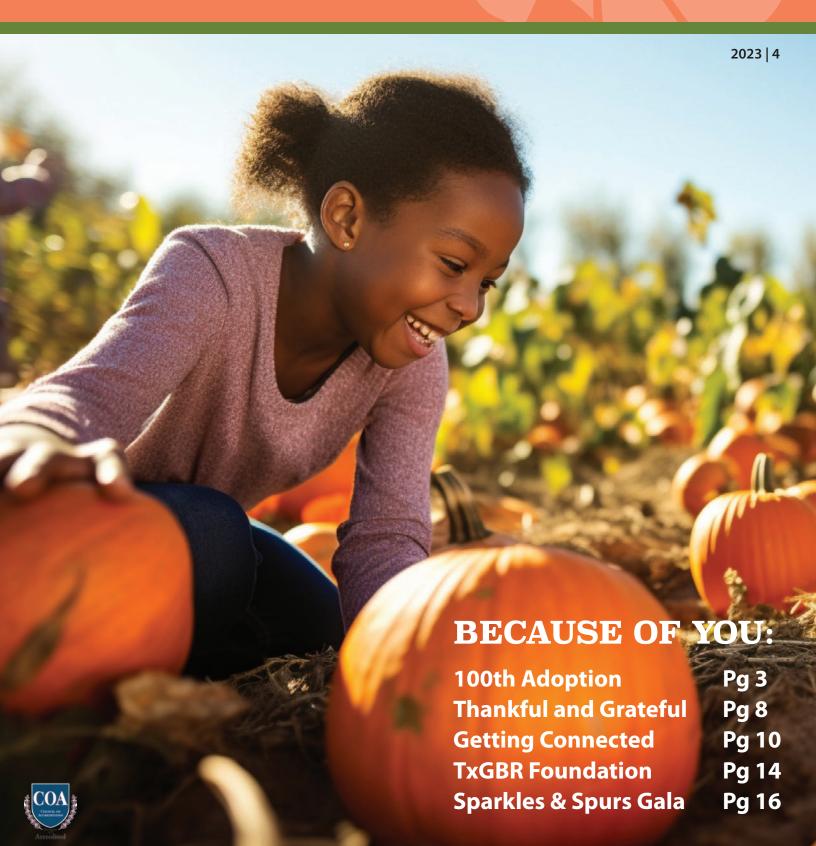


# CIRCUIT RIDER

**SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES** 





### **JENNIFER & THANKSGIVING**



Jennifer was back. Only three months earlier we had celebrated Jennifer's placement with a relative. Though things went well for the first 30 days or so, Jennifer started having problems and her extended family decided they could no longer take care of her.

We received notice on the 5th of November that Jennifer needed a place to live once again. Jennifer was not an easy 9-year-old. She had anger problems and would sometimes become violent when she didn't get her way. Though I was disappointed that her relative placement failed, deep down I knew that it was a long shot. Even my very experienced and patient houseparents were sometimes overwhelmed by Jennifer's tantrums.

After an emergency meeting to discuss Jennifer's need for placement, we all agreed that we should take her back. She arrived the second week of November. Her return after yet another failed placement was clearly a disappointment to her. It didn't take long, however, for her to once again test and challenge her houseparents. But it wasn't quite like it was before.

Jennifer had been in 12 different placements since her initial removal from her mother four years earlier for neglectful supervision and abuse. Eleven of those placements occurred in the first two years following her removal. She had been with Texas Girls & Boys Ranch for almost two years when she went to live with her relatives; and though she was a challenge, we were determined not to be one more failed placement.

As Jennifer settled back into life at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch and into school, we noticed that her behavior began to improve a little. November ushers in blistery weather and excitement about the upcoming holiday season. We all feel it, but our girls and boys often don't have a frame of reference from which to judge the holidays. But Jennifer sure did! She shared with many of the new residents about what to expect for Thanksgiving. Listening to her share about Thanksgivings past at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch spurred all of us into a better holiday spirit.

When Thanksgiving Day arrived, no one was disappointed. Jennifer, her houseparents, and the other cottage residents busied themselves getting ready for the feast. Jennifer had never seemed so happy or so involved (even getting in the way a little). But the Thanksgiving meal was a complete success.

That night as her housemom tucked her into bed, Jennifer reported that this was the best Thanksgiving ever! "And it is really good to be home."

We desire for every child to have a "forever family". But it's good to know that we can feel like home to so many girls and boys who need the comfort of a family until that "forever family" can be found.

P.S. One of my Advancement staff reminded me that donors are motivated by specific needs. I'm sure this is true. I can't think of any need greater than the feeling of being home. Your generous gifts empower us to care for and love these children like our own and to pray relentlessly for that amazing forever family. Can we count on you to support our mission this festive holiday season?





We are excited to announce that Texas Girls & Boys Ranch has reached the milestone of helping one hundred children find their forever homes since the addition of our Foster Care & Adoption Program in 2014!

Derek and Marisa Lopez first adopted Jaden and recently became our 100<sup>th</sup> adoption when they adopted Jaden's sister Natalia.



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES



**ROGER MAHAN** *VP of Children's Services*rmahan@txgbr.org

While school just began, we have some teens who are already thinking about graduating high school and going out into the world as an independent adult. In less than 9 months, they may be out on their own – "adulting". While it is exciting, it is also stressful and frightening when the level of available support is considered. Despite efforts to increase resources for aging-out

youth, many find themselves in dire circumstances shortly after leaving foster care. While these young adults can also opt to remain in extended foster care until their 23rd birthday, many decide to put the days of their childhood behind them and go out on their own. I would guess that their mindset is not all that different from many of ours. The Ranch has always tried to make sure aging-out youth have support and a good plan in place before they leave. If extended foster care is not their option, housing arrangements can be the most challenging element to arrange. However, the next most difficult and costly element for an aging-out youth is inexpensive, reliable transportation. We, additionally, try to ensure they have employment lined up. Last year we embarked on a more robust effort to offer assistance to aged-out youth who have gone through any of our programs. During that time, we have only touched the cusp of what is really needed. But thanks to your generosity, we have been able to help with initial rent deposits, utility bills, auto repairs, food, clothing, diapers, gasoline, and countless hours of advocacy and assistance. We frequently quote a statistic that the average young adult returns home 3 times before they are finally established. Our youth, do not have that option but we will continue to do what we can to give them the best hope for success. Thank you for joining us in the mission to Share Jesus, Heal Hearts, and Transform Lives.

## xGBR

## SHELTER SPOTLIGHT



TAMMI PILLOW, MS

Children's Shelter Program Director tpillow@txgbr.org

At the Children's Shelter we are implementing a new program called Turning Point. The Children's Shelter, in partnership with Superior HealthPlan (STAR Health—the Texas Foster Care health insurance provider), will soon become the first agency in Region 1 of Texas to offer Turning Point services.

Through Turning Point, children in STAR Health, along with their caregivers, can get help to prevent unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations and disruptions in placement. The program is offered at no cost to approved families and youth needing services.

#### Here are a few benefits of the program:

Access to a 24-hour crisis information line

14-day respite in a safe, nurturing and therapeutic program

Daily (as needed) Individual and group counseling

Positive, nurturing, and active engagement with every youth

Family support and skill-building strategies

Family counseling services

Ongoing support and services to youth and caregivers after returning home

We hope you will support us in this new and exciting endeavor.



## **ED/REC/SPIRITUAL**



**JEREMY WALKER**Director of Education, Recreation & Spiritual Development jwalker@txgbr.org

Gratitude

How often do we forget to express our appreciation for someone? How often are we too busy to pause to consider how fortunate we are to live where we live? The busier we get the less likely we are to stop and take account of just how important our personal community is. When

I stop to think about the programs here at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the community that provides such a loving environment for our children. From direct care staff to homework helpers, from foster families to the donors who keep the lights on every day, I am so thankful to be among a community of believers who understand the value of the children we serve.

## xGBR

## **FOSTER FOCUS**



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

In August we had our 100th adoption! What a milestone since the program only began in 2014. The entire office staff was invited to attend the event. The courtroom was full of staff, family, and friends. What made it even more special is that we knew what the family had been through prior to adopting this child. This couple was licensed in January of 2019 and during that time

had loved and cared for 9 children. They experienced many joyous occasions as well as many heartbreaks. This couple has been very invested in foster care and made many connections with other TxGBR families. The family previously adopted a little boy and in August they were able to adopt the child's biological sister. We are sad they have decided to not foster anymore, but we are also so appreciative of them. What a celebration!

## xGBR

## **CAMPUS CORNER**



ADAM BARRERA
Campus Program Director
abarrera@txgbr.org

School has started for the kids on the ranch and both kids and campus staff were very excited! On the campus, we have more older kids than before. Our older kids are involved in band, sports, work programs, drivers' education, and down-time. When you visit the campus during the fall, you will find our cottages supporting our junior high and junior varsity football players

on Thursday night games and attending Friday night lights as families. These games are important for our kids to experience normalcy. Being able to hang out with their friends and houseparents at these games and cheer on their peers is what makes life on the ranch so special. When the kids are not going to school and attending extracurricular actives, they are away camping or on annual fishing/hunting trips. These trips are sponsored by Lonestar Youth Outdoors, a small nonprofit that allows the kids to experience the outdoors and build bonds and memories. Our staff on the campus have been looking forward to cooler temperatures so there is more time to spend outside. This past summer was fun but very hot across the south plains. Because of these cooler temps, if you decide to come out and take a stroll around a beautiful campus, you will see kids playing at the pavilion, hanging with their friends outside of cottages and the faint serenade of a child practicing "Ode to Joy" on their Sousaphone.





A FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGIST



**FOAM PARTY!** 



A VISIT TO THE ZOO



**FUN AND GAMES** 



COOLING OFF ON A HOT DAY



FUN AT THE BEACH



HARD AT WORK









MORE ZOO FUN

SOCCER FUN







WATER SLIDE!



In this season of being thankful, one thing that comes to mind for us at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch for which we are always thankful is you, our partners in the important work we do. After all, as we often say, we couldn't do what we do for the precious children we serve without your help.

We are thankful for the people who get physically involved, who volunteer to tutor or provide a birthday party for one of the cottages-birthdays mean so much to the kids. Or volunteers who work at the horse barn or at the commissary sorting food and clothing. Whatever the volunteer position- we just couldn't make it without your help. The difference you make in the kids' lives is immeasurable.

We are also thankful for every penny that flows into TxGBR to help precious and often hurting children. Whether you are on a fixed income giving what you can, or you are a business in our community who sees the importance of the work we are doing and bestows a large gift, we feel blessed beyond measure by each and every one of you.

I want you to know that you have helped kids like Jarred not have to worry about where his next meal is going to come from, so he can be able to focus on just being a kid.

You helped Beth finally be able to understand math. You helped Nora find a forever home with her new loving parents. You have helped so many deserving kids in more ways than we could possibly count, and we are very grateful.



As we have said before, we wish our services were not needed, but that is, unfortunately, not the case.





Something else that we are thankful for, however, is that also because of you, we are growing and expanding our ability to help more girls and boys than ever before.

My sincere hope today, is that you will prayerfully consider, not just making a commitment yourself, but also that you would help us to spread the word about the work we are doing to your friends or with your church. As we grow, we need to also grow the number of partners, like you, who will help support the efforts being made in the lives of precious abused and neglected children. We are needing more volunteers and more funding now than at any time in our history.

Just as you helped Emmanuel go to church camp for the first time, something that changed his life, you can also help make a positive impact in the lives of hundreds of children every year with your continued support.

### Will you help us give a child a life for which they can feel thankful?

All you have to do is use the provided card and envelope to send in your donation today. Also, I invite you to prayerfully consider making it a recurring donation, as the work we are doing is a continuing effort.

From everyone at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, we thank you for all you do from the bottom of our hearts!



John Sigle, President



PS: You can also give securely online at TxGBR.org and designate it as Thanksgiving.



### **DONOR APPRECIATION**





**BILLY CHEEK**Advancement Officer
bcheek@txgbr.org

You have probably heard the saying about when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Well, that sentiment has been very evident this year at TxGBR. It has been a tough year but our loyal supporters have really stepped up and shown they are tough enough to help us through tough times even though things are hard for everyone these days. I would especially like to take a moment to thank our donors who make regular recurring donations. What a blessing it is to know that we can

count on being able to provide for the children we serve through your continuing support. We are truly grateful for each and every person who makes the effort to help us help precious children, especially during tough times. Thank you!

### **CHURCH CONNECTION**





MICHAEL NUDELMAN
Church Relations Officer
mnudelman@txgbr.org

As we get closer to the holidays, it really does become a special time and a fun place to be at TXGBR. The parties, the decorations, and the fellowship all remind us that Christmas is coming. For many of our kids this will be the first time they will be able to celebrate Christmas and just be a child. The kids who come from neglect and abuse really don't get to celebrate holidays the way you and I and our families celebrate them.

Churches are a crucial part in helping us celebrate Christmas with the kids. The Christmas Love Offering truly does help, and I would like to encourage all of the churches who love TxGBR to participate in the Christmas Love Offering. Every year, on the second Sunday of December, we ask churches to take up a special donation for the kids. The love and generosity shown from churches across West Texas is truly astounding, but we need y'all's continued support. Will you help us make this year's holiday season a memorable one? And "Thank you!" to all the churches who help us with our mission of.... Sharing Jesus, Healing Hearts, Transforming Lives. God Bless.

### **VOLUNTEERING**





COURTNEY MONK
Community Relations Coordinator
cmonk@txgbr.org

Summer has officially wrapped up and we are so thankful for all the individuals and groups who came out to help make it memorable for everyone! The kids and staff enjoyed many cookouts, play days, and new adventures through summer programming. We are excited to see everything that is in store for TxGBR in this upcoming season. As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, there are many ways to volunteer and serve around the Ranch. Providing meals for cottages, helping organize holiday events,

adopting an angel for Christmas, and wrapping gifts are a few ways to get involved in the upcoming holiday seasons. If you would like to get involved in any way or would like more information on ways to volunteer, please contact me at 806-747-3187 Ext 105.

What's Trending On Social Media?



Circuit Rider | 2023





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



## PERFORMANCE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PQI)

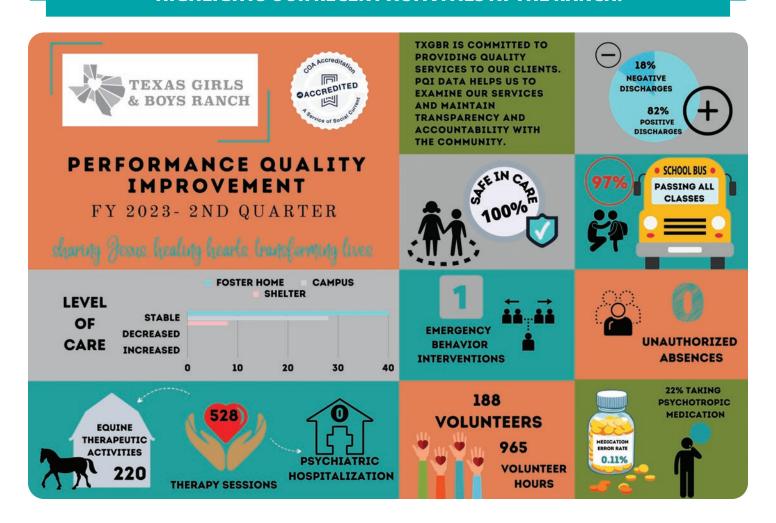
Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) is not only a requirement of our accreditation through COA, Texas Girls & Boys Ranch consistently strives for a culture of excellence, and PQI helps direct us. PQI helps steer our strategic plan and our mission of Sharing Jesus, Health Hearts, and Transforming Lives.

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.



## OUR MOST RECENT FISCAL QUARTERLY REPORT WHICH HIGHLIGHTS OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES AT THE RANCH!





### TxGBR FOUNDATION



ERIC CREEL President, Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Foundation ecreel@txgbrfoundation.org

### "The Good Leave an Inheritance to Their Children's Children"

I've heard it said that if you really hate the people in your life, die without a will. Ouch! Even those of us who don't have a large or complex estate need to have things in order so that the people and causes we care about are properly taken care of. A good plan leaves a blessing to those we love. Otherwise, we leave a curse as others must untangle the mess, sometimes taking years to finally sort out.

October is National Estate Planning month, so this may be a good time to revisit your plans. Now, you may be like many people who think:

"I'm too young to do estate planning."

"All my property is titled in joint tenancy with my spouse so I don't need a will."

"Estate planning is only for the super-rich."

"Estate planning is too complicated and expensive."

"Doesn't the government provide for that?"

"We did our wills right after we got married 30 years ago, so we're good."

The truth is, everyone who owns any possessions or has any people in their life they care about should have at least a basic will and a few other simple but very important documents. And the plan should be reviewed about every 5 years, or whenever there is a major life change.

A good estate plan doesn't have to be expensive or complicated. But there are a number of things that absolutely must be considered. We can help point you in the right direction, and maybe even help you consider some options you haven't thought of that could improve your overall plan.

As a good friend of the Ranch, part of your plan may include supporting this mission of healing abused and abandoned children. You've already made it a part of your charitable priorities in your lifetime because it represents

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an important part of your value system. What about the future of the ministry? Would you like to extend your values to the next generation? Would you like to see the fruits of your lifetime continue to support what is important to you? With good planning, you can! It could be as easy as naming Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Foundation for a child's share, effectively "adopting" as one of your own all the children who will benefit from the loving, healing touch of this ministry.

A solid estate plan can ensure that your loved ones will be well taken care of, and so will this ministry you have cared

so much for over the years. Together, we can ensure that boys and girls both today and in years to come will get to know Jesus, be protected from harm, and healed from hurts.

If you don't have a written plan, or if it has been a few years since it was last updated, please do that soon. And remember, including a charitable component in your plan could be a powerful way to actually enhance what is left to your heirs, as well as make a final statement for them to remember about your life's values.

Contact Eric at the Foundation office at (806) 749-1103 or ecreel@TxGBRFoundation.org for more information on how you can extend the love of Jesus through including Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Foundation in your plans. Or visit www. txqbrfoundation.org for more information on options for wise planning & giving.

### MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

### **July 1 - September 30, 2023**

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** 

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Our 3rd Annual Sparkles & Spurs Gala was another great success! This year was one of our best yet, thanks to our sponsors and donors. Below is a list of our event and auction sponsors. We extend a sincere THANK YOU to each and every one. We are grateful for your continued support!

Charles Quisenberry

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