TEXAS BOYS RANCH

CIRCUIT RIDER

SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2017-4

Established in 1975

BECAUSE OF YOU:

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The Reason

"I can't possibly do what you and your staff do. You have children with you, you get attached, and then they go away."

"There is no way I can be a foster parent. I would get so attached that it would break my heart if a child left."

"What you guys do is amazing. I can never do something like what you do. My heart is too soft."

In the 22 years I have been in the ministry of healing and caring for hurting children, I have heard comments like these hundreds of times. But, I want to assure you that all of our employees, foster parents, and adoptive parents do indeed have enormous capacity to love, nurture, and care for every child that comes our way. The comments about how hard it must be to have children for only a short time and then having to let them go are skirting the underlying unspoken question:

Why do you participate in a ministry where getting emotionally involved and ultimately getting hurt is the inevitable outcome more often than not?

The simple answer? **God calls us to have our hearts broken…for Him!**

We are immeasurably blessed every time God sends a single child or an entire sibling group of children to us because we have the privilege of helping them heal, grow, laugh, play, and love. And to realize their capacity to break the cycle of abuse that brought them to TBR and to become amazing men and women of faith. We want them to know that they are children of the King and in Him all things are possible.

The methods we use are time tested, Christ-centered, and evidence based. Our children get better. And, our relationships don't end when they are no longer living with us any more than your relationship ended when your son or daughter went off to college to join the military. My wife and I continue positive, ongoing, loving, and nurturing relationships with more former residents than we can count. In fact, my wife recently received a text message from a young man who used to live at Texas Boys Ranch. Jesse gave me permission to include his text in this article.

> "I cannot wait to finish school so I can one day do the same for a child in need as you and John have done for me and many others. I used to say I grew up without parents; blinded by rage and anger; but I have grown, not only in my faith in God but as a man, by the love that I always had from you, John, and the Texas Boys Ranch. I now know that I have always had parents ever since I met you and John. I'm sorry it took me this long to figure out that I was loved and cared for, but I will not let my anger blind me anymore. I will use it to help others in need and in time show them too that they are loved and cared for as you have for me. I love you guys and am proud

to call you my parents as should any child that has you guys in their life…Love you guys."

Jesse is pursuing a degree in child psychology. When I contacted him to get his permission to share his text, he continued:

"I'm still in school for that child psychology degree. Lovin' it! I told Faye I'm not going to stop until I take your spot [as president of Texas Boys Ranch] lol. I hope to guide foster kids and show them to success as you have done for me and many of my fellow brothers. They might not say it now, but your guidance and passion has changed who we are as men and fathers for some of us. So, thank you John for always being a father to me and many other children when we needed one the most."

Jesse is an amazing young man. He graduated high school and left Texas Boys Ranch in 2008. He is happily married to a beautiful young woman and they have 2 amazing children and one on the way. He and his wife both attend college…and work. I couldn't be more proud of Jesse (unless he takes my "spot" before I'm ready to give it up).

This is my Christmas present.The reason I do what I do. We all want to know that we are making a difference. Thanks to you, WE ARE!

Our family at Texas Boys Ranch includes our employees, former employees, foster and adoptive parents, sponsors, volunteers, and donors. But most importantly, our family includes every boy and girl that has ever been cared for and loved by anyone affiliated with TBR. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the most amazing ministry to be found anywhere. Helping kids!

From our family at Texas Boys Ranch, we want to wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Sigle
President

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 28, 2017

We give thanks on Thanksgiving, shop at the stores on Black Friday, and browse the web on Cyber Monday. Now, we have a day dedicated to giving back and making our world and community a better place through Giving Tuesday. On #GivingTuesday, participating Lubbock nonprofits will take part in #GivingTuesdayLBK. This is an opportunity for nonprofits, families, businesses, media and individuals in our community to come together for one common purpose: To celebrate generosity and to give locally. Texas Boys Ranch is participating in #GivingTuesdayLBK and every donation will be maximized through a matching gift from the Community Foundation of West Texas. Your donation will go a long way in helping us reach our goal of $10,000 during this 24-hour period. This is a chance for you to make a real difference in the community. Visit https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/962886 to learn more and to give your donation!

Foster Focus

UPDATE! Our foster care and adoption program at Texas Boys Ranch has been licensed for three years. In reality, we are still a fairly young program.
Nevertheless, in those three years we have served over 100 children and have had 33 adoptions. This excites us! Almighty God has provided us with wonderful Christian families to care for these children.

Even with this progress, we desperately need more foster and adoptive homes. Every day we turn away children because all of our homes are full. If you have ever thought about fostering or adopting, we would love to talk to you. Ask for Karleigh when you call (806-747-3187) or e-mail (kporterfield@texasboysranch.org). Please contact us today.

Campus Corner

On the day after Christmas last year, I walked into a store and was shocked at what I found lining the shelves. Valentine's Day candy was everywhere! It seems like we start celebrating the next holiday earlier and earlier. Believe it or not, at Texas Boys Ranch we begin planning Christmas in October because we know that it is right around the corner. The season brings an incredible outpouring of generosity and has a wonderful healing effect on our kids.

Many times, the kids we serve have gone without food, without friends and without family. A huge void has been left by their circumstances. Christmas helps heal that chasm by allowing our children to become recipients of immense generosity. Despite all the bad they have experienced, Christmas tells them that good things can, do and will happen to them. It offers a message of hope and healing.

We want to say, "Thank you" in advance for helping heal the hearts of our hurting girls and boys at Christmas and at other times throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

Shelter Spotlight

Holidays at the shelter usually involves a lot of laughing and crying. We try to make the best of our children's situations. They miss their families and their traditions. We ask about their family traditions during the holidays and do our best to celebrate these.

One sibling group of five said they said make homemade tortillas for Thanksgiving. So we learned how to make homemade tortillas that Thanksgiving. The kiddos really enjoyed it and so did our staff.

Another group insisted on decorating their own stockings, because this was something they always enjoyed doing with their family. So we bought supplies and everyone decorated stockings. These may seem like little things but they make the holidays a lot of fun at the shelter. Who knows what may be in store this year?

A Magical Christmas Moment

In A Moment…
Jake's eyes shone as he saw gifts
beneath the tree
For A Moment…
His heart was joyful and his pain,
a memory
Just A Moment…
Is all it took to make a happy holiday
Take A Moment…
To remember Jake as you kneel to pray

In A Moment…
Nikki smiled at her brand new baby doll
For A Moment…
She forgot the angry shove that made her fall
Just A Moment…
Filled with comfort promised, *"you can
conquer all!"*
Take A Moment…
Knowing you can help this girl stand up tall

In A Moment…
Life can change, a heart can break and
feel alone
For A Moment…
Hope is lost, and then comes fear of
the unknown
Just A Moment…
Takes away all joy and then one's
peace is gone
Take A Moment…
To understand how
desperate is this tone

A moment's all it takes to make a difference in a child.
A single God-filled moment can help families reconcile.
In just one tiny moment, as you serve and pray and live,
One child's Christmas feels like magic all because you thought to give.

MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

June 16, 2017 - October 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.

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www.texasboysranch.org

42ND ANNUAL TEXAS BOYS RANCH TELETHON

The Lubbock community continues to bless the girls and boys at Texas Boys Ranch!

The success of our 42nd Annual Telethon serves as the most recent example of this. 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!

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