



# CIRCUIT RIDER

SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2024 | 1

## BECAUSE OF YOU:

- Turning Point Program Pg 3
- Feed the Children Pg 8
- Getting Connected Pg 10
- TxGBR Foundation Pg 13
- Upcoming Events Pg 14





*Love*

## AT THE KITCHEN TABLE

One of my earliest memories is of my parents and siblings sitting at the kitchen table eating a meal together. Yes! We ate nearly every meal together at the kitchen table...breakfast, dinner, and supper. (I don't exactly know when dinner became lunch and supper became dinner.) I have shared in the past that my family was pretty poor. I didn't really know we were poor, probably because most of our extended family members were also poor. In spite of not having much in the form of possessions, we always had plenty to eat. No one in my family ever went hungry, except me. I would like to say that this is true because I'm the youngest and by the time the platter made it to me, all the food was gone. Sadly, this is not the case. The truth is, I was a picky eater and refused anything I didn't like, which included almost all vegetables. In fact, I remember making the perfectly logical argument that I shouldn't have to work in our rather large family garden because I didn't eat many of the vegetables. I think my parents showed how impressed they were with my sound reasoning by multiplying my chores. So unfair!

Our family meals were an adventure. Someone always prayed over the food before we began, then all the excitement that a family of seven could generate would begin. Multiple conversations would break out as soon as the "amen" was echoed around the table. Our parents would ask questions about our day... school, friends, homework. My siblings and I would have conversations and arguments about everything under the sun. It was total chaos...and my family loved every messy moment around the kitchen table.

How about you? What was your childhood experience around the family table? Did you share a meal around

the kitchen table or did you grab your food and run to the living room to watch television?

I am pleased to share that our cottages and our shelter enjoy almost every meal together at a much larger kitchen table. "Organized Chaos" is probably the best way to describe life in a cottage, especially when preparing and eating meals as a family unit. I know most of our foster homes prefer a family meal around the kitchen table. Sadly, the number of families eating the evening meal together has dropped by 32% in the last 30 years.

I would like to encourage you to Google and read the article, "The Benefits of the Family Table", (American College of Pediatricians – February 2021) to appreciate what families have instinctively known for generations. And to see what happens when we stop this time-honored tradition.

**Family meals around the kitchen table make a lasting difference for everyone in the family.**

Our first fund appeal each year is an attempt to raise enough money to cover food and housekeeping costs for the year. Your generous donation now allows us to focus on the many other challenges that must be taken care of throughout the year. Can we count on you to help this year?

Happy New Year!

*John Sisk*



CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR NEW

# Turning Point Program

AT THE TXGBR CHILDREN'S SHELTER



The staff at TBRI Training (Trust-Based Relational Intervention).  
Learning to Empower, Connect and Correct children in a therapeutic setting.



Team Building Session: EAP Training, Scavenger Hunt and Charades.



Turning Point Staff Christmas party.



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES



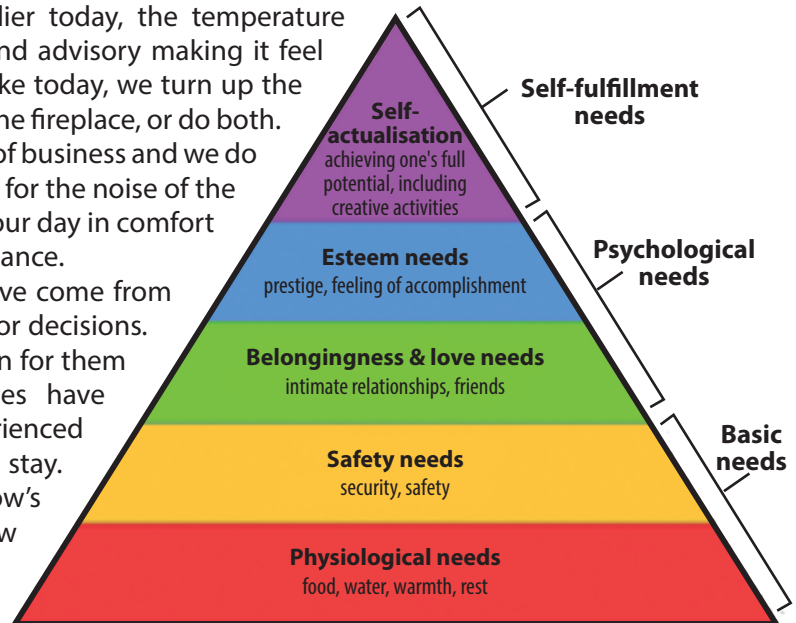
### ROGER MAHAN

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

As I stepped outside earlier today, the temperature was 37 degrees with a wind advisory making it feel like 12 degrees. On days like today, we turn up the heat, maybe start a fire in the fireplace, or do both.

Then, we sit inside our warm homes or places of business and we do not give a second thought to the cold (except for the noise of the blustery wind that reminds us). We go about our day in comfort and focus our energy things of greater importance.

Many of the children and youth we serve have come from families facing hard times made worse by poor decisions. With those circumstances, it is not uncommon for them to experience homes where utility services have been suspended, or worse, they have experienced exposure to the elements without a place to stay. If we wanted to talk psychology, and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, we might talk about how meeting basic needs is necessary before even considering what is going on inside the tender hearts and minds of these precious children.



Paying the bills is not glamorous. I have never met anyone who dreamed of growing up so they could pay the bills. BUT, the bills still have to be paid. Children should not be worried about any of these things, and thanks to your generosity, we are able to focus on pouring into them, warming their hearts, not just their bodies. They are able to experience a home where they are physically, emotionally, and spiritually warmed and nourished. We are blessed and blessed abundantly! Thank you!

## ED/REC/SPIRITUAL



### JEREMY WALKER

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

In a world filled with academic pressures and digital distractions, the simple act of letting kids be kids by engaging in play is more valuable than you think. Play is not a frivolous activity; it is a crucial aspect of a child's development, fostering creativity, social skills, and emotional resilience. Giving children the freedom to play and enjoy being kids is not a luxury but a fundamental necessity for their holistic development. Play is the vehicle through which they explore, learn, and grow, laying the groundwork for a future where creativity, resilience, and social skills are paramount. Texas Girls & Boys Ranch celebrates the power of play and gives our children the gift of a well-rounded experience. After all, in the world of play, every child is a winner.

## CAMPUS CORNER



### ADAM BARRERA

*Campus Program Director*

abarrera@txgbr.org

Christmas at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch keeps our staff and kids busy as soon as the children are let out for Christmas break. Every weekend is full of events from amazing partners, volunteers and community members. We had twenty-six kids in care during the 2023 holiday break. Holiday breaks like allow our houseparents and direct care staff to really bond with the kids. Holidays like Christmas and the New Year can be hard for most of our kids, whether it's their first Christmas away from family or a second year settling in. Our team of houseparents and direct care staff really put in the work to engage with the kids from hosting campus-wide Uno card games in cottages, movie nights and potluck-style meals. Some of the best memories a child will receive will not be the number of presents they got but the amount of love and people that were present for them when they needed them most. The memory of sitting around a dinner table to say grace and sharing a hot meal with people that care about them will stay with them forever.

## FOSTER FOCUS

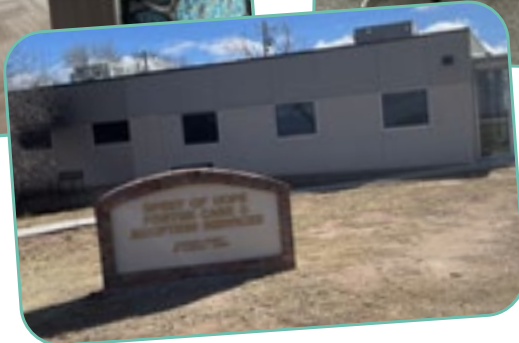
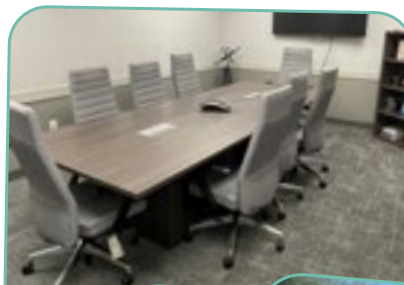


### ANGELA SKORICK

*Foster Care & Adoption Program Director*

askorick@txgbr.org

We have a new addition to our administration building called Spirit of Hope Foster Care & Adoption Services. It was built specifically for our program. In addition to several generous donors, Tommy and Sarah Burrus donated a very generous amount towards this project and we are forever grateful. This space was much needed. It provides eight new offices, a storage room (for car seats, diapers and wipes, bottles, etc.), a file room, a bathroom, and a conference room. We could not be more excited! Before this, our staff were in office cubicles and in two different buildings. We created a special "adoption wall" to feature some of our many families who have adopted through our program. We celebrated with a ribbon cutting on November 2nd. If you are interested in coming by the Ranch, please stop by and walk through. We love showing it off!





# Round the Ranch



BOOK WORMS



CHRISTMAS CRAFTING



EXCITED FOR SANTA



FAST & FURIOUS



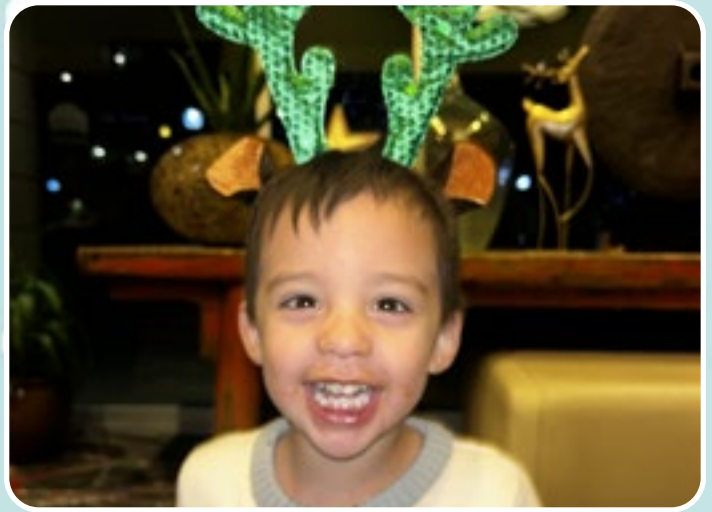
FUN AT THE ROLLER RINK



FURRY FRIENDS



SANTA & MRS. CLAUS



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER



THE NEXT NBA STAR



TXGBR LADIES VOLUNTEERING AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE



CHRISTMAS LUNCH PROVIDED BY JC & THE RANCH HANDS



FALL FUN



# feed the children



In times of need, we at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch are heartened by the efforts of our partners in the community who rally around the important work we do and never cease to go the extra mile when it comes to helping hurting children. Our previous appeal outlined some of the struggles we have faced over the last year and we want you to know that even in light of those struggles, we have no intention of slowing down.

**In 2024, we are more determined than ever to ensure that every child who needs help in, and even outside, our area can benefit from our services whenever possible.**

As you know, a trip to the grocery store can be quite a shock to the pocketbook these days. As we head into the new year food budgeting is one of the most challenging aspects of our planning for the future. It is no small task to feed hundreds of children every year. This is one area where we could really use your help.

**In fact, there are many ways you can help out with our campaign to feed the children in 2024.**

Things like using social media to spread the word and help raise funds. Asking your church or employer to conduct a drive to collect food items. But one of the most beneficial things you could consider doing is making a donation, and not just a one-time donation, but a recurring donation that would ensure there are funds available on a regular and continuing basis for feeding the precious children we serve. I can't think of a more heartwarming and generous gift than that.

**If you think about it, all of the things listed above take very little effort.**

I could tell dozens of stories about how your caring endeavors impact the lives of the children at the Ranch, but one in particular comes to mind because it took place very recently. Javier is eleven years old and has been at the Ranch for only a couple of months. Javier lives with a houseparent couple who are Hispanic and they have the whole cottage making tamales during the holidays. This was Javier's first experience with this





**We want them to feel secure that they will always have the nutrition they need but more than that, we want them to have all the fellowship and comfort that comes from sharing meals around a family table.**

cottage tradition but he worked at it like a pro. The houseparents noticed at one point that he was crying. When they took him aside to ask if he was okay, he related to them that his family used to get together and make tamales at his grandparent's house but his grandparents had both passed away and the tradition was lost as his family slowly fell apart around him. He thought he would never make tamales again. As soon as there was time, Javier's houseparents took him to the cemetery where his grandparents are buried. He hadn't been there since their funerals. This may seem like a sad story but it actually is a very happy one. You see, Javier may not have a traditional family but his family does have traditions and he is encouraged to continue those traditions and to be proud of his heritage.

As you can see from Javier's story, food is often about much more than nutrition. Yes, nutrition is very important, but the traditions, the fellowship, and the sharing that come from a special meal is something that can change lives. That is what we want for the children at the Ranch. We want them to feel secure that they will always have the nutrition they need but more than that, we want them to have all the fellowship and comfort that comes from sharing meals around a family table.

**We want the children at the Ranch not just to have full bellies, but full and fruitful lives as well.**

Won't you help us give them that? All it takes is for you to send in the provided card or to go online. And don't forget to consider making your donation recurring as the need is an ongoing one. You can really make a difference in the life of a child today and throughout the whole year.

Thank you for helping us feed precious children,

*PS: To make a secure donation online you can go to [txgbr.org](https://txgbr.org) and designate your gift as Feed the Children.*





## DONOR APPRECIATION



### **BILLY CHEEK**

*Advancement Officer*

[bcheek@txgbr.org](mailto:bcheek@txgbr.org)

I am never more humbled and grateful for the support we receive at TxGBR than when that support comes from children. Last holiday season, the entire second grade class of Southcrest Christian School- over thirty kids- went shopping at Walmart to pick out and purchase Christmas presents for the kids at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch! The class was able to work on budgeting skills and even went to the bank to get money for the individual presents they wanted to purchase. They took a tour of the

Ranch and prayed over the kids and staff as well. What a wonderful feeling it is to know that the amazing support we get from our community will continue for generations thanks to caring children like these. Thank you to everyone who supports the important work we do at TxGBR!



## CHURCH CONNECTION



### **MICHAEL NUDELMAN**

*Church Relations Officer*

[mnuelman@txgbr.org](mailto:mnuelman@txgbr.org)

Happy New Year! 2024 is here. As I look back on 2023, I want to thank all the churches that have been involved with Texas Girls & Boys Ranch. Church support is key in helping our girls and boys. This year we want the churches that have been supporting us and New Churches that have never been out to the ranch before, to come out and see us. At Texas Girls & Boys Ranch we are proud of what we do.

There are many opportunities to visit and either volunteer or have a cookout and just get to know the kids and the houseparents. When we have cookouts, it's always a great time for fellowship and learning more about TxGBR. I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you to all of our supporters. God Bless



## VOLUNTEERING



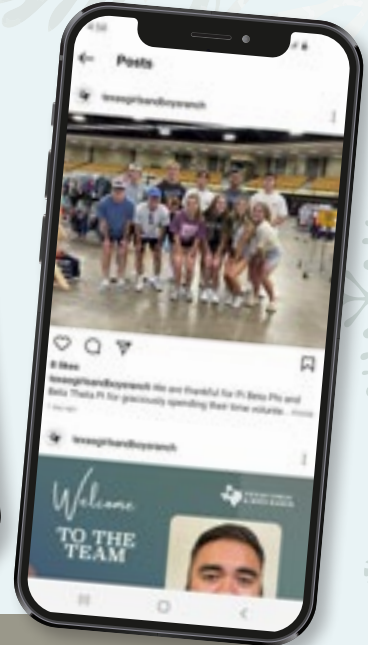
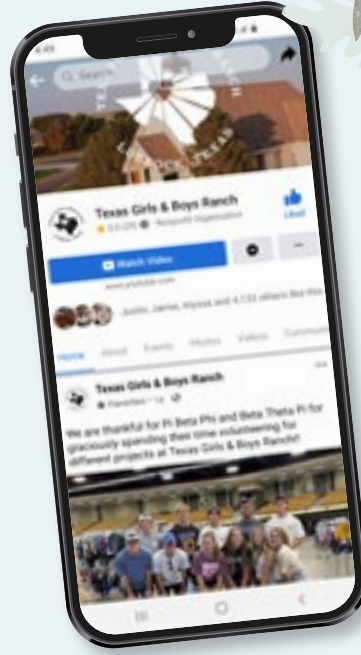
### **COURTNEY MONK**

*Community Relations Coordinator*

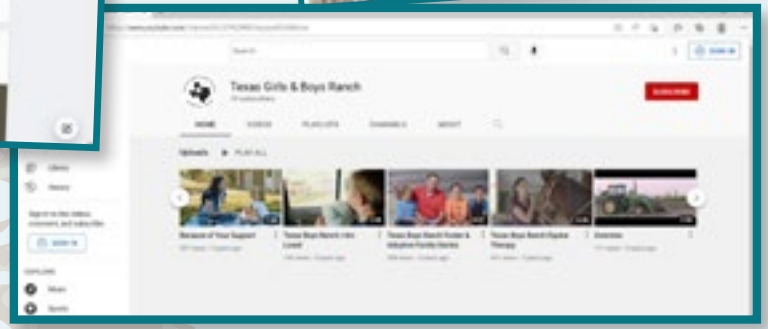
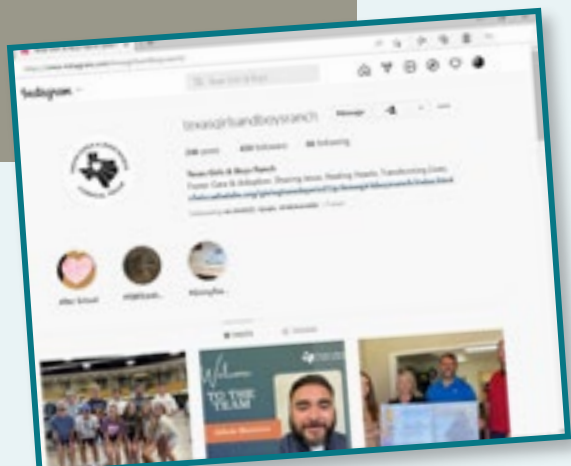
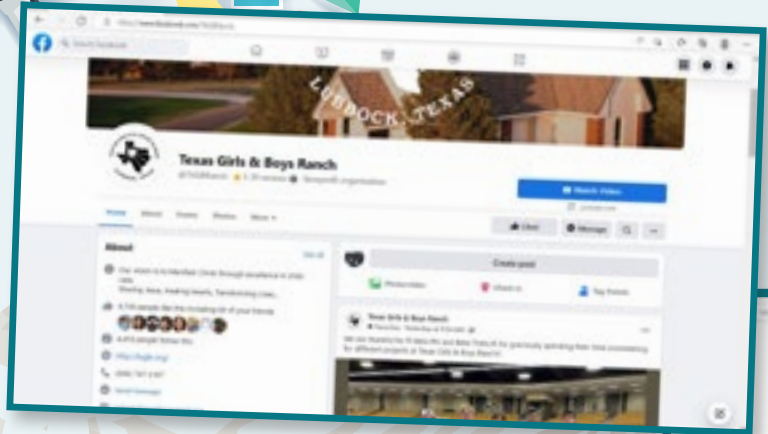
[cmonk@txgbr.org](mailto:cmonk@txgbr.org)

As 2023 has come to an end, we are so thankful for the loving community Lubbock provides. TxGBR had so many amazing Angel Tree and Donation Drive partnerships this Christmas. Thank you to every single individual who provided a gift for a child in care, helped wrap Christmas presents, and provided a warm meal to a cottage during the crazy holiday season. We continue to have many serving and donation opportunities as we start the New Year! If this is something you or a group you know is interested in, please contact me at [cmonk@txgbr.org](mailto:cmonk@txgbr.org) and we will get you set up to serve at TxGBR!

# 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 THIS OUT !**

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





# TEXAS GIRLS & BOYS RANCH FOUNDATION



The Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Foundation supports the work of Texas Girls & Boys Ranch by helping donors create a lasting endowment that provides a strong and reliable source of funding for the TxGBR mission of “Sharing Jesus, Healing Hearts, Transforming Lives.”

Since 1990 the TxGBR Foundation has been helping big-hearted friends, just like you, make powerful life-changes for children who have suffered abuse and neglect. By utilizing tax-wise strategic planning, compassionate and charitably-minded people from all walks of life have been able to make a greater impact in the lives of disadvantaged youth in West Texas and beyond through a permanent endowment.

Each year, from earnings on its assets, the Foundation helps make possible the programs and services offered by Texas Girls & Boys Ranch to the children and families it serves. This would not be possible without the friendship, prayers, and support of those who share the desire to give children a chance to grow and mature physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

There are many ways you can make an impact for good. Whether you have already determined how you want to join the mission of Christ-centered healing, or you’re still wondering what the best way for you might be, we’re here to help. We are happy to sit down with you and talk about your desires, your needs, the legacy you want to leave, and help come up with solutions that will accomplish your wishes.

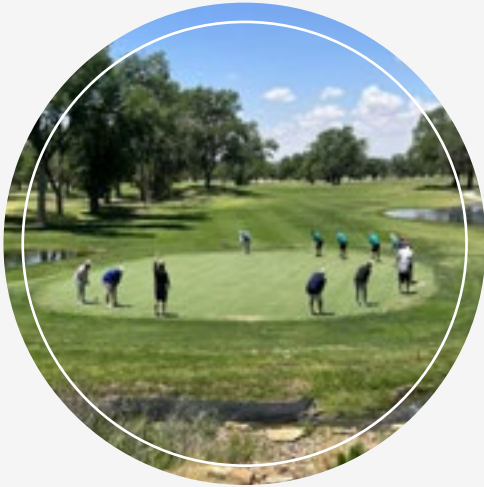
If you would like to find out more about the Texas Girls & Boys Ranch Foundation and how you can make a lasting impact, you can visit [txgbrfoundation.org](http://txgbrfoundation.org), contact the office at 806-749-1103, or email Eric Creel at [ecreel@txgbrfoundation.org](mailto:ecreel@txgbrfoundation.org).

**Since 1990 the TxGBR Foundation has been helping big-hearted friends, just like you, make powerful life-changes for children who have suffered abuse and neglect.**



coming up in **2024**

MAY



THE FRIENDS OF THE RANCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST



SPARKLES & SPURS GALA

OCTOBER



ANNUAL TXGBR PRAYER WALK

DECEMBER



THE OVERTON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER ANNUAL GINGERBREAD DISPLAY

*Look for these and other dates to be announced!*

# MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS

October 1 - December 31, 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

### All Staff at TxGBR Children's Shelter

Mr. Jerry Dennis  
**Casey, Larry & Barbara**  
Randy & Lynda Casey  
**Cheek, Traci**  
Ms. Terry Hawkins  
**Howell, Bill & Kathy**  
Mr. Keith Gray  
**Howell, Jacob**  
Mr. Keith Gray  
**Howell, Jonathan & Emily**  
Mr. Keith Gray  
**Liles, Bill**  
Mrs. Caroline Kron  
**Lubbock Area Lights ABWA**  
Teri Davis  
**Poe, Kurt & Suzy**  
Ted & Carol Poe  
**Prairie View Dairies,  
J & S Dairy,  
D & J Dairy, Track Dairy,  
Red Rock Dairy**  
REM Dairy Service  
**Rains, Scotty**  
Ms. Sue Parson  
**The Jimmy Shankle Family**  
Kendall & Becky Cowan  
**Wagner, Tony**  
Mike & Carla Calfin

## Memorials

**Alexander, Murl**  
Randy & Ann Hooks  
**Amburn, Denise & Jody**  
Tedburn Investments, Inc.  
**Ash, Donna**  
Randy & Gay King  
**Benham, Carl "Cobb"**  
Tedburn Investments, Inc.

**Betenbough, Rick**  
Andy Bean  
Ronda McKown  
Mr. George McMahan  
Bob & Charlotte Mize  
Jayme Tadlock  
**Blair, Jerry**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Booher, Shane**  
Ron & Lauren Cox  
**Boyles, William David**  
Rex & Melanee Boyles  
**Branham, Finus**  
Benny & Judy Gray  
**Clements, Jerry**  
Debra King  
**Cox, Chris**  
Mrs. Margaret Aycock  
**Cummings, Doug**  
Greg & Brenda Cartwright  
**Faris, Leon**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Fayweather, Dan**  
Bob & Charlotte Mize  
**Fortenberry, Michael**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Fowler, Addye May**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Franco, Rene**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Furlow, Steve**  
Bob & Mary Jane Young  
**Gilbreath, Kathy**  
Bill & Linda Miller  
**Goen, Josh**  
Coy & Gail Hunt  
**Gossett Sarrat, Tina**  
Buck & Joyce Gossett  
**Gossett, Steve**  
Buck & Joyce Gossett  
**Gray, Dorothy**  
Mr. Keith Gray  
**Hale, Danny Clyde**  
Norman & Judy Wilson

**Hall, Linda**  
Jerry Hall  
**Hamilton, Harry Augustus**  
Andy Bean  
Cassier-Mason  
Trinity Church  
Scott & Melissa Collier  
Heidi Cowden  
Naitsa Marrero  
Mr. George McMahan  
Randy Neugebauer  
Andrew Peters  
Kim Schuessler  
Heather Thompson  
**Hancock, Leslie**  
John & Karen Tidwell  
**Harper, Sarah**  
Johnie & Cynthia Harper  
**Henson, Robert**  
Jeff Mercer  
John & Karen Tidwell  
**Howell, Rusty**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Hoyle, Larry**  
Robbins Watson  
**King, Fay Marie**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Koetting, Stanley**  
Randy & Ann Hooks  
**Lee, Ann**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Leech, Jack**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Lehman M.D., Michael**  
Dr. Michael Armstrong  
**Marlow, Gary**  
Mrs. Sheila Stephens  
**Massey, Jimmy**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Mayfield, Mary W.**  
Mr. Dowe Mayfield  
**McDonald, Jackie**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**McDonald, Lee**  
Pat Davis

**Miller, Roma**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Mitchell, James**  
Benny & Judy Gray  
**Murray, Kitty**  
Alene Kidd  
**Oliver, A. C.**  
Brent & Cathy Noble  
**Oliver, C. J.**  
Delbert & Jeri Smith  
**Otts, Kenny**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Page, Roma**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Parkinson, Tucker**  
Brady & Jenny Goen  
Mrs. Doris Herron  
Karen Kiser  
**Payne, Jenny**  
Darrel & Sherry Werley  
**Phillips, Tony**  
Fellowship Riders  
**Pinkston, Victoria Mickey**  
Annie Sovic  
**Rice, Sarah Jane**  
Cynthia Conner  
Wes & Linda Kittley  
Connie Crossnoe  
**Salinas, Tommy**  
Terry & Sheri Hurst  
**Sarten, Glen & Geraldine**  
Benny & Judy Gray  
**Seeley, George**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Smith, Vester**  
Mr. Mike Davison  
**Tankersley, Sallye**  
Robert & Beverly Freeman  
**Vance, Vi**  
Donny & Terri Tucker  
**Wood, Kay**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth  
**Worsham, Helen**  
Ty & Mary Wilmeth

## Circuit Rider 2024-1 • 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.

## THE OVERTON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER'S



# Annual Gingerbread Display



**One of our favorite holiday traditions is the Overton Hotel & Conference Center's annual gingerbread display. Lubbock's Largest Gingerbread Display is open to the public and can be viewed through December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.**



2023 marked the 12th year for the tradition and the Overton culinary team put in countless hours to bring the design to life using hundreds of pounds of gingerbread, icing, and candies to complete the design. The hotel is decorated so beautifully at Christmastime and the gingerbread display brings home all the festive atmosphere of the holidays.

In addition to the display, Overton General Manager Kurt Metcalf and Director of Sales and Marketing Shannon Baker invited our children and houseparents to be their guests at a special

Christmas dinner. They were treated to a fancy meal and then got a sneak peek at the gingerbread display before its big public reveal.

The gingerbread project is unique and reflects the Overton Hotel & Conference Center's dedicated partnership with Texas Girls & Boys Ranch. Since the beginning, the holiday project has raised tens of thousands of dollars to benefit the children at the Ranch. Donations can be made at the Overton Hotel's front desk by purchasing a \$5 ornament or a donation of any amount.

