stay there forever. We are thrilled for this family as they will be able to adopt these children in May.

Campus Corner

Many of our kids come with major deficits and academic difficulties. The following story comes from a session between a Texas Boys Ranch tutor and two boys in the fourth grade. Brandon and Danny have been working diligently since last summer and have shown us what kind hearts they have.

On a Monday afternoon, the boys came into the tutoring session. Danny exclaimed, “Mrs. Debbie, we have a friend at school that is like us - he cannot read. He can only write ‘a’ and ‘b’ and then he doesn’t know where to go after that.”

Brandon said excitedly, “I helped him! We showed him how you taught us! We showed him the trick of using your hands to determine the difference between ‘b’ and ‘d’.” Their faces beamed as they shared how they were able to help someone in an area that they both knew too well!! And, the tutor’s face beamed as well. She felt a sense of accomplishment. “THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!!” When we impact the life of a child, we impact the lives of all those around them! That same day, both boys made a 100 on the spelling test given by their tutor.

Shelter Spotlight

Currently we are serving five teenagers at the shelter. When they leave the shelter, we are not sure where they will end up. We have an urgent need right now for foster homes for teens. These are awesome teens who deserve a loving home.

One young man in particular has made tremendous strides while at the shelter. He recently gave his life to Jesus. As a result, he has made a complete turnaround in school. He now has a job and is saving his money. His progress has thrilled us!

Unfortunately, not many people are willing to take a teenager into their home. Once youngsters reach the magical age of twelve, foster parents are much more difficult to find. Please continue to pray for our kids. Also, pray for people to open their homes and make a life-changing difference for these older girls and boys.



2017



Spring is in the air. The sun shines brighter and warmer with each passing day. Trees are budding. Flowers are blooming. Baseball and softball are in full swing. Only a few weeks remain until the last bell rings to declare, “School’s out!” That can only mean one thing:

SUMMER CAMP IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

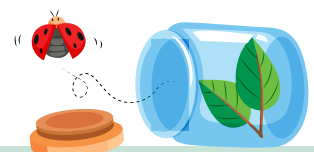


Last year we asked our girls and boys, “*What was your favorite thing about camp?*” A few answers quickly made their way to the top of the list.

Making new friends

Growing closer to God

Swimming every day





Others included:

Singing around the campfire

Making s'mores

Late night talks with my counselor

Arts and crafts

Camp can truly be one of the highlights of a youngster's summer. It offers a change of pace from the regular routine. Summer camp provides a change of scenery by allowing children to spend time out in God's natural creation. It enables our girls and boys to expand their environment, increase their circle of friends and encourage their spiritual walk with the Lord. In addition, camp is just plain fun!



Friend, would you make it possible for one of our girls or boys to enjoy a wonderful camp experience by paying a registration fee? Why not ask a friend to team up with you to send a child to camp? The average cost for one week of camp is \$175. The effects of a single camp session can last a lifetime! Thank you for offering this wonderful encounter to one or more of our children.



DIAPER DELUGE

In January, Texas Boys Ranch's Facebook page posted a simple request for diapers for little ones in our emergency children's shelter and in our foster homes. Lots of our friends liked and shared our post. What happened next continues to amaze us! Individuals brought diapers to the ranch. Lots of diapers! Folks asked if we could pick up diapers they had collected. Several businesses (The Arbor Inn & Suites, Helton Chiropractic, The Tailgate Sports Bar & Grill, and Junk & Farmers Market in Abernathy) offered to become drop-off locations for diapers. WesTex Federal Credit Union conducted a diaper drive and delivered a trailer load of diapers. Several other businesses and churches collected diapers as well. Our commissary was flooded with diapers!



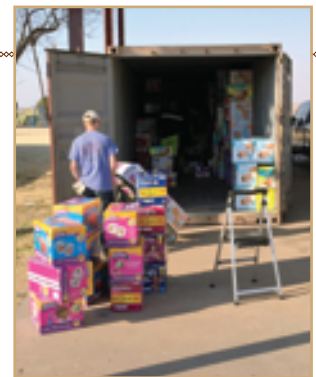
STORAGE SOLUTION

While picking up diapers from a business in Abernathy, our development team mentioned the issue of storage space due to the tremendous influx of diapers. The next day, Jeff Oswalt called asking what size sea crate we needed and what color we wanted it to be painted. He and his daughter, Taylor, talked to some generous friends and associates. With the help of Pharr RV, they raised the money. They negotiated a reduced price and arranged for a 40-foot container to be donated and delivered to Texas Boys Ranch.



VICTORIOUS VOLUNTEERS

As providence would have it, the sea crate was delivered the same week a group of students from Trinity Christian School engaged in their "Mission Week" at Texas Boys Ranch. Among other tasks, these students assembled shelves, hauled and stacked diapers in the storage container.



Thanks to all who donated diapers, money and time to help us meet an ongoing need for the youngest girls and boys in our care! We appreciate you!

MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

January 1, 2017-March 15, 2017

Memorial and Living Honor gifts are made to honor the memories of loved ones and friends. At the same time, they provide care for children who desperately need help. We are deeply grateful to the many people who show their affection and respect for the memories of loved ones in this very special way.

MEMORIALS

Adams, John Quincy

Wyndell Easterwood

Attebury, Buck

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Avery, Don

Ronnie and Sue Miller

Bearden, Joyce

Jet and Gay Wilmeth

Blair, Claude W.O.

Marie-France Respondek

Bollinger, Mary Johnson

Hurst Farm Supply, Inc.

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Rodney and Catharine Lloyd

Carl and Kaye Robertson

Brown, James

Gaylon and Coretta Kerr

Byrd, Larry

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Caraway, Carmen

Jerry and Martha Crawford

Carroll, Don

Don and Jackie Pendergrass

Criswell, Mae

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Crump, Larry

Carl and Kaye Robertson

Deavours, Jimmy

Roy W. and Joan Roberts

Duesterhaus, Ernest

Mark and Kim Green

Durrett, Geanie

Ronnie and Sue Miller

Gary, Patsy

Jerry and Martha Crawford

Gilbert, Kenny

Barbara McMurrian

Gross, Herlee

Waldo Gross

Hamilton, Ronnie

Larry and Dana Bryant

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Hill, Bill (Willie)

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Hill, Debbie

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Holdridge, Margaret Ann

National Association of Letter

Carriers Branch 2589

Hudlow, Earldine

Jim and Wanda Crownover

Hurt, Robbie Lee

Brady and Jenny Goen

James, J.D.

Bill and Kathryn Hayes

Johnson, Elvin

Johnny and Rhonda Fietz

Lester, Centeny

Jet and Gay Wilmeth

Logan, Billie W. Beasley

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Lorenz, Rodney

Ronnie and Sue Miller

Luck, Charles

Steve Craig

Scott Craig

McBeth, Carol

Donny and Terri Tucker

McMurry, Lana Jean

Bob and Charlotte Mize

Mimms, Don

Johnny and Rhonda Fietz

Nelson, Darrell

Barbara McMurrian

Newbold, Tom

Ted and Joyce Boyd

Nitcher, Wilma

Coach Don and Linda Black

Noble, Bob

Delwin and Ann Marrow

Peck, Martha

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Phelan, Gene

Jim and Wanda Crownover

Price, Bill

Charles and Betty Pevehouse

Price, Larry Don

Johnny and Rebecca Monk

Reid, Dan

Anne Smith

Rhea, Lou Ann

Barbara and David Harris,

Leroy and Regina

Rogers, C L

Ronnie and Sue Miller

Rychener, Bill

Glenda Rychener

Shewan, Evelyn

Gena Robinson

Simmons, Keribeth

Brent and Cathy Noble

Sims, Judy

Roy W. and Joan Roberts

Singleton, Eddie

Terry and Judy Millenbine

Sorrells, Sue

Kermit Sorrells

St. John, Bob

Jim and Wanda Crownover

Swaringen, Jeanette

Delwin and Ann Marrow

Paula Altman and Carla Brown

Donnie, Jeannie, and Dawson Marrow

Sykes, Deborah Douglas

Brent and Cathy Noble

Thomas, Rita

Johnny and Rhonda Fietz

Thomason, Bobby

Jackie and Jan McGaugh

Watkins, Gary

Gaylon and Coretta Kerr

Worley, Howard

Brady and Jenny Goen

HONORARIUMS

Bradshaw, Adam

Doug Hanson

Curtis, Hoyle

Vivian L Curtis

Kemp, Alton

Dustin Tisdale

Kemp, Denise

Dustin Tisdale

Madden, Robert & Rita

City Bank

Steele, James R. "Buzz"

City Bank

Texas Truck & Equipment

Sales & Salvage

City Bank

Tisdale, D'Ann

Dustin Tisdale

Warren, Steve

City Bank



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www.texasboysranch.org



HORSE SENSE

Kendra, one of our counselors and equine specialists, shared the following story, in which she recalls a recent session which touched her heart and helped a young man.

One powerful moment in the arena occurred last summer. A fourteen-year-old named Ricky was in the arena with several horses. The horses began “fighting” according to Ricky. He described the incident as one of the horses “picking” on the other horses. Dust flew as this horse kicked, pawed and bit the others.

We stood for a moment watching the horse “picking” on the others and the reactions of the horses being attacked. Ricky spoke up, “I am that horse that is bullying the others.” In that moment, Ricky experienced an interaction between the horses in which he was involved with his peers. He believed the other horses may have felt scared because of the bullying. We talked about how his actions with his peers might be affecting them.

Ricky did not understand his peer interactions until he witnessed the same among the horses in the arena. To this day, he continues to work on his interactions with peers as he strives to refrain from being the “bully”. He does not want to hurt others or make them feel scared. Ricky may never have experienced this breakthrough without the help of the horses.

Texas Boys Ranch uses various resources to heal the hurting hearts of our girls and boys. Our Equine Assisted Psychotherapy program is one of many tools utilized in this process. Ricky is one of many youngsters who have been blessed as a result of the TBR ministry of sharing Jesus, healing hearts and transforming lives. Your support is what enables us to meet the various needs of these children. Thank you.

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