

**TEXAS BOYS RANCH**

# **CIRCUIT RIDER**



SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2019-1



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# HERE AM I

Many of you know that I had a 22-year career in the Air Force before God decided I was ready to serve Him in the ministry of caring for children who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect. We set up home in many different places, and I went TDY (temporary duty assignment) to even more places. One of the first things my family and I did when we arrived at each new location was to find a new church home. We made our selection based on the same qualities you probably looked for when you found your church home: Are the members friendly? Do we agree with the teaching? Is it big enough? Is it small enough?

As I have matured as a Christian, I realize that only one question needs an answer: Is God Here? And if He is, how can I tell? Fortunately, I have a very wise wife. Her question cut to the chase very quickly. She simply asked, “How are they serving those in need?” Her question wasn’t just about the church budget, but also the individual members. We have learned that God is present where members and the church leadership are committed to God, its members, and to those in need. That is why I love my church home.

At the beginning of each year we try to raise the funds needed to cover our grocery budget for the year. In truth, we never even come close (probably because everyone is still recovering

from Christmas spending and credit card shock). Nevertheless, the need doesn’t go away and so we appeal to our faithful friends to help.

During a recent sermon, I was reminded of a passage in Isaiah. This scripture offers both an encouragement and a blessing.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

*Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

*Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say:*

**Here am I.**

Isaiah 58:6-9

Happy New Year!

John Sigle  
President

## FOSTER FOCUS



**ANGELA SKORICK**  
Foster Care & Adoption  
Program Director  
askorick@texasboysranch.org

As a new year begins, I would like to encourage every reader to consider, in one way or another, supporting and promoting foster care and adoption. One handout we use to get the word out about our program touches on several things a couple should ponder. The text from that brochure is included below. Please read and share with any and all who may be interested in any way in foster care and/or adoption.

### FEEL THE TUG

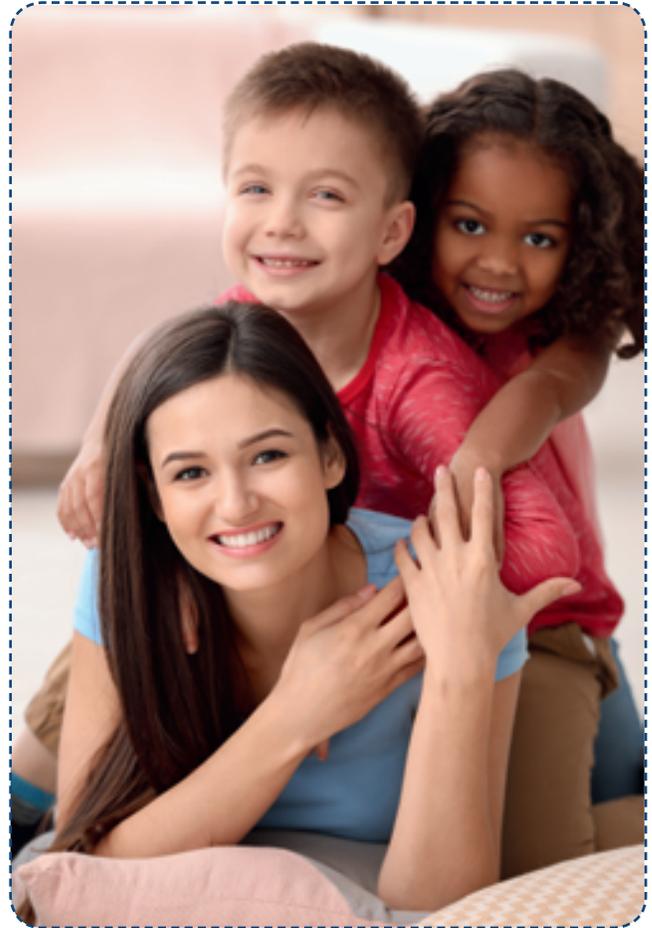
Every little girl is entitled to know that she is cherished, loved and safe from harm. Every little boy has a right to the certainty of a full tummy, warm clothes and a comfortable bed. Every single child deserves to know about the amazing love of God and the grace that is freely given through His Son.

### EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

Explore the opportunities of becoming a foster or adoptive parent through Texas Boys Ranch. Our staff will assist you and answer any questions you may have. Feel free to call, schedule a visit or explore our website for more information.

### MEET THE NEED

A recent statistic showed more than 750 children in the foster care system—just in Lubbock County. Over 450 await adoption in the Texas Panhandle. While the numbers may fluctuate, the need remains constant. These children deserve a compassionate family.



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ordinary families make the best foster and adoptive families. Not only will you make a difference in a child's life, you will be forever changed in ways you can only imagine.

### BEGIN THE ADVENTURE

The greatest journey begins with one step. Take a deep breath, say a quick prayer and make that call, view that website and complete that application. You and some sweet child will be glad you did.

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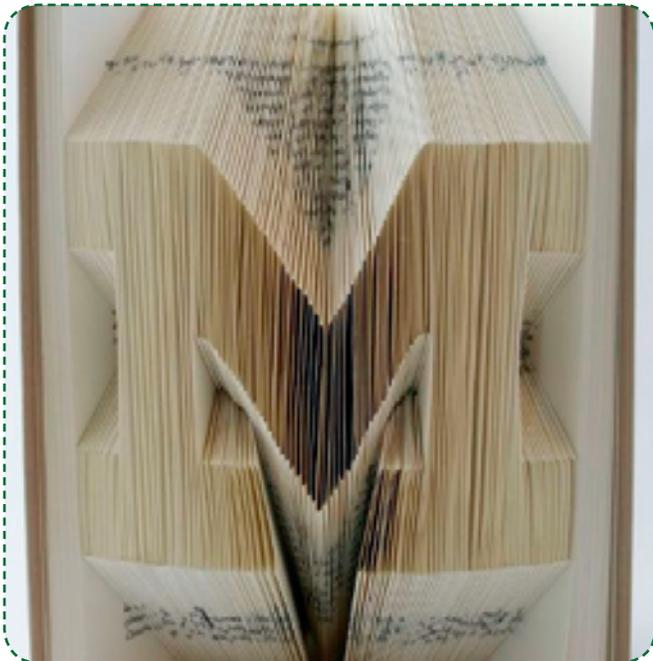
## Campus Corner



**ROGER MAHAN, CAMPUS**  
Campus Program Director  
rmahan@texasboysranch.org

The resiliency of children is AMAZING! We see kids from tremendous difficulty and hardship struggling with the idea of separation from mom and dad during the holidays. We see children blessed beyond measure by house parents and staff who pour countless hours into ministering to their broken spirits and feelings of hopelessness. Yet, we also see the children's grit and strength shine in generosity, despite the great adversity they have experienced.

Christmas is a time for children to laugh, play, receive gifts, and dream of sugar plums dancing in their heads. This year was no different as children prepared for Santa and created their wish lists. In one of the cottages



Book Art

the children gathered at the kitchen table with their house mom, Rachel, discussing various types of art they might enjoy. Recently, some of the kids had been turned on to the idea of book art, so they began discussing what letter they would like their personal book art to contain. As the conversation progressed, Mary looked at her house mom and asked what letter she might like. Rachel said, "Well, I guess I would like the letter 'R' for Rachel." Mary looked perplexed and said, "I thought maybe I could ask for the letter 'M' for you." Rachel immediately thought that sweet little Mary wanted to give her book art to be remembered by. Rachel prompted Mary for an explanation saying, "but my name is Rachel. Why would I want the letter 'M'? Is that for Mary?" Mary quickly responded, "NO! Not for Mary. I thought you might like 'M' for mom." Rachel's heart overflowed with emotion as she mumbled an excuse to leave the room so she could dry her tears.

While Mary could have easily gotten caught up in the spirit of receiving gifts, she took the time to consider what someone else might like. In doing so, she bestowed a momentous honor on Rachel. It is no little thing for a child to give the distinction of "mom" to one of our house moms. It is a role that many times is not recognized, but when it does happen it reminds us why we serve these children. In the absence of healthy, nurturing figures children need adults who will invest in them. They need someone to hold them and cry with them when their hearts are breaking. Each one of them needs adults like our house parents who will Share Jesus, and work to help Heal his/her heart as he/she moves to a Transformed life.

## Shelter Spotlight



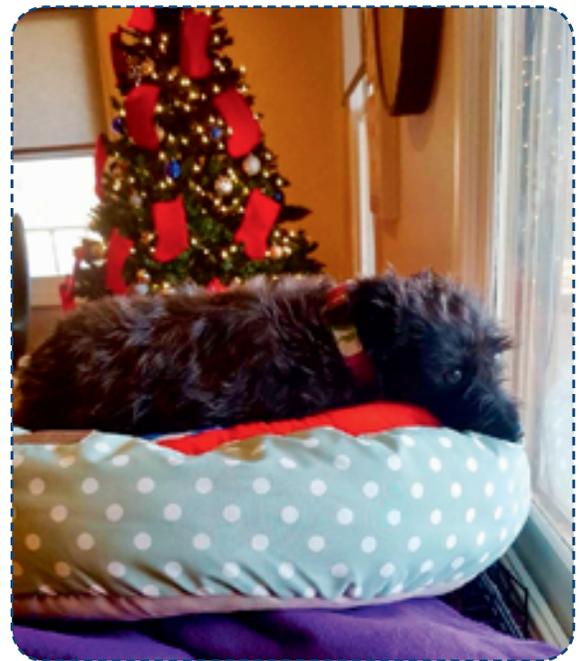
### KAYLEE HENDRIEX

Children's Shelter Program Director  
khendriex@texasboysranch.org

The holiday season is supposed to be a fun time of year for children. What if you never had a Christmas? What if Santa never came to your house on Christmas Eve? Unfortunately, this is a sad reality for a number of kids at our shelter. We get girls and boys around this time every year who do not understand our excitement about Christmas. We work diligently to provide them a place where they feel safe and can begin healing. We also hope their caregivers do what they need to do in order for them to be reunited with their children and become a family again. I pray that we are able to shine some light into the lives of these kiddos while they are with us. I also hope we are able to show them who Jesus is and why He is the reason for the season.

This year at the shelter we have assisted almost 100 youngsters. We have served both boys and girls of all ages. We need your help this year to replace all of the bedding and towels at the shelter. It would be amazing to start off the New Year with new stuff for our kids! We also need things for our shelter dog, Bella. She eats Beneful food and loves toys. She is a key part of our team and makes this house feel like a home.

May this year be one of peace, joy, and blessing for you and for the girls and boys in our care at Texas Boys Ranch.



Shelter Dog, Bella

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**We get girls and boys around this time every year who do not understand our excitement about Christmas. We work diligently to provide them a place where they feel safe and can begin healing.**

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*We could not serve these children without you!*

# 'ROUND THE RANCH



TBR Angel Tree on display



Bethany Baptist donates gifts for our children



Overton Hotel's Gingerbread display



Overton Hotel treats TBR kiddos to special evening



Overton Hotel treats TBR kiddos to special evening



Ask...Seek...Knock...

# 'ROUND THE RANCH



Online voters came through to make TBR first in category and overall top vote-getter in City Bank Community Rewards giveaway



Sister Prayer Warriors - Prayer Walk



TBR prayer walk



Thanks to churches that donated coats for our kiddos (Redbud Baptist, The Springs Fellowship, St Michael's in Levelland, Wilbarger Church of Christ in Vernon and Cumberland Presbyterian)



People's Bank donates on Giving Tuesday



# Que



**F**our-year-old Sissy spent a lot of time playing with the new kitchen set she got for Christmas. It had all the conveniences of a real kitchen – stovetop, oven, microwave, refrigerator and sink. She made sure every pot, pan, and plate was in its rightful place. If she believed anyone was reaching for the plastic food without her permission, she raised her hand to the ready-to-swat position and voiced a stern warning. “Better not!” The other children knew she was serious and backed off until she invited them to partake of her pretend feast.

On the surface, Sissy’s behavior may appear to be typical for a four-year-old. And to a large degree, it is. However, in this case, Sissy was definitely serious about guarding her dietary kingdom. Before coming to the Texas Boys Ranch children’s shelter, the youngster often suffered hunger pains. It’s not that she was being punished by having food withheld, but because providing food was not a priority for



# en OF THE KITCHEN

her parents. They were so caught up in their own world that they ignored hers. That is why she was brought to the shelter.

It took a few weeks for Sissy to understand that she would always have plenty of delicious, healthy food to eat at the shelter. She certainly makes the most of it! With this assurance Sissy appears healthier, seems much happier, and has a lot more energy.

The shelter houses sixteen girls and boys, and each cottage on the main campus has eight children. That's forty-eight mouths to feed! If you think about it, feeding forty-eight children each day can be quite a challenge! There's the daily menu planning, food preparation, the cooking and cleaning. Believe it or not, some children are picky eaters. A few have food allergies. Wow!

The reality is, feeding our kiddos represents only a fraction of the many services we provide our children in care. Still, it is an essential part

of maintaining their overall health and well-being. When friends of Texas Boys Ranch make a donation, you make sure the needs of these girls and boys are met. We appreciate you for that. So does Sissy!



**THE SHELTER HOUSES SIXTEEN GIRLS AND BOYS, AND EACH COTTAGE ON THE MAIN CAMPUS HAS EIGHT CHILDREN. THAT'S FORTY-EIGHT MOUTHS TO FEED! IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, FEEDING FORTY-EIGHT CHILDREN EACH DAY CAN BE QUITE A CHALLENGE!**

**WHEN FRIENDS OF TEXAS BOYS RANCH MAKE A DONATION, YOU MAKE SURE THE NEEDS OF THESE GIRLS AND BOYS ARE MET.**

## REFLECTING ON LEGACY



**BY ERIC CREEL**

We've recently come through a season of celebrations, gift-giving, feasting with family and friends, and lots of football. Perhaps we've also spent some time reflecting. Reflecting on life, on values, on priorities. Counting our blessings and naming them one by one.

I recently received a great blessing from a conversation with a friend of The Texas Boys Ranch Foundation, who is a champion of children. He and his wife are in their sunset years and have been making the appropriate arrangements for this stage of life. This couple thinks so highly of the mission of Texas Boys Ranch and The Texas Boys Ranch Foundation that they have invited us to be a part of this very personal process.

In reflecting on what matters in life, on the real value of accumulating things here, and what his life will have meant once he's gone, this friend talked about legacy. He wants to know that he can leave something of lasting value long after he has moved on to his next home. He decided to include

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**... do more for them than just give them stuff.**

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both Texas Boys Ranch and The Foundation in his estate planning. Of course, he wants to bless his children, all grown up with children of their own, with some of their assets. But he wants to do more for them than just give them stuff. He wants to provide a reminder to his children of what is important to him. A legacy. And by so doing, encourage his children and grandchildren to continue the good work he and his wife began so many years before.

We worked out a plan that will create legacy on multiple levels. It looks like this: Upon their passing, the couple's assets will be placed in a trust which will make a sizeable payment to their children for a set number of years. At the end of that period, the remainder of the trust assets will go to The Foundation's permanent endowment. This type of arrangement will bless the couple's family financially but, even more importantly, remind them each year of what was most important to their parents: caring for the most vulnerable in our society in the name of Jesus.

By naming The Foundation as beneficiary of the remainder, they are ensuring that for years to come, wounded boys and girls will receive the healing they desperately need. As long as there is a need to "share Jesus, heal hearts and transform lives," there will be funds to make it happen.

Would you like to explore opportunities to create a similar legacy for your family and make a significant impact on the mission of Texas Boys Ranch? We're here to help! Drop us a line at The Texas Boys Ranch Foundation and we'll be happy to visit with you about this or other types of gift arrangements.

*You can reach Eric at the Texas Boys Ranch Foundation office at [ecreel@tbrfoundation.org](mailto:ecreel@tbrfoundation.org), or by phone at 806-749-1103.*



**JEREMY WALKER**

Director of Education,  
Recreation & Spiritual  
Development

[jwalker@texasboysranch.org](mailto:jwalker@texasboysranch.org)

If we're honest, most of us would agree that we are, by this point in our lives, the product of our own choices. Not to say that we have not been influenced by our parents or the world around us, but simply to say that we take responsibility for the decisions that dictate both our orientation and trajectory. Many of us have made intentional decisions about where we live, where we work, where we go to church, and where we spend our time off. We have made intentional decisions about those with whom we will spend our time, and those to whom we hope to impart wisdom.

A great deal has been said recently about the failure of our youngest generation to take responsibility for their decisions and, though many of us would agree that more needs to be done to help kids understand the consequences of their choices, we must also be ready to recognize how the decisions of some affect others. It is imperative that we understand that Texas Boys Ranch serves a population who is every bit the product of other people's decisions.

- These kids didn't choose to be neglected or abused. Someone else made the decision.
- These kids didn't choose to be removed from their home. Someone else made that decision.

- These kids didn't choose to come to Texas Boys Ranch. Someone else made that decision.
- And even though these kids long to be cherished, nurtured, and loved, that is not a decision that they can make either.

The decision to care for these children is one that we all must make each and every day. The daily needs of the children at Texas Boys Ranch extend so far beyond basic physical care that it is difficult to describe. For many of our kids, the world they experienced prior to coming to Texas Boys Ranch taught them that adults can't be trusted, because they only do what they do to get something out of it. Sure adults may say or do the right thing, but it is only because they have some ulterior motive.

One focus we have in our Education, Recreation, and Spiritual Development program is to engage our children in a way that helps them understand that we care, and that our reward will likely not be seen on earth. We discuss our decisions with the kids so that they understand why our program looks like it does, we openly share the goals of the program so kiddos know what we want out of each event, and we acknowledge times when we fall short of our goals so the girls and boys know that we, too, are held accountable for our actions.

We believe that the more people that participate in this program, the more times our youngsters get to meet adults who care for them as much as we do. Please join us as we pursue the best for our girls and boys in 2019.

# FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUNDS\$



As a non-profit organization, Texas Boys Ranch continually searches for ways to raise awareness of our ministry to girls and boys who have suffered trauma. We truly value the support we receive from local and area communities. As a faith-based, Christ-centered body, an increasing number of churches are partnering with Texas Boys Ranch to serve these children by meeting their physical, social, academic, emotional, and spiritual needs.

These churches assist in a variety of ways, depending on their talents, interests, and resources. Some volunteer to cook meals, spend time with the children, do yard work, paint, clean, organize, help with homework, etc. Others conduct Bible studies and devotionals, or pray for and with our kiddos and staff. Quite a few conduct drives for our commissary, collecting items such as laundry detergent, toilet paper, personal hygiene items, or canned goods. A number of congregations help financially by including us in their church budgets, taking up

special offerings, or participating in one of our giving campaigns (i.e. Give Me Five, Give It Up for the Kids, or Dollar-a-Day).

Last Spring, The Message church in Lubbock worked with Michael Nudelman (TBR Donor Relations Officer) to combine food and fellowship to raise funds for Texas Boys Ranch. The church provided the meat and Michael used the TBR smoker to cook brisket and pulled pork. On the designated Sunday, the church had dinner-on-the-grounds. Members had invited neighbors and friends to attend a special service. A donation box (or boot) was set out and folks were encouraged to put in money for the meal, with all proceeds going to benefit Texas Boys Ranch. This resulted in a gift totaling more than \$1700. What a great way to combine food and fellowship to raise funds for a worthy cause!

Are you interested in doing something similar with your church or organization to benefit Texas Boys Ranch? Contact Michael at [mnudelman@texasboysranch.org](mailto:mnudelman@texasboysranch.org) or call (806)778-4328.

***We truly value the support we receive from local and area communities.***

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# Passé Profile



**CHRIS ARMSTRONG**

Chris Armstrong is a tried-and-true Lubbock native. His parents and most of his family are locals. Even though his sister lives in California, the family is close-knit and Chris sees her often. Coming from a tight, Christian family unit is one reason Chris enjoys

helping children who are not as fortunate. He has worked as a case manager for Texas Boys Ranch for nearly nine years. In fact, he describes the entity as “a great organization that provides excellence in childcare.” When asked what brought him to the ranch, he stated “I was impressed by the atmosphere of a smaller organization and the investment that the employees put into caring for the children.”

Part of Chris’ duties involve communicating with various people that are involved with the children in some way. These people include house parents, Children’s Protective Services staff, CASA volunteers, school personnel, etc. He also develops a plan for each child in order to make sure that the individual child’s needs are met. He enjoys working with people who are committed to providing quality childcare. His favorite part of his work is “seeing the changes in kids as they grow and learn at Texas Boys Ranch,” which he describes as “priceless.”

One transformation story Chris shared

involved a young man who had some major behavioral issues. He left the ranch to receive some specialized treatment. When that treatment was complete, “he returned to the ranch transformed” and was eventually adopted as a teenager. “He keeps in touch with the ranch and has a good job, a wife, and a child.” These are the cases that help you make it through the tough days. And in this line of work, there are tough days! “Everyone wants to be 100% successful. Sometimes it does not work out that way and you feel that you have failed. Every case is different and unique...you get different challenges on a daily basis.”

According to Chris, three things children need most are love, hope, and a feeling of safety. Texas Boys Ranch strives to provide these things by employing compassionate and dedicated people like Chris. He said “I’ve been blessed to work here for many years. The experiences I have had and the relationships I have developed with kids and coworkers are a gift.”

When asked what he would tell folks who expressed an interest in working at Texas Boys Ranch, in fostering a child, or in adopting children, Chris answered, “I would say ‘Go for it!’ There are so many kids that need a great home and need good role models. We need good people at the ranch. You may just be the one person that can make them have a successful life.”

For additional information about Texas Boys Ranch, call (806)747-3187 or email us at [info@texasboysranch.org](mailto:info@texasboysranch.org).



# Angels AMONG US

They occur all year long at Texas Boys Ranch, but angel-sightings seem to appear more numerous between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Maybe the holidays open our eyes and help us pay a bit more attention to such things. Sometimes these angels work solo. At other times they work in pairs. We have even seen entire hosts of angels descend on the TBR campus at one time! These special messengers do not serve in order to be noticed. Most of their work is done behind-the-scenes in anonymity. Their acts may seem insignificant to some, but definitely not to the children and staff at Texas Boys Ranch!

We want to mention a few of the more recent “sightings” that have blessed us tremendously. These examples are a small representation of the unselfish generosity of service and love poured out upon this ministry of caring for children.

- City Bank blessed TBR through their Community Rewards program to the tune of \$7000 in December. These folks were assisted by countless angels who voted in droves to make Texas Boys Ranch the top vote-getter in category and overall.
- Overton Hotel & Conference Center once again provided a unique Gingerbread display and several other special holiday events which results in tremendous PR exposure and financial donations to TBR.
- The children’s ministry of Holy Spirit Catholic Church increased their collection of canned goods for the third year in a row. This helped fill the shelves in our commissary.
- An individual donor read in our monthly e-newsletter that we needed \$900 to replace a milk cooler that had quit working. He called that day to make a donation that paid for a replacement cooler.
- A couple called the office and scheduled a tour of the main campus. They asked a lot of questions regarding the needs of our children, TBR programs, our priorities, etc. They returned the day after the tour, visited with John Sigle, and made a generous donation. Their compassionate hearts led them to take action that will make a lasting difference in the lives of our children.

Thank you to each of these angels, and to the numerous hosts of special messengers who make it possible for Texas Boys Ranch to serve more than 200 girls and boys each year. You truly are angels in our eyes!



# MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

October 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

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.

## HONORS

### **Billy Brandon Brock**

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Pittman

### **Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Culp**

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Teeter

### **Dr. Mark Glover & Valerie Stewart Wedding**

Rob Levy

### **Chief Jack Gullede**

Anthony Tomaino

### **Burns and Ginalu Hamilton**

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Teeter

### **Sandra and Bob Hammitt**

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Armstrong

### **Johnathan, Emily, Rebekah, & Jaxon Howell**

Keith Gray

### **Randall and Jo Lain**

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### **Cecil and Diane Rucker**

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### **John and Faye Sigle**

Darleen Jones West

### **Jerrell & Donna Snodgrass**

LeeAnn Evans

### **South Plains Electric Cooperative**

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative

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## MEMORIALS

### **Claude Addison**

Phyllis Addison

### **Sue Allen**

Fullingim Agency

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Mr. and Mrs. Donny Tucker

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Joe Amburn

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Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hopper

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Keith Gray

### **David Hughes**

Bud Farr

### **James Isom**

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Idalou Church of Christ

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### **Waymon Jones**

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie McGaugh

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### **Pat Lowrey**

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Talluah Luck

Retha Mason

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### **Charlotte McLaughlin**

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Steve Nix

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Phyrne O'Day

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Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilmeth

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Mr. and Mrs. Gary Jones

### **Fred Robertson**

Janet Schoppa

### **Ray Robertson**

Anna Robertson and family

### **A.B. Simpson**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts

### **Sue Sorrells**

Kermit Sorrells

### **Maria Suniga**

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Slentz

### **Cary Stennett**

Idalou Church of Christ

### **Larry Stephenson**

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Myatt

### **Doyce Waddell**

Kristie Bland

### **Frank Ward**

Bud Farr

### **Nan Warren**

Beverly St. Clair

### **Curtis Williams**

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Didway

### **Joyce Willis**

Rebekah Willis

### **Margie Willman**

Plainview Monday Night Dance Club

### **Ralph Wilson**

Idalou Church of Christ

Carlton Ash

### **Sammy Yates**

Brenda Robertson

### **Phyllis Yeager**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts

## CIRCUIT RIDER

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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)

A photograph of three children wearing cowboy hats, sitting in a hay wagon. The child on the left is a girl with a blue scarf, the middle is a girl in a pink jacket, and the right is a younger child with a red scarf. They are all looking towards the camera.

# A MINISTRY OF *Caring*

Texas Boys Ranch is in the process of becoming nationally accredited through an international organization called the Council on Accreditation (COA). As part of the process, a team of board members, staff, and volunteers helped clarify the core values that guide the mission and ministry of Texas Boys Ranch. The word C.A.R.E. represents the first letter of each of our core values. We are excited to announce our core values. These values will guide our mission and ministry as we embrace a CARE-filled mission in the lives of children who haven't experienced much caring.

## **CHRIST-CENTERED**

All staff are expected to treat one another, and the children and families served as though they are serving Christ. The Texas Boys Ranch leadership, including its Board of Directors, President, and Supervisors are expected to lead the organization with a moral compass firmly pointing toward God and His divine message of faith, hope, and love.

## **ADVOCACY DRIVEN**

At Texas Boys Ranch we seek to recruit, employ, and train relentless advocates for children and families. Advocacy demands a consistent voice and determined action to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone served through all the programs of Texas Boys Ranch. In addition, Texas Boys Ranch is committed to advocate for children traumatized by abuse and neglect throughout our communities and the state.

## **RELATIONSHIP FOCUSED**

All employees are expected to connect with children and their families within positive nurturing relationships. In addition, all staff are challenged to seek and nurture positive relationships with one another in order to function as a united team.

## **EMPATHY LED**

Compassion is the catalyst for action for everyone at Texas Boys Ranch. Having and demonstrating empathy for children and families makes our work a ministry as much as a mission. At Texas Boys Ranch, we CARE. We care about abused and neglected children everywhere. We care for many of these children in our foster homes, adoptive homes, our emergency shelter, and in our home cottages on the main campus. We employ caring staff to love and nurture children toward healing from the unspeakable abuse they have experienced. We show care through a committed team of counselors, who work tirelessly to help our children through innovative evidence-based treatment modalities designed to restore the joy in a childhood where joy has often been taken away violently and repeatedly through complex and overwhelming traumatic experiences. The scriptures guide our ministry as we embrace these core values.

*"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world." - James 1:27 (The Message)*