

**TEXAS BOYS RANCH**

# **CIRCUIT RIDER**



SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2019-4



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## Grown Up Christmas List

As I'm writing this article, I feel blessed because we just wrapped up our Third Annual Texas Boys Ranch Prayer Walk. Three years ago, while going through a particularly difficult time, we asked faithful men and women to assemble at the Ranch to join us in a petition for God's blessing and comfort in the knowledge of His mighty support for this ministry. We were blessed then and have been humbly reminded again and again that there are still many godly men and women who love the Lord and the children we serve at TBR.

This week, the numerous prayers that petitioned God's favor for our children, staff, and volunteers somehow reminded me of one of my favorite Christmas songs. The song speaks to the hope and dreams for a sometimes uncaring and hopelessly hardened world. With this song in mind, I thought I would share my Christmas List for Texas Boys Ranch and children in foster care.

No more children being hurt physically, emotionally, or sexually by selfish and angry adults who should have loved and cared for them.

No more babies suffering traumatic brain injuries because a young mother didn't know how to soothe and comfort her crying infant or an angry boyfriend couldn't stand the crying one more minute.

No more young adults leaving foster care without a virtual guarantee of supportive and loving people in their lives to guide them through the obstacles they will face while on their own. I want a place for young adults to live where they can practice being on their own in a safe and supportive community where counselors

and advisors are available and where familiar faces connect with them regularly to offer encouragement and help when needed.

No more foster children or other youth who are victims of sex trafficking and human slavery. A place where help is just a phone call away. A place where help (not judgment) awaits the youth when they make that call.

No more opening the newspaper to find a photo of a former foster youth arrested for a serious crime.

No more children sleeping on the streets.

No more giving up on families who are trying their best to put their lives together so they can unite with their children again. No more abandoning these families after they are successful in achieving reunification, as if there is no longer any need for encouragement and support.

ONE DAY...No more need for Texas Boys Ranch or any other children's home.

But until that day, my prayer is that God will bless our ministry and empower us to be fearless in the face of evil. That He will continue to charge us with the responsibility to embrace our mission of Sharing Jesus, Healing Hearts, Transforming Lives

Until He calls us home.

John Sigle  
President

## FOSTER FOCUS



### ANGELA SKORICK

Foster Care & Adoption Program Director  
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It's that time again. The time of year where there are colorful lights everywhere, familiar songs being heard, shoppers busily filling their carts, lots and lots of yummy foods to eat, and many holiday movies to watch. It is generally a time that is perceived as exciting because we have an opportunity to get together with family members we may not have seen in a while.

Many of our children have a different perspective about the holidays. It is a time where they may not have had much to eat, Santa didn't come to their home, or they did not do something special with their family. We know this is a stressful time of year for our kiddos and we prepare for that. The biggest

challenge is that they just really want to be with their family.

It is unfortunate that we need to have foster homes, but the fact is we do. There are still many children that cannot live with their parents because of safety concerns. Loving Christian families are needed. There are still children being sent as far away as Corpus Christi because there were no places for them to go to in the Lubbock and Amarillo areas. If you have ever considered fostering, please give us a call. We would love to talk to you about it! Ask to speak to Karleigh Porterfield at 806-747-3187 or email her at [kporterfield@texasboysranch.org](mailto:kporterfield@texasboysranch.org).



## Campus Corner



**ROGER MAHAN, CAMPUS**  
Campus Program Director  
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'Tis the season! The air is full of anticipation as we near that time of year. Wishlists are made and the preparations are nearing completion. Excitement fills the air as it turns more crisp and brisk each day.

One of the most exciting times at TBR is Christmas time. In contrast to the Grinch whose heart had to grow three sizes, many people with hearts that have already grown 3 sizes are a blessing to our kids. The tremendous generosity also does the house parents' hearts good to see the smiles on the children's faces as they open numerous gifts with surprise that they would receive such amazing gifts.

The excitement and joyful anticipation is not always present with some of our kids. Particularly for older children who are jaded and question the goodness of those around them. They have been taught to be skeptical of everyone and everything. Several years ago, a young man in one of our cottages had thumbed his nose to the idea of Santa Claus and gifts. Despite numerous efforts of house parents to have him complete a wishlist, he resisted and insisted that it was pointless. To make sure this 16 year old young man did not miss out completely, his houseparents went ahead and completed a list without his knowledge. When the first Christmas party took place, children's names were called out by last name alphabetically. David's last name fell at the end of the alphabet and he sat to himself. Many of the kids were getting sports gear, toys, and were commenting on getting exactly what they wanted. Of course, David knew that he had not



requested anything and so he expected nothing.

Then it happened! One of our hosts called out his name, "David!" The young man slowly got up and made his way to the front of the gym to accept the gift. He politely said thank you all the while expecting something impersonal and cheap. Imagine his surprise when he opened the first box to find the brand name sweatpants and jacket in the color of his favorite basketball team! All David could say was, "I can't believe it! How did they know?" And, his house parents sat back and soaked in the fact that his faith in the genuine kindness of others was being restored.

## Shelter Spotlight



**KAYLEE HENDRIEX**  
Children's Shelter Program Director  
khendriex@texasboysranch.org



Imagine, having to spend Christmas with complete strangers, away from your parents. Imagine, spending Christmas with your siblings in a house full of other kids. This is what Christmas looks like for children in foster care. Foster care can be very difficult around the holidays. We were blessed to have a sibling group of four for Christmas a few years ago. This sibling group changed the hearts (for the better) of a lot of staff and made a lasting impression on everyone they met. They had bounced around in foster care for many years before they landed in their adoptive home. Calvin wrote a book about foster care and Christmas. This book talks about how he overcame a lot of obstacles and never lost his faith in God. Calvin and his siblings are kids we mention when we talk about success stories in foster care. Unfortunately, these stories are not the norm for foster care.

When the shelter received a placement request for these kids, all we received was a paragraph about them. I would be lying if I told you they seemed like good kids. We talked about them at one of our staff meetings, and not everyone was excited about taking them in. We took a chance on them, which was the



best thing we could have ever done. They were nothing like what we read, and they thrived at the shelter.

This is what we do at the shelter. We take a chance with every child we serve. God puts people in your life when you need them the most and I truly feel like he had his hand in this placement. These kids got to experience every part of the Texas Boys Ranch. After they left the shelter, they lived at the campus program and then transitioned to an adoptive home through the ranch.

This book is a must-read and I feel like it should be read in every home this Christmas. You can find it on Amazon, iTunes, and at Barnes and Noble.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

The shelter is always looking for things to do for Christmas break. Gift cards for movies, various entertainment & amusement venues, and eating establishments make fantastic gifts!



# 'ROUND THE RANCH



Critter Fest



Getting Ready for the Parade of the Horse



Joyland



TTU Game Day Fun



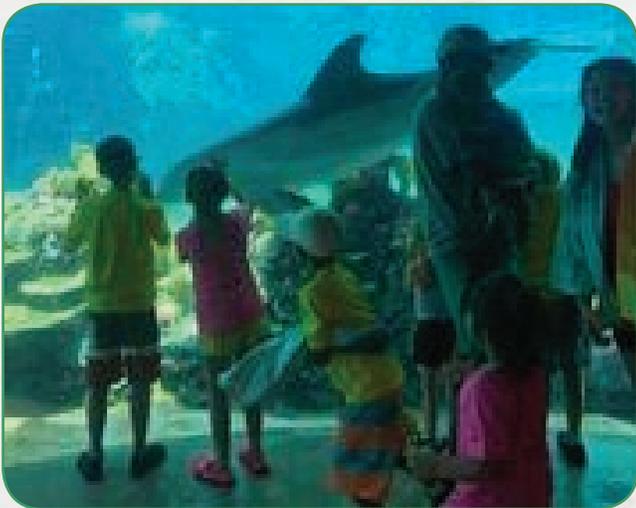
US and TX flag donation from Jerry Dennis



Hot Air Balloon



Helpinh Hands



Shelter Vacation

# 'ROUND THE RANCH

# Unopened Gift

Chaotic. There is no more appropriate word that could accurately describe the excitement of that Christmas morning in a Texas Boys Ranch cottage a few years back.

Ricky woke up first. His houseparents had told everyone in the cottage to stay in their rooms until everyone was awake so they could all discover what Santa left under the tree at the same time. Ricky slowly opened the bedroom door and peeked through the crack to see an abundance of presents scattered in piles throughout the living room.

“Hey Barry!” he shouted, shaking his roommate. “Wake up! Santa came and we need to wake everyone up so we can see what he brought.”

For once, it didn’t take long for Barry to sit straight up in bed and jump to his feet. He ran to the door, opened the door and yelled, “Everyone wake up! Santa was here!”

Every door soon opened and the houseparents gave the “all clear” for the youngsters to leave their rooms.

Each child raced to his or her pile of gifts, marked by a Christmas stocking donning his or her name in glitter. The room was filled with sounds of surprise, excitement, and joyful gratitude as they tossed wrapping paper, opened packages, and examined their new treasures.

Eventually, things settled down as children transported the new possessions to their rooms and started playing. The day continued with a delicious holiday meal, outdoor and indoor play, as well as a few scrapes and squabbles. As the day came to an end, the houseparents, as usual, went to each room to say bedtime prayers.

As they entered Ricky’s room, they noticed on the dresser a box wrapped in shiny red paper with a homemade silver bow. The nametag read, “To Mom, From Ricky.” “I was going to give it to her at our family visit day before yesterday,” Ricky said, unable to hold back his tears, “but she



# Its

didn't show up." He buried his head in his house mom's shoulder. "And she didn't even call today."

"I'm so sorry, Ricky," she sympathized. "I know that breaks your heart. You can give it to her at your next visit." He nodded. She held him until he fell asleep in her arms.

Most of us have experienced the heartache of not receiving what we wrote on our wish list. Some have also felt the sting of not getting a gift at all. Each of these hurts deeply.

Even more devastating than not receiving a present is making a personal sacrifice to purchase a gift for a loved one, only to view it on the shelf - unopened and unappreciated - because of a lack of concern on the recipient's part. Just ask Ricky.

Texas Boys Ranch exists because of generous, sacrificial donors like you. We want you to know that your gifts to this vitally important ministry will definitely be opened, used, and appreciated!





# Stepping UP



## LEA ANN LUST

Director of Planned Giving  
[llust@tbrfoundation.org](mailto:llust@tbrfoundation.org)

As a child growing up, I loved going to my grandmother's house, especially at Christmas. Her house was decorated with the best Christmas tree and there were always presents wrapped under the tree for each of her grandkids. She had so many interesting things in her home and nothing was off limits at Grandma's House. Except—the bag on the kitchen counter. One rule she had was that we were to never throw away the plastic bag on her counter.

You see, she had this bag in the kitchen that had this goopy stuff in it. It seemed worthless and in need of disposal. In reality, it was the beginning of something fantastic. It was starter bread. At our house, we called it Amish Bread. Every day, she put flour in it, or kneaded it and it grew. Over time, it was ready to be used to make the most delicious bread.

It started out insignificant, barely worth paying

attention to. But, over time, with some attention and a little love, it grew into something that was not only useful, but remarkable.

The Texas Boys Ranch Foundation endowment is very similar. What seems like a small investment from you is placed with other gifts and it grows over time. Each year our endowment draws interest and in turn that is given back to Texas Boys Ranch to use at their discretion in their general budget.

Through Texas Boys Ranch Foundation, there are multiple options available to our partners. Contributions through cash, stocks, real estate or other assets make a significant impact in the lives of the children at Texas Boys Ranch.

We would love the opportunity to discuss a year end gift with you, a gift that will keep on giving for years and years to come. You can reach out to Eric Creel at [ecreel@tbrfoundation.org](mailto:ecreel@tbrfoundation.org), or Lea Ann Lust at [llust@tbrfoundation.org](mailto:llust@tbrfoundation.org) or by phone at 806-749-1103.

Texas Boys Ranch Foundation—the Gift that Keeps on Giving!

# A Season of Hope



**ERIC CREEL**

Christmas is the story of God's perfect intervention into our time of need. Humanity was lost without hope, and Jesus stepped into our struggle and walked with us as he provided the salvation we desperately needed.

The staff at Texas Boys Ranch seeks to love the children we serve like Christ has loved us. During the Christmas season, we have the joy of encouraging our kids with the story of Jesus' birth, and the peace that can come with a safe and loving family environment. We care for our kids every day of the year, but during the Holiday season, we get to share the hope that only Christ Jesus can provide.

We begin with a season of Thanksgiving for all that God has provided us. Gratitude is often difficult for our kids at first, because they have often experienced things that make it difficult to be thankful, even for the blessings we have. Others, however, see full well how blessed they are to be in a good home, and express their gratitude freely to everyone who will listen. We try to model the act of thanksgiving so that we can encourage every child we serve. When we share our joy and appreciation for life, it can be the encouragement that a hurting child needs.



Our joy is doubled and our hope is full as we enter the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. No other time in the year is filled with such hope. Songs of celebration and love are around every corner, and we let ourselves hope for a brighter future because of the wondrous gift of Christmas.

Christmas Eve, Christmas Morning, and a few too many pieces of pie will come and go, and this season will come to a close once more. But the New Year offers us another glimpse of the hope that we try to provide the children we serve. With the dawn of a new year, we get to encourage each child to dream big again, to hope again, and to let themselves love and be loved again.

# TEXAS BOYS RANCH 44TH ANNUAL TELETHON

Texas Boys Ranch is continually blessed by the Lubbock community! The 44th Annual Telethon was a huge success and serves as an example of how generous and loving you are! Your donations make it possible for us to take care of these children who so desperately need our help. Every gift from each individual and business is extremely important. We express our appreciation to all donors, public and private. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Our corporate Sponsors include:

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Simpatico  
Joe and Tracye Stettheimer  
Texas Boys Ranch Foundation



# PRAYER

# walk

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Boys Ranch Prayer Walk took place on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> with representatives from churches in and around Lubbock gathered to pray over the programs and work carried out at the Ranch. A prayer was also offered for our nation and for our community at large. The prayer walk was held in conjunction with clergy appreciation day and the members of the clergy who were present were treated to lunch following the walk. We feel truly blessed and we would like to thank all those in attendance for showing your support and offering prayers on behalf of Texas Boys Ranch, our staff, and the children we serve.



# MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

June 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019

Memorial and Living Honor gifts are made to honor loved ones and friends, while also providing care for children who desperately need help. We are deeply grateful to the many people who show their affection and respect for their loved ones in this very special way.

## Honorariums

### **Derek Pirtle**

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### **Jay Hurst**

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### **Jennifer Piel**

Floyd & Susan Pirtle

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Jerry Dennis

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## **CIRCUIT RIDER**

2019-4

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The Texas Boys Ranch does not discriminate on the basis of color, age, religion, national origin or disabled condition. Funding for the care of the children is provided by the generosity of individuals, churches, businesses, foundations, and reimbursement by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for services rendered to children.

[www.texasboysranch.org](http://www.texasboysranch.org)



**H**appiness should always describe the Christmas season.  
**O**pportunities abound for you to make a child's day.  
**L**ove and generosity are motivating reasons  
**I**nviting you to shine His blessed light along the way.  
**D**ecide today what you will do to help our girls and boys.  
**A**nticipate the needs and the resources you'll supply.  
**Y**earn to meet our mission, and together we'll rejoice,  
**S**haring Jesus. Healing Hearts. Transforming Lives.

**Merry  
Christmas!**  
*and Happy New Year*

**From the staff and children at Texas Boys Ranch**