

## **CIRCUIT RIDER**

SHARING JESUS, HEALING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

## **BECAUSE OF YOU:**

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# EXPERIENCES THAT LAST A — Lifetime —

What a year! There are only two months left in the school year and summer is right around the corner. Very soon our boys and girls will be busy with lots of activities to fill the weeks before school starts again. We never allow summer to end without at least one week at a Church Camp. It's hard to imagine just how much difference a week can make for shy and withdrawn girls and boys, especially children who have been abused and neglected by so many important people in their lives. According to Dr. Michael Popkin, founder of Active Parenting Publishers, "The building blocks of self-esteem are belonging, learning, and contributing." Church Camp offers unique opportunities for children to succeed in these three vital areas, even more than what they experience at home and in school. Hundreds of youth ministers and experts in child development agree that church and leadership camps make a profound difference in the lives of children and youth.

But we don't have to listen to the experts about the value of Church Camp. We have personal testimony from our kids from over the years who have described their camp experiences:

Jennifer (age 12): *"I learned how to be on my own without someone with me all the time."* 

Michael (age 17): "I feel that I am better at interacting with friends and even my family. The skills learned at camp helped me a lot when I went back to the Ranch."

Susan (age 9): "I learned about God as my father and Jesus as my big brother!"

Kelly (age 9): "I learned how to be responsible and respectful."

LaToya (age 8): "I cried when I had to leave my new friends."

Randall (age 12): "I learned to have fun, be a leader, and most of all – about God."

Our children reap multiple benefits from a one-week camp experience. They think they are there to have fun and they WILL have fun. But so much more is going on than they realize. The benefits of camp are both immediate and slow to emerge. Most importantly, although the experience itself is brief, the impact of that experience can last a lifetime...can even make an eternal difference.

For many children who have been victimized by abuse and neglect, camp is the one place where they can feel accepted without labels. After all, the other kids aren't with their parents either, so for just a little while they can imagine what it feels like to be "normal". Won't you reach into your wallet, grab a checkbook, or pull out your credit card to help send our children to camp this year? Our kids will be glad you did...so will their house parents.

And I think you will also!

John Sigle



## **EXAMPUS CORNER**



#### ADAM BARRERA Campus Program Director abarrera@txgbr.org

Ben and Maisy will be graduating this May. I will start with an old farmer's proverb I read years ago at a local farmer's corn maze. "I'd rather dig an inch wide and a mile deep than an inch deep and a mile wide. When working with our kids, we know we only have a short time with them, depending on court cases, hearings, etc. Our houseparents and direct care staff strive daily to

build intentional relationships with the kids they serve. As the seasons roll in and out of the South Plains, so do our kids. Every now and then we find ourselves in a season with older kids who need and deserve the love and attention that our younger kids require. During this season, we have the opportunity to see two of our teens achieve a huge milestone in life, graduating high school. This is work put in by the teens being intentional with how they spend their time here on the ranch and by the staff who pour into them daily. Despite their hardships and obstacles, they managed to get the win they deserve. Every day I am inspired by each and every child that comes and stays with us. I challenge myself and others to not just be present but to be "actively present" in the lives of our children and youth.

### **GRADUATING SENIORS!**



Benjamin (Ben) arrived on campus on April 19th of 2021. He came to live in cottage two with Evan & Twyla Williams. Ben has been at TxGBR the longest of our current twenty-five kids on campus. He has grown so much over those three years, and this will be a hard one to see graduate. With the right amount of nurturing, love, redirecting, and structure, Ben has adjusted into a more mature young man than when he first arrived. Ben is looking at attending a trade school to learn welding or IT. We are excited to see Ben finish his senior year and continue into adulthood.



Maisy arrived on our campus on May 23 of 2023 with her three other siblings. Maisy is the oldest and had to raise her younger three siblings at a young age. Before coming into care, Maisy was working jobs to provide for her siblings while trying to maintain her credits to stay current in school. At one point, Maisy and her siblings were camping out because they had nowhere to live. Right now, Maisy is the 4th in her class at Roosevelt High School and is applying to Texas Tech University to attend in the fall. Maisy is interested in pursuing a career as a pharmacist. She has maintained a job since last fall and has saved up all her checks in hopes of purchasing a used car so she can use it for college. When Maisy first arrived, she made a comment that she was grateful to just have a bed to sleep on. We are excited to see Maisy achieve goals despite her hardships.

See more about Maisy & Ben on page 11

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**



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

Spring Break is behind us and now we start shifting gears in preparation for summer. Flowers are blooming, grass is growing, and our resident

road runner makes his rounds by our main offices most mornings. God has blessed the Ranch with a beautiful campus and the ability to get the kids out into nature.



We find tremendous value in providing the kids opportunities to be in and around nature. From our year-round horse program which includes trail rides, and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, to our periodic fishing trips in Mason, Tx, and around the Cisco, TX area, we look for opportunities where kids can experience what God has made for their/our enjoyment.

One outdoor opportunity immediately on our main campus is our outdoor classroom and nature trail. The brainchild of one of our board members, this project was realized in 2022. It consists of a fire pit, an outdoor stage, benches, bench swings, picnic tables, and several trails. It provides locations to sit and enjoy a colorful, West Texas sunset, several isolated (yet visible) areas to sit in solitude, and some varied terrain to go for a quiet jog.





We have hopes of further developing this complex in the future but even if those plans do not materialize for several years, it has already been identified by some of our youth as their favorite outdoor area on the campus. For the ability to appreciate God's creation and the opportunity it allows some youth to deepen that connection, the area's value cannot be calculated.

SO, whether you have contributed to the creation of the outdoor area or have volunteered to help clear winter weeds and maintain our grounds, *THANK YOU for helping us provide these opportunities for the children we serve.* 

TEXAS GIRLS & BOYS RANCH

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## SHELTER SPOTLIGHT



#### TAMMI PILLOW, MS

Children's Shelter Program Director tpillow@txgbr.org

The Turning Point contract has been signed and fully executed with Superior Health Plan. In addition, Childcare Licensing has given the green light for the TxGBR Children's Shelter to begin accepting qualified Turning Point clients. We have multiple direct care staff, including three new staff members who have worked hard "knocking out" all minimum standards

training requirements. In addition, we re accepting applications for additional Direct Care Staff and well as House Manager and Cook positions. The team will participate in a specialized training called EQ2. This training will take place in the next couple of weeks. The training is designed to increase the staff's own self-regulation skills and will equip them to manage conflicts that may arise. In addition, it will increase staff understanding of trauma and the impact of trauma on the youths' behavior and development. We are excited and ready to accept our first client at Turning Point!

## ED/REC/SPIRITUAL



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

At Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, our core mission is to introduce every child in our care to Jesus. Through our tailored programs, we aim for our staff to embody Christ's redemption, fostering an environment where children can open their hearts to salvation. We value collaborations with local churches and other ministries who impact our children's Christian lives. Church

camp serves not just as a getaway, but as a focused time for spiritual growth away from worldly distractions. We aspire to cultivate and nurture our children daily, and we will continue to partner with our extended church family, eagerly anticipating the spiritual harvest.

## **FOSTER FOCUS**



#### **ANGELA SKORICK**

Foster Care & Adoption Program Director askorick@txgbr.org

There are times we have families apply to our Foster Care Program because they are caring for their grandchildren or nieces and nephews. Whenever Child Protective Services makes a determination that it is not safe for a child to stay with their biological parents, they first ask about family members who might take the child(ren) in. As you can imagine, this could

**TEXAS GIRLS & BOYS RANCH** 

potentially become a significant burden, financially and in other ways, for those family members, especially if they already have children of their own. That is why it is recommended that these families get licensed through an agency like ours so they can receive training, emotional support, financial reimbursement, and help navigating the system. These kinship foster families are special to us because they are going above and beyond to care for their own family members. It is hard to take on those added responsibilities while also following so many rules and expectations. We really appreciate our kinship families and are always here to help.





CORNHOLE CHALLENGE AT BUDDY FUN DAY



**CRAZY CLIMBERS** 



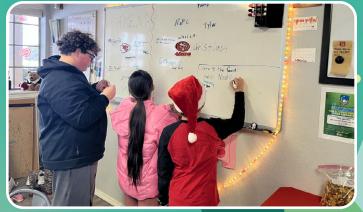
**GEARING UP FOR A TRAIL RIDE** 



**POP THE PIG!** 



PANCAKES, YUM



PICKING FAVORITES FOR THE SUPER BOWL

#### TEXAS GIRLS & BOYS RANCH



PLAYING TWISTER AT BUDDY FUN DAY



ROOTING FOR TEXAS TECH



NICE DAY FOR A RIDE



SUPER BOWL PARTY SNACKS



STEM NIGHT AT ROOSEVELT SCHOOL



LUBBOCK LIONS CLUB PANCAKE FUN



I don't know about you, but spring and summer are some of the busiest times for me. Sometimes I just feel the need to get away from it all, slow down, and take a step back from everything. As a counselor, I often encourage the children we serve at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch to imagine calm, safe places, in order to promote for them some sense of peace and tranquility to calm their troubled minds. When life gets hectic, if we can take time to slow down and appreciate what we have, we are better able to be thankful to God for the blessings we have in life. This can foster a sense of renewal and enable us to forget about all the craziness going on in the world around us.

I know you can imagine how much the kids at the Ranch need this in their difficult lives. For many of them, their young hearts have known more stress and anxiety than many adults ever experience. They have been through many hardships and what they need most now is rest and rejuvenation- a chance to get away and be thankful for and focus on the good things they have; even though those may seem very few to them sometimes.

## Church Camp can provide the opportunity for hurting children to be able to slow down, appreciate life, and see God in all his glory.

Church Camp may seem like just a fun diversion for the children at the Ranch, but we think of Church Camp as an important part of their therapeutic journey of healing. We have found that the experience of camp is an important part of being able to get away from the stresses of hectic lives and a chance for hurting children to be able to focus on Jesus and the good things God has in store for them and their futures. It's such a wonderful way to mend wounded spirits.

Taking a broken life and trying to make it whole again takes lots of loving, caring people and a lot of carefully planned effort. We believe Church Camp is an integral part of that effort. Over the years, we have seen many children, some of whom we thought we may never be able to reach, respond so positively to the Church Camp experience that it forever changed their lives. When you think about it, the cost of Church Camp is a very small price to pay for such a potentially life-changing experience.



Taking a broken life and trying to make it whole again takes lots of loving, caring people and a lot of carefully planned effort. We believe Church Camp is an integral part of that effort.

#### As with many things these days, costs are rising, but an investment in sending a child to Church Camp is still a great value considering how it could possibly make an eternal difference in a child's life.

Would you prayerfully consider making this investment in a child's future? Even a small part of the investment is better than nothing at all. Imagine them being in a place where God feels closer and their life seems much simpler, enjoying the summer evenings, campfires, the smell of the outdoors. Spending time in a wholesome environment where they are able to replace bad memories with good ones. What a priceless gift to offer a child who has received so little in life.

We depend a great deal on generous and caring people like you to help us do our work. The work is important but it would be impossible without your help.

Making a donation is easy. You can send in your donation with the provided card and envelope or go online to our website. Just think... what takes moments of your time today can have such a lasting impact in the life of a precious child.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity,

-Sijle

John Sigle







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#### **DONOR APPRECIATION**



#### **BILLY CHEEK**

Advancement Officer bcheek@txgbr.org

I know this little article is entitled "Donor Appreciation," but in reality, the main focus of everything in this newsletter, and in all we do at Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, is in appreciation of the generous people who support the children in our care. When you see the graduating seniors, please know that you have played a part in their success. When you look at the 'Round the Ranch pictures, none of those things would be possible without your help. The fact is, it is impossible to show just how far-reaching

an impact your support has in our organization and in the lives of the children we serve. But if you have ever wondered whether your contributions have made a difference, just look through this newsletter and you'll see all the wonderful things your support has made possible. We truly appreciate everyone who chooses to partner with us and I pray for your wellbeing and give thanks for you and all you do.

#### **CHURCH CONNECTION**



#### MICHAEL NUDELMAN Church Relations Officer

mnudelman@txgbr.org

As summer approaches, many churches in our region take part in mission trips, VBS, as well as other church activities. At Texas Girls & Boys Ranch we love when churches include us in their mission work. Whether it be collecting items for our commissary or taking up special collections to help with our general fund, summertime can really be a great time to teach others about tithing. It always feels

good to give to others. At TxGBR we love our churches and we cannot fulfill our mission without your help. Please pray for us this summer. And thanks to all the churches who currently help us out with our mission of: Sharing Jesus, Healing Hearts, Transforming Lives. God bless.

#### VOLUNTEERING



#### **COURTNEY MONK**

Community Relations Coordinator cmonk@txgbr.org

Springtime is here, which means we are gearing up for beautiful weather and fun summer activities at the Ranch! Spring brings many opportunities to get involved at TxGBR. We have volunteer opportunities that can get individuals, small groups, or even your whole organization involved! The Ranch is always awaiting amazing volunteers to get involved with the children, houseparents, and staff. Cookouts, ice cream parties, and game days are a few ideas the children and houseparents love

for making connections and memories.

Monday, May 20th is the 10th Annual Friends of The Ranch Golf Tournament which provides volunteer opportunities out on the course! Volunteers are such an important backbone of TxGBR. If you would like to get involved in any way, you can contact Courtney at cmonk@txgbr.org or 806.747.3187 Ext. 105

Maisy Sheffield A

TxGBR

TxGBR since May 2023. Graduating from Roosevelt in the Top 5 students of her class, having a secure job at The Pretzel Maker, and preparing for a successful future are just a few of the amazing achievements Maisy has made! Join us in celebrating Maisy's graduation, marking the beginning of her journey towards a bright future filled with fun, hard work, and big plans. As a caring sister and a dedicated individual, Maisy's achievements are not only a testament to her own efforts but also an inspiration to those around her. Maisy plans to enroll in Pharmacy School at Texas Tech University. Let's cheer her on as she embarks on this new chapter in her life and watch what the Lord has in store for her!



Graduating Seniors

Ben is an 18-year-old gentleman who has lived at TxGBR since April 2021. Ben is a spunky, fun, caring, witty, and intelligent young man. Ben enjoys doing handyman work, learning new skills, and playing games with friends. Ben plans to train to be a welder while participating in a Supported Independent Living Program after graduation. TxGBR staff has had the blessing of watching Ben grow into a great young man who has a very bright future ahead of him! Ben has made deep bonds and connections with many staff members during his time at the ranch, especially with his houseparent's. Ben is proud to call the ranch home, and we cannot wait to see what his future holds!

## Performance Quality Improvement (PQI)

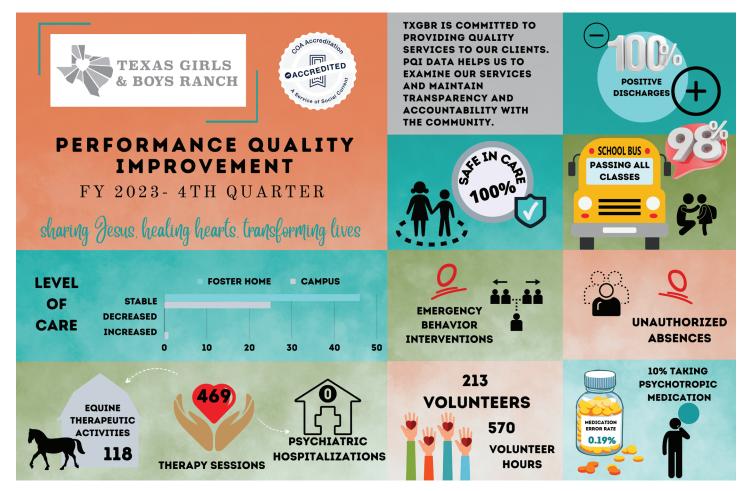
Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) is not only a requirement of our accreditation through COA, Texas Girls & Boys Ranch consistently strives for a culture of excellence, and PQI helps direct us. PQI helps steer our strategic plan and our mission of Sharing Jesus, Health Hearts, and Transforming Lives.

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.

## Take a look!

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





### TIME FOR A CHECKUP

How often do you go in for a checkup?

The answer probably depends on exactly what we're talking about. Most of us have a schedule for taking care of those things that are important in our lives. You take your car to the mechanic every so many miles to change fluids and get a tune up so it will continue to serve you well. You go to the dentist once or twice a year so you can keep your teeth in good condition and prevent any small cavities from becoming real problems. Regular doctor visits allow the chance to ask questions and discuss issues about your physical health. You may have a financial advisor you meet with who gives you wise counsel based on your changing needs and market conditions.

There aren't many things in life, and certainly not the really important things, that we can simply "set it and forget it." It only makes sense, and we consider it an act of wisdom, to get those regular checkups.

My wife and I had an estate plan checkup not long ago that we had been putting off for quite a while. I don't know why we didn't do it sooner. Maybe we felt like it was too big of an ordeal, or maybe we were afraid of the cost. Perhaps somewhere in the back of our minds we hoped that we just wouldn't need it for a long, long time. It actually turned out to be a wonderful thing for us and brought much-needed clarity and certainty into our lives. And yes, we needed to make quite a few changes!

Our family circumstances had changed quite a bit since our last checkup, many new laws had been enacted, and, as a result, our plans were woefully outdated. The professional we met with through a partnership with the Foundation was able to enhance what we desired to accomplish in ways that didn't even occur to us before.

Here are just a few elements of a well drafted plan that you, too, might need to consider:

Asset Protection for Loved Ones: We live in a litigious society. Does your current plan protect your beneficiaries from lawsuits and creditors? A well-crafted plan can protect their inheritance.

Privacy Upon Death: Your last will and testament will be filed in the public records in your county. The law also requires an inventory be published of all your assets and their values. A well drafted estate plan can give you the ability to have your estate administered privately.

Minimize Taxes: Retirement accounts need special planning to minimize the impact of taxes on your loved ones. Tax law changes in recent years have particular implications in this area. Will your heirs receive a tax burden in addition to the assets you leave them?

Direct Tax Dollars to Charitable Organizations: Does your plan send money to the government or to your favorite charities? Which do you believe will make better use of the dollars, according to your values?

These and many other issues can and should be addressed in everyone's estate plans, no matter how great or small the balance sheet. If you would like a complimentary checkup for your estate plan, I'm happy to extend an invitation for you to meet with this estate planning attorney who will walk you through the plan that you currently have and if there are areas that need to be addressed, educate you on exactly what that might look like for your unique situation. If you don't have a plan, he will work with you to put together a plan that aligns with your values.

If it's time for your own checkup, like it was for us, call or email me to set an appointment or to ask any questions you may have about this unique process. We're happy to serve you, as you have been of great service to this ministry.

Contact Eric at the Foundation office at (806) 749-1103 or ecreel@TxGBRFoundation.org for more information on how you can get a complimentary estate plan checkup.



#### MEMORIAL AND LIVING HONOR GIFTS January 1 - March 31st, 2024

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 **Baby Gray Dillion Donald** Madiha Yazdani Boydstun, Ginger Shawna Larson Gray, Drew & Jessica Haley Hughston Lubbock Community for Supporting Mr. Jerry Dennis Mize, Bob & Charlotte Charlotte McCulloch Rains, Scotty Fred & Mellane Parson Womble, Leisha Kathleen Coleman-Hammond

#### Memorials

Adams, Oleta George & Carolyn Dewbre Addison, James Chriss Paul & Connie McDaniel Anderson, Gerry Ty & Mary Wilmeth Armstrong M.D., Keeth Dr. Ted & Doris Allen Betty Sue Boyd Lou Conner Pat Hale Dr. Jack & Jane Henry Kara Hobbs Kenneth & Ann Kerr Bill & Karen Pfluger Van & Necia Rea Anisse Reynolds James & Jane Tustin George & Frances Webb Baker, Sadie Lynn Ms. Beverly St. Clair Barnett, Dorothy Mrs. Pat Rhoderick Bearden, Melba Charles & Beth Ann Cain Ty & Mary Wilmeth

Betenbough, Rick Ty & Mary Wilmeth Blessing, Aspen John & Dianne Gray Ms. Treon Minall Bonds, Lee Ty & Mary Wilmeth Boyles, Jr. William Rex & Melanee Boyles Bray, Walt Ty & Mary Wilmeth Brown, Charles Roy "Charlie" Manny & Shirley Beetz Paul & Denise Blake Dallas & Darla Dill Teddy & Martha Jackson Gary & Debbie Jones Dave & Julie Stanley Don & Gaye Young Calfee, Dan E. Mr. Mike Davison Clanahan, Beth Ty & Mary Wilmeth Conner, Jim Ty & Mary Wilmeth Davis, William Carroll Steve & Olive Hester Dawson, JoAnna Ty & Mary Wilmeth Dean, David Steve & Olive Hester Deke, Mile **Darrel & Sherry Werley** Eldredge, Sharon Brent & Cathy Noble Falbo, Frances LaNell "Nell" Mr. Frank Falbo Fernandez, Salvador Ty & Mary Wilmeth Floyd, Douglas Mr. Mike Davison Gomez, Bentley Ty & Mary Wilmeth Gordon, Jack Brent & Cathy Noble Granato, Tregg Paul & Connie McDaniel

Guzman, Fabian Delwin & Ann Marrow Harmon, Carol Phil & Leslie Nash Harper, Sarah Johnie & Cynthis Harper Johnie & Cynthis Harper Johnie & Cynthis Harper Harrell, Kason Blane Mark Harrell Hatch, Tommy Randy & Ann Hooks Hebisen, Cherie Ty & Mary Wilmeth Hendrix, Laura Mrs. Joan Roberts Henson, Robert Ty & Mary Wilmeth Hicks, Bobbie John & Karen Tidwell Hickson, Dash Ty & Mary Wilmeth Hobbs, Joe Mr. Mike Davison Hoffman, Erika Neil & Sheila Tucker Horsford, Wanda Larry & Dana Bryant House, Retha Diann Stone Hunt, Chris Mr. Mike Davison Jimenez, Elvira Ty & Mary Wilmeth Jordan, Brenda Gary & Debbie Jones Eddie & Margaret Jordan Leech, Scottie Ty & Mary Wilmeth Lewis, Geraldine Ty & Mary Wilmeth Lira, Nancy Jerry Hall Luman, Larry Brent & Cathy Noble McInturff, Don Ty & Mary Wilmeth

Miller, Anne Stephanie Daniel Newkirk, Jim Tommy & Sarah Burrus Noble, Derlynn Darrel & Sherry Werley Peters, Don Ms. Treon Minall Pierce, Marsha Pat Davis Pool, John Edward Brent & Cathy Noble Powell, Kenneth Randy & Rebecca Forbus Tommy & Sarah Burrus Ty & Mary Wilmeth Roberts, Robin J. Ms. Beverly St. Clair Roberts, Kenneth H. Bob & Barbara Coker Robertson, Danny J. Gary & Debbie Jones Smith, Jackie Joel & Karen Drake Phillip & Stephanie Drake John & Karen Tidwell Stephens, Bill Charles & Beth Ann Cain Sue, Colt Donald & Brenda Crump Surley, Etheline Darrel & Sherry Werley Tarter, James Donald "Coach" Manny & Shirley Beetz **Trolinder**, Del Mr. Ronnie Bradley Weir, Bertha Ty & Mary Wilmeth Welborn, Tyler Bill & Vicki Freeman White, Ronnie Jimbo & Winona Humphreys Whitehead, Jerry Darrel & Sherry Werley Willis, Donna Donny & Terri Tucker Wright, Mike Ty & Mary Wilmeth

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# FRIENDS OF THE RANCH

**GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING TXGBR** 

MONDAY MAY 20

## HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB

## REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST 7:30 AM SHOTGUN 8:30 AM

You Can Register Online by Scanning the QR Code or by Going to www.txgbr.org



For more information or to be BILLED, contact Courtney at Cmonk@txgbr.org