

# CIRCUIT RIDER

SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2022 | 4

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## What a Season!

As I write these words, fall is in full bloom and FINALLY cooler temperatures are beginning to settle into the South Plains of West Texas. I enjoy the summer, but when the temperatures hover near or above 100 degrees for weeks at a time, I'm ready for a change.

There are other reasons I enjoy this season that leads to an anticipated end to one calendar year and the beginning of an unknown and perhaps unpredictable new year...the joy of watching our children participate in the many activities and events that make these last three months of the year so much fun. High school and college football are in full swing; Halloween is around the corner; and the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons will be here before we know it.

The children and families we serve count on us to help them navigate (and celebrate) this season in the best possible way. Think about your childhood memories of the Fall season. Can you recall your experiences as young parents taking your children around the neighborhood to "trick-or-treat" for the first time? How about your memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas when you were 5 or 8 or 12 years old? Do you recall favorite cousins coming to your home to celebrate? Do you recall that special present you had wanted more than anything else? What about the amazing food that your mother or grandmother prepared for those special days? Whether you were rich or poor, I bet most of you have wonderful memories of very special holidays.

Memories are powerful, aren't they? It's no different for our children at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch. Unfortunately, for many of them, their memories are filled with anxiety, fear, and disappointment. These memories are powerful also. The influence of traumatic memories in

the lives of our children is insidious. They haunt our children and are responsible for many of the behavioral problems and emotional issues our children experience. Instead of magical, their memories are often traumatic.

Each year we work hard to create memories of hope and happiness for our children. This is especially true during the time that begins in October and continues into the new year. The foster homes, cottages, and shelter that make up Texas Girls & Boys Ranch try to incorporate holiday traditions and rituals from each of our children while also sharing their traditions with the children in their care. It is fun to walk into one of our cottages and witness the excitement of the children as the Thanksgiving table is set, often with the houseparents' own fine China...or to hear the whispers as the girls and boys guess what's in the wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree...and of course to hear stories from foster parents about the children's plots to sneak under the tree to unwrap and rewrap their gifts before Christmas.

I am looking forward to these next few months. I hope you are as well. As you create wonderful memories with your families during this season, please know that we need your help to make new memories for our children...memories that they can use to create their own traditions with their own families years from now...memories that they can recall with fondness when they are 50+ years old.

John Sigle  
President

# THINGS I AM thankful for...

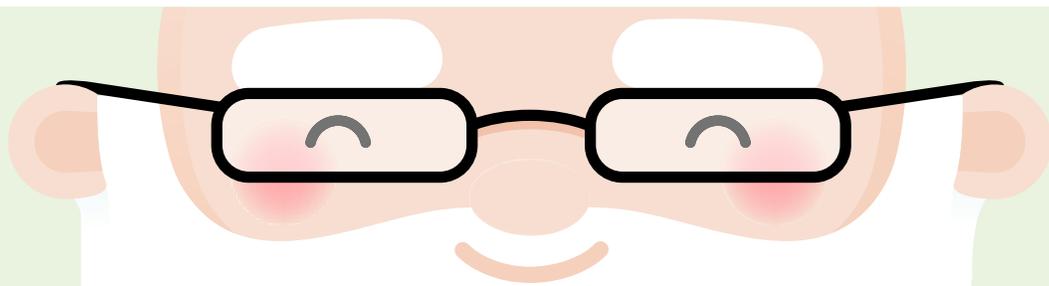
The Lubbock Lions Club took us to Joyland Amusement Park and it was the best day of my life!!!  
Jose, 11

I am thankful for my birthday party! I got new toys and a cake! Ashlee, 6

I was very thankful to get some new, cool school clothes.  
Katrina, 16

my house mom is the best cook ever! i am thankful for the yummy food she feeds us!  
david, 13

I was thankful for the Texas Tech people that came out to campus and I am thankful for Roosevelt football games!  
Hector, 8



## WISH LIST

Amazon Wish Lists						
Cottage 1	Cottage 2	Cottage 3	Cottage 4	Foster/Adoption	Children's Shelter	Equine Program
						



**TAMMI PILLOW, MS**

*Children's Shelter Program Director*

tpillow@txgbr.org

The Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Children's Shelter strives to make a positive impact on each child's life while here at the Shelter. We try to normalize their disrupted lives as much as possible. Each child has their own unique story.

Each child has a different story, and most stories need Love. Our goal at the

Shelter is to show love, share Jesus, heal hearts, and transform lives. We strive to show and teach God's unconditional love.



This fall, the Shelter staff have plans for the children to attend several fun events in the community. The children will be going to the Fall Festivals at UMC, Texas Tech University, the Science Spectrum, as well as Carmona-Harris Elementary's Fall Festival. We also have activities scheduled to go to the Pumpkin Trail at the Lubbock Arboretum and Garden & Arts Center, and Trunk-or-Treat at various churches. The children will also be competing in a pumpkin decorating contest,

face painting, and doing several arts and crafts here at the Shelter. The staff will attend the Thanksgiving meal at the elementary school and a family-style meal is planned here at the Shelter as well. Prior to the meal, the children will be encouraged to talk about what they are thankful for and why. Many of the children at the Shelter have never had a family-style meal or been given the opportunity to talk about what they are thankful for; this will encourage them to reflect on something positive about their lives. Our desire here at the TxGBR Children's Shelter is to show love through Jesus Christ, help heal the broken, and transform one life at a time. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love and compassion.

*John 15:12 says, "This is my command that you love one another, as I have loved you".  
Our goal is to show love through Jesus and love as he has loved us.*

## CAMPUS CORNER



### **ROGER MAHAN**

*Vice President of Children's Services*

rmahan@txgbr.org

Many associate Fall with football. It is a time of (hopefully) cooler weather and Friday nights in the stands cheering for the local teams. This year we have fewer than normal participating on the team, but on any given weekend you can find our house parents with the whole cottage cheering on their cottage-mates and friends. Team sports are a great way to learn about commitment and community and you are making it possible for us to serve kids in this and so many other special ways that bring a smile to their faces. Thank you for allowing us to help kids be kids. Go Roosevelt!

## ED/REC/SPIRITUAL



### **JEREMY WALKER**

*Director of Education, Recreation & Spiritual Development*

jwalker@txgbr.org

As I reflect on the many reasons I have to be thankful, I cannot express how grateful I am to the volunteers who assist in meeting our children's educational needs. Homework Helpers work one-on-one with students who require extra attention in the classroom. If a child is having academic difficulties, he or she may not see school as a blessing in their life. They may resent going to school because it forces them to confront their own flaws. However, with the assistance of our Homework Helpers, our students can begin to achieve real success in an area that was previously a source of disappointment.

## FOSTER FOCUS



### **ANGELA SKORICK**

*Foster Care & Adoption Program Director*

askorick@txgbr.org

One of the highlights in this job is when we have adoptions. It is such a happy time for all of us. We know how far the child has come while in the care of the foster/adoptive family and couldn't be more pleased to see the family finalize the adoption. Many of our adoptions occur because families have been fostering children and then those children become available for adoption. By that time the family has become so invested and attached that they can't imagine the child going anywhere else. Other times there are children available for adoption but the foster family decided not to adopt. Then there is an active search to find the perfect family for the child. We are not involved in those adoptions near as often. However, recently one of our families was selected to be the adoptive family for a child on our campus. We are so excited to be a part of this.



# ROUND THE RANCH



4TH ON BROADWAY CONCERT



4TH ON BROADWAY PARADE



8 SECOND RIDE



CAMP CRAFTS



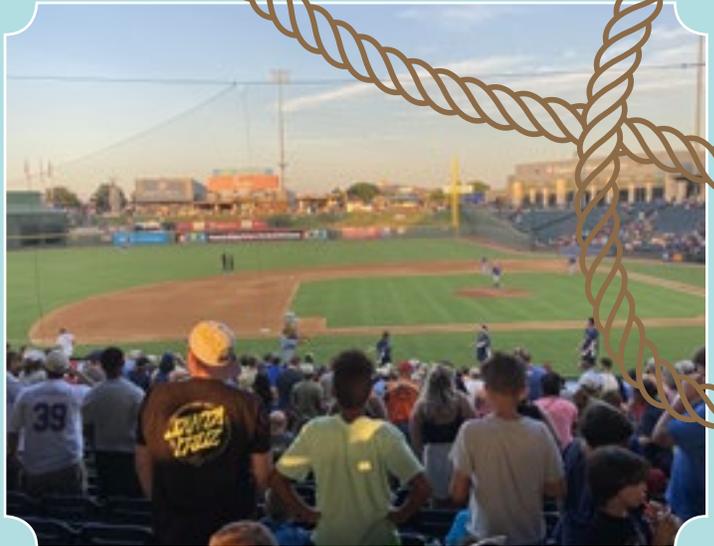
CRAFT TIME



FISHING FUN



**PUMPKIN CARVING**



**FUN AT THE BALLGAME**



**FOAM PARTY**



**MMM WATERMELON**



**FUN AT JOYLAND**



**MOVING UP IN THE WORLD**



# Being Thankful



In this season of thankfulness, when I think about all the things for which I am thankful, I can't help but remember one of the children at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch who came to the Ranch with very little to be thankful for. Seven-year-old Jacob hasn't been at the Ranch for long but he has made a big impression on a lot of people. Like most of the children at TxGBR, Jacob came from a difficult life. He came to us with many issues he needed to work through but one of the biggest of those was his fear of being left alone. Jacob was insecure because he had been left alone on many occasions in his past. He

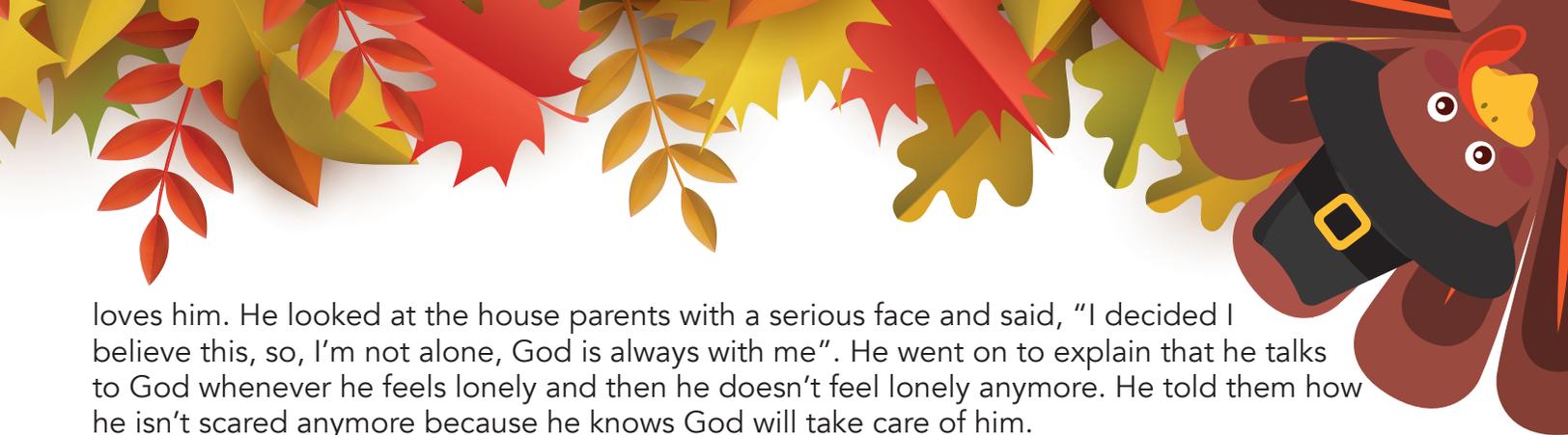
always wanted to have someone in the room with him so he could feel safe. It was a struggle for the house parents of his cottage as one or the other had to be with him right up to when he fell asleep every night.

One of the reasons Jacob has made such a big impression is because he is not only very smart but he also seems wise beyond his years. He is very intuitive and will surprise you with his wit and intelligence. The house parents of Jacob's cottage got a scare one Sunday after church because they realized that neither of them had seen Jacob since lunch. Knowing that he was insistent on having one or the other of them in the room with him at all times, they worried that something might be wrong. They searched and quickly found Jacob in his room sitting alone on the floor playing with his favorite dinosaur toy. They rushed to him and asked if he was okay. To their surprise he smiled up at them and assured them that everything was fine.

Of course, this had the house parents wondering what was going on. They cautiously broached the subject and got around to asking Jacob why he was okay with sitting alone in his room. "Oh, I'm not alone he said". You can imagine what must have gone through the house parents' minds when they heard that. They looked at each other and then asked Jacob what he meant by his comment and he began to tell them his thoughts.

Like I mentioned earlier, Jacob is very intelligent and observant. He has noticed how everyone at the Ranch who works with him is patient and polite and caring. Jacob took on this demeanor to a "T" when he patiently began to explain to his house parents about how, since he had started going to church, he had learned about God and that God

*(see next page)*



loves him. He looked at the house parents with a serious face and said, "I decided I believe this, so, I'm not alone, God is always with me". He went on to explain that he talks to God whenever he feels lonely and then he doesn't feel lonely anymore. He told them how he isn't scared anymore because he knows God will take care of him.

Jacob's full and unwavering faith in God reminds me of Luke 18 verses 15 through 17 when the disciples scolded parents for wanting Jesus to touch and bless their children. After correcting the disciples for their well-meaning but wrong actions, Jesus said, *"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."* Oh, for the faith of a child!

**Jacob, like nearly all the children we serve at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, came to us from hard places. Yet, through the patience of his house parents, Jacob has already found peace in the knowledge that God is with him, even when he is in his room... with no other human in the room with him.**



I am thankful for Jacob and thankful that he knows God and trusts in Him. I am thankful that my staff and I get to play a part in making that happen in a child's life. I am also thankful for you because you make it possible for us to keep our focus on serving precious children without the unnecessary worry over how we will pay our bills. Instead, because of you, we get to focus on making a positive impact in their lives. Without you it just couldn't happen.

As you think about what you are thankful for in this season of thankfulness, I hope you are thankful for Texas Girls & Boys Ranch. If you find that is the case, won't you use the card and envelope provided to help us continue to care for kids like Jacob and show them God's love? Any amount helps and if you make it a monthly, recurring gift, that would give us even more reason to be thankful. You can also give securely online at TxGBR.org and designate it as a "Thanksgiving" gift. We pray for peace and happiness for you and your loved ones through this holiday season.

John Sigle,  
TxGBR  
President





## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### TRACI CHEEK

Director of Advancement  
tcheek@txgbr.org

Thankful Always...

This has been a year of surprises and blessings because we have been the recipient of several unexpected group fundraisers and projects. We have had donors who stepped up and helped us financially and volunteers who have blessed us through their service. All of these things have truly blessed the children at TxGBR! I confess that sometimes I struggle with the worry that tends to creep in, but God continues to show up, usually through YOU! I am very thankful for the blessings I receive by working closely with so many who want to show God's love. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with THANKSGIVING, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6*



## CHURCH CONNECTION



### MICHAEL NUDELMAN

Church Relations Officer  
mnuelman@txgbr.org

Fall is here and school is in full swing, yay! Before you know it, the holidays will be upon us. Every year many churches around our area participate in our Christmas Love Offering and I can't stress enough how important that special collection is to our kiddos. The holiday season is a special time and the Holiday Love Offering truly does help our kids have a great Christmas. A big "Thank you!" to those who are willing to participate. If you'd like to know more, email me at mnuelman@txgbr.org. I also want to say a special "Thank you" to those who have been so instrumental in making our annual Prayer Walk a huge success! At TxGBR we believe in the power of prayer and it is such a special time for Christians to come together and pray for Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, the kids, and the work we do. Thank you, again!



## VOLUNTEERING AT TxGBR



### ANGE SCOTT

Community Relations Coordinator  
ascott@txgbr.org

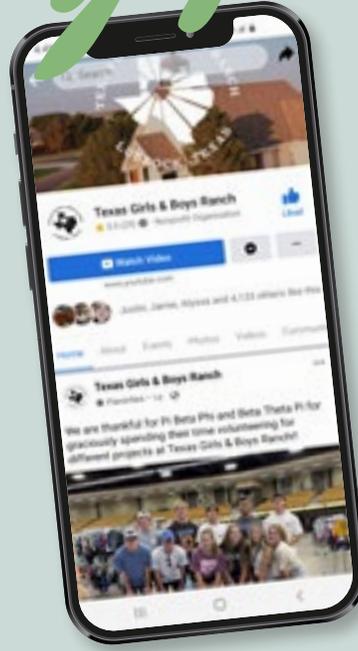
We have had an amazing summer break at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch and we'd like to say thank you to the individuals and groups who helped make it possible. Our volunteers and friends organized activities for our kids and kept things fun and exciting all summer long. We appreciate those who are willing to give of their time and money to bless the children we serve.

As we look toward Christmas time, we want to share some of the locations of our Angel Trees.

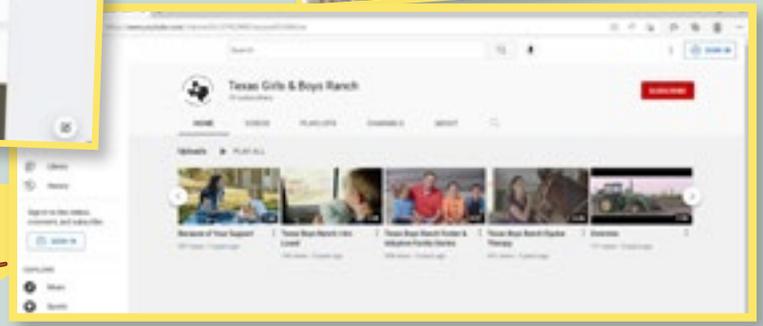
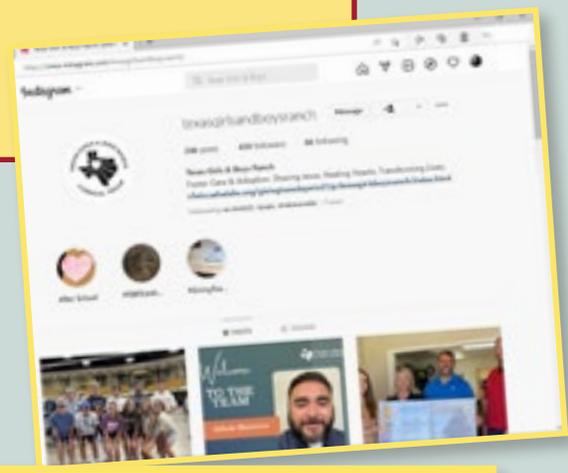
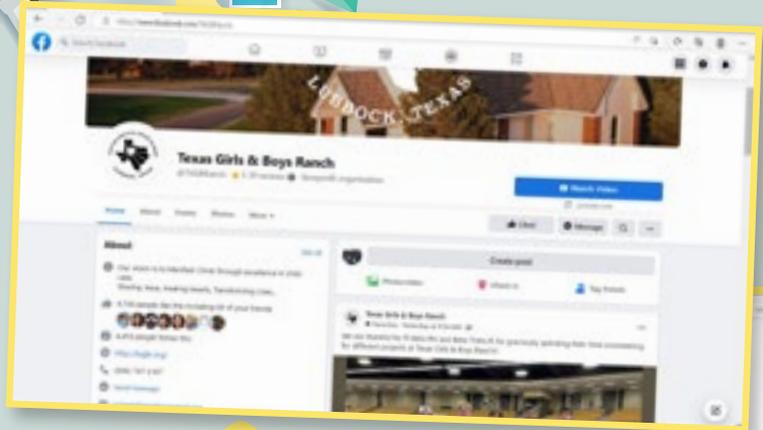
**Abuelos- 4401 82nd St, Haute House Waxing- 4630 50th St #335, Red Barn Ranch  
18311 CR 1640 Wolfforth, Terra Bella Salon- 4621 S. Loop 289**

For information on how you can volunteer at TxGBR, please contact Ange at 806-747-3187

# What's Trending On Social Media?



Be Sure to Check Out Texas Girls & Boys Ranch on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube!

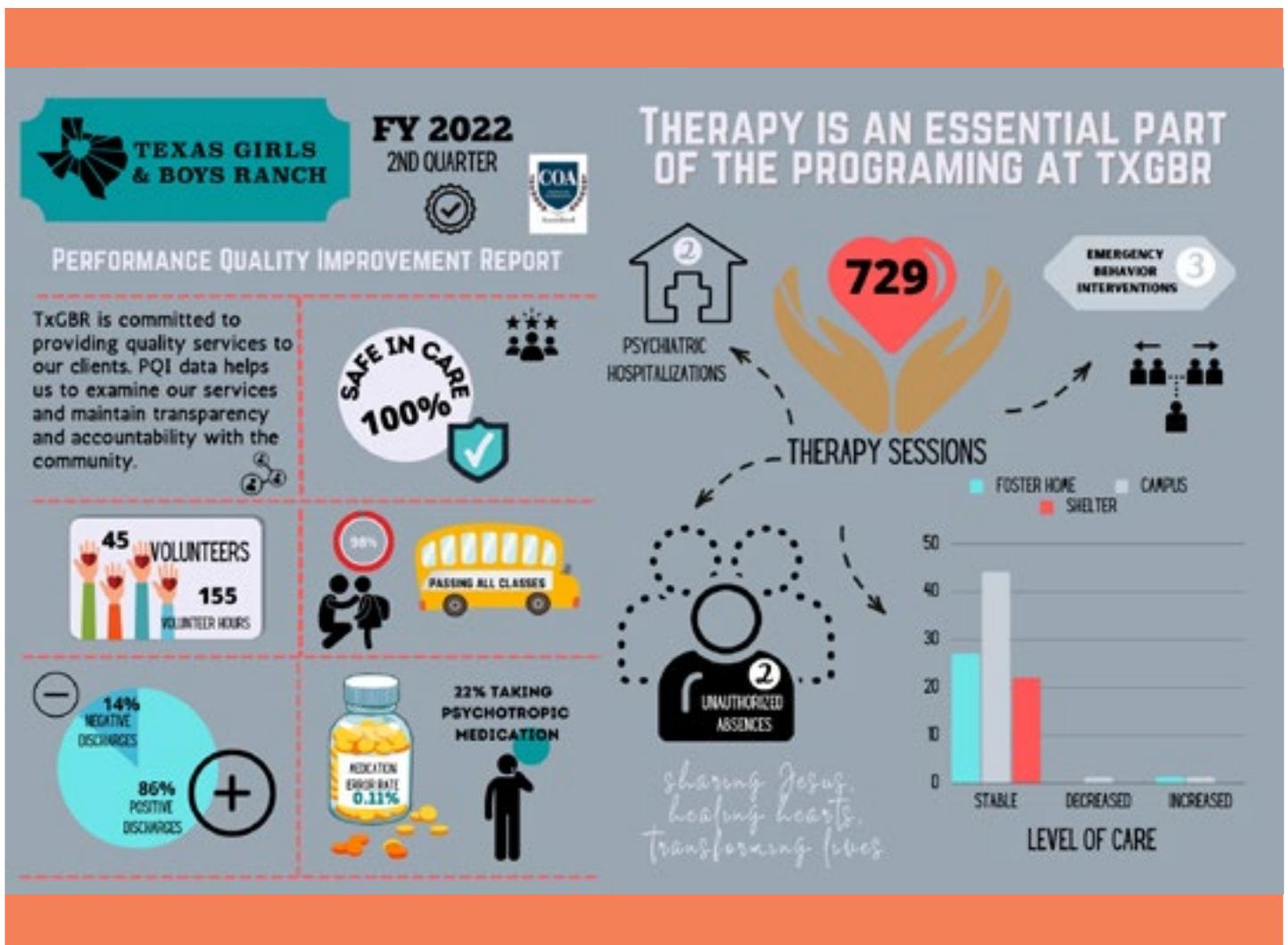


# PERFORMANCE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PQI)

Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) is not only a requirement of our accreditation through COA, Texas Girls & Boys Ranch consistently strives for a culture of excellence, and PQI helps direct us. PQI helps steer our strategic plan and our mission of Sharing Jesus, Health Hearts, and Transforming Lives.

Throughout the year you will see PQI reports that highlight the services we are providing, the client outcomes we are seeing, as well as the impact our programs are having in the community. Our PQI program measures data from all of our programs and helps us to determine growth or additional services that may be needed.

**Check out our most recent fiscal quarterly report which highlights our recent activities at the Ranch!**



# SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

*Yay! It's finally fall!*

We have said goodbye to summer and we want to spend some time reflecting on all the ways we served kids over the past few months!

Did you know TxGBR has an extensive summer enrichment program for the children in our care?

Children get the opportunity to attend camps, build their education skills, and just have FUN! Take a look at some of the things that made this past summer really special!



**ERIC CREEL**

President, Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Foundation  
 ecreel@tbrfoundation.org

## *Shelter in the Storm*

### *“Even If My Father & Mother Abandon Me...”*

Even after all these years, I still can feel the strength of my daddy’s large hands holding on to mine. I can feel Momma’s tender, reassuring embrace as the windows rattled and the lights flickered. “It’s a good, strong house,” they assured me. No matter how loud the thunder in the night, I felt safe with them. I always knew I was protected under their care.

Unfortunately, children come to the Ranch homeless, rejected, and abandoned by their parents more often than we care to see. These children have not had the experience of protective, reassuring parents who look out for their needs. Desperation and distrust are their default positions, rather than peace and assurance.

King David often experienced that desperation and despondence in his life. He often felt that all had abandoned him, that he had no one to rely on, or even a place to call home. He feared for his life, running from abusive people with power. There were days he didn’t know if he would get to eat.

David often expressed his despondence in the form of poetry and song. Psalm 27 is one of those. In this Psalm he complains that no one is on his side, and at times he even felt that God had abandoned him! In the end, however, David recognizes that God is trustworthy, and that even if his own father and mother abandon him, God is still faithful. *“He will surely give me shelter in the day of danger; he will hide me in his home.” (Ps 27:5)*

God provided for David by surrounding him with faithful individuals who offered a support system to meet his needs. That is often how God works. Even today, he brings together faithful people to meet the needs of those who are desperate for care.. And that is what the Ranch is all about: God’s faithful coming together to provide shelter for the outcast, the abused, the neglected. Your partnership is ensuring the young will have a good, strong shelter to protect them from the storms of their turbulent lives.

It is a sad fact in this broken world that children are sometimes abandoned by their father and mother. But even if that occurs, thanks to you and your faithful support, there is a place of refuge and safety. You are providing shelter.

### **Circuit Rider 2022-4 • TxGBR.org**

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Texas Girls & 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.

# MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

July 1, - September 30, 2022

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

### **All TxGBR Staff**

Jerry Dennis  
**Kiser, Bill & Sandra**  
Buck & Joyce Gossett  
**Putman, Alex & Vargas, Daniel**  
Jerry Dennis  
**Tidwell, Donna**  
Abie Rampy

## Memorials

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**Woodard, Jimmy**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Young, Tommy**  
Walter & Willa Didway

# Sparkles & SPURS GALA



**Our 2nd Annual Sparkles & Spurs Gala was a great success!  
This year we hit a new record thanks to our sponsors and donors.  
We want to take a moment to thank our event sponsors.  
We truly appreciate your continued support!**

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