

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE VOICE

Hope and Healing for Children

VOLUME XXXXIV, NO. 1 •
SUMMER 2022

Children's Village is a Christian home that provides hope and healing for abused and neglected children.

IN THIS ISSUE

- A New Spring
- Volunteering on Campus
- Fundraising Efforts
- The Challenges to Growth

3659 FM 724 Tyler, Texas 75704 | PO Box 6564 Tyler, Texas 75711 | [childrensvillageoftexas.org](https://www.childrensvillageoftexas.org/) |  Children's Village Texas | 903.592.3421

A New Spring

Spring is known for bringing new life to the world. Seedlings sprout. Hibernation ends. Flowers and animals that were dormant in the winter months emerge into the light and warmth. This Spring seems more promising than the last two years as our world enters a more normal and familiar Spring than those experienced throughout the pandemic. Covid is still with us and flares at times to impact our daily lives. However, the world as a whole appears ready to embrace the warm weather



and experience a season of growth.

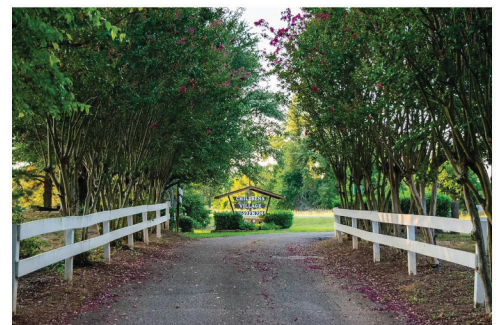
Children's Village enters this Spring with hope and optimism for growth and prosperity. While the pandemic has affected the child

welfare system as a whole, Children's Village remains committed to our mission of being a Christian home that provides hope and healing for abused and neglected children. The way we operated during the pandemic looked much different than in years past. At times, we did not have Cottage Parents and our Executive Director cared for younger children in the home. At other times, we had no younger children and opened our campus to the Department of Family and Protective Services to provide temporary housing for teenagers who were without placement. Throughout this time, Children's Village remained diligent in serving the community while planting the seeds for growth in expectation for the time ahead.

Late last year, Children's Village was blessed to resume our general operating model of providing long-term placements for younger children in a family setting. Cottage A reopened in October when Dan and Kara Cones joined our family, and two children were placed in their care. A third child joined us in February 2022 but was able to return to his family of origin in late April. We have gone through Christmas, a couple of birthdays, Valentine's, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter. Activity on campus and in the community has increased steadily through the winter and is simply ready to explode now that Spring has

arrived. Children's Village is actively seeking a second couple to join the family and open Cottage B to continue our growth.

The administrative team for Children's Village is changing as well. For a majority of the past 20 years, Executive Director, Kathy Steinocher, and her Assistant, Diane Brown, have been the heart and soul of Children's Village, ensuring the success of our day-to-day operations and overall mission. Both have decided to pass that torch to a new generation in 2022. Wade "Matt" Rogers joined Children's Village in December 2021 to learn from Ms. Steinocher and will assume the Executive Director duties in June 2022. Kasee Kannard joined Children's Village in February 2022 to fill Mrs. Brown's countless roles. While the administrative team is changing, the commitment remains for Children's Village to be the most reputable organization serving families in Smith County and the surrounding communities.



To view previous newsletters, please visit our website at <https://www.childrensvillageoftexas.org/>

Also, please follow us on Instagram: @ChildrensVillageTexas and Facebook: @ChildrensVillageTexas and share our information with the community.

Volunteering on Campus

As we entered Spring, we took a deep look at our campus to determine what areas needed some TLC. Most of our flower beds needed attention, our fences needed cleaning, and various debris on campus needed to be removed. We also discovered considerable damage to the wall surrounding our playground and the primary play structure our children use. Both had aged and were showing signs of rot and decay. The time had come to replace them.

During March, a group of youth from the Shiloh Road Church of Christ, along with the Watson family, volunteered for a campus cleanup day. This group of mostly teens were amazing. They worked hard throughout the day to tackle as many projects as they could. They cleaned the playground equipment, weeded flower beds, washed fences, picked up fallen limbs, and dismantled and discarded broken items from around the campus.

In late April, Trammell Services began the playground project by addressing the outer wall issues. Since there was no saving the old wall, a new wall was constructed a couple of feet outside the old parameter and the old materials removed. New rock was added to ensure the play area was properly filled and ready for action.

A couple of weeks later, a group of volunteers from Rock Hill Baptist Church continued the project by removing the old play structure and constructing the new one. Taking down the old structure was by far the



easier of the two jobs. The instructions for the new playset estimated two adults could assemble it in 6-8 hours. Five adults and two teenagers managed to get it done, well 90% done, in 5 hours. Without the time and effort all of these gentlemen invested, this project may have dragged on into the summer. The new playground looks fantastic. It is safe, sound, and ready for the next 20 years of fun.



Fundraising Efforts

Since our beginning, Children's Village has been privately funded due to the choice to have a non-financial contract with state. We do not accept reimbursement from DFPS for children placed in our care, instead relying on the generosity of the community we serve through various fundraising efforts. Each year, the Azalea Run is one of our primary fundraising events. When the Covid pandemic struck in 2020, all public events were canceled, and the race was forced to be conducted virtually. Many public events began to return in 2021 with some limitations due to lingering health concerns related to the pandemic. Finally, the Azalea Run took place this year in pre-pandemic form.

The team at Tyler Event and Run Productions showed excellence in setting up and staging the Azalea Run. From registration through medal presentation, they handled everything with professionalism and precision. Even when supply chain issues delayed the runners' shirts, they ensured all participants were aware of the situation and hosted a party to distribute the shirts afterwards. Over 700 runners registered in all age groups, and the weather was perfect for the event. There was a full lineup of races including a 1k, 5k and

10k. Vendors, sponsors and volunteers were plentiful. This was an outstanding event that neared pre-pandemic turnout.

Naturally, fundraising provided through sponsorship was low during the two pandemic years but began to rebound in 2022. With the Azalea Run returning without Covid restrictions, many of the pre-pandemic sponsors returned to support Children's Village. Although we fell short of the amounts raised prior to Covid in 2018 and 2019, we are grateful and thankful to all who contributed toward our fundraising goals for this event. We look forward to the 2023 Azalea Run with the hope more sponsors will turn out to show their support and help return this fundraiser to its pre-pandemic levels.

Children's Village offers a heartfelt thank you to all of the 2022 Azalea Run sponsors:

Amherst Oil and Gas
Berry Irrigation
Billings Tire
Cavender's
Chad Hanna Homes
Chick-Fil-A
Coburn's Wholesale Distributors
Drake Real Estate
East Texas Refrigeration
Fairway Auto Center
French Peas Flower Shop
Genesis Gives Back
Gollob Morgan Peddy

Henry & Peters PC
Hibbs Hallmark
Paul Ingle
Jasper Ventures (Veritas Gas Processing)
Jersey Mike's Subs
Kinsey Pharmacy
Landmark Title
Neuro IR of East Texas
Newberry Real Estate
Next Home NeighborOak Farms
One Ten Welding
Scout
Sierra Supply & Packaging
Smith Dental
Southern Surgical Arts
Southern Tire Mart
Superior Outfitters
Texas Bank and Trust
Texas Tank Services
The Foundry
The Means Companies
Tyler Beverages
VeraBank
Winningham Masonry



Remember the People You Love...

IN HONOR OF:

JAMES AND VANESSA

Melinda Griffin

CHARLOTTE BRELSFORD

'HOPE OF EASTER'

B. Tim Brookshire and Michelle Brookshire

MARGARET CHALFANT

Virginia Moore

Ann Green

MR. AND MRS. CHRIS

GLENNEY

Marilyn Thompson

MICHAEL MOSS

Leesa and Raymond Hedge

KALI PIERSON

Gary and Donna Shearer

DR. MARVIN STEPHENS

Penny Stephens

LLOYD AND SANDY WHEELER

Jeff and Melissa Jackson

ROCHELLE WOLFE

Leesa and Raymond Hedge

EMMA JOHNSON

Thomas and Louise Arnold



MR. JAMES BAUGH

Dottie Buie

HAROLD BEAIRD

Steve and Dolly Wolf

TRAVIS BOOHER AND DIANA BOOHER

Steve and Dolly Wolf

CAROLYN BOYTE

Kathy Steinocher

CHARLOTTE BRELSFORD

Chuck and Cathy Long

Virginia Leak Jones

Vicki Karl

Roy and Ann Lilly

Deborah Smith

Tyler Junior Garden Club

Steven Ullrich

Byron Wadley



DARLENE CARTER

Green Acres Baptist Church

Celebration Class

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Flanigan

KEN CARTER

Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Davis

MEREDITH CLAYBORN AND DAUGHTER SADIE DAWN

Dottie Buie

HERMAN LEE CRYER

Dottie Buie

DR. RAYMOND WILSON COZBY

5121 Investment Company, LLC

Additions- Mary Lauren & Bruce Faulkner

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Austin

William and Nancy Baker

Pryor Blackwell

Laura Blakely

William Brewer

Chacho Cahill

Mr. and Mrs. David Cobb

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coe

Michael Coker

Chris and Susie Cone

Dr. Thomas Cooper & Mrs. Cooper

Aimee Dodson

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY:

Janet Johnson

Jean Johnson

Donie Lacina

IN MEMORY OF LUCY, ANNIE AND WILL NICHOLSON FOR THEIR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Johnson

IN CELEBRATION OF PURCHASE OF HOME

TINA HILL

Wright Phillips & Co.

IN CELEBRATION OF SALE OF HOME

Barbara Lown

Wright Phillips & Co

MEMORIALS:



BUFORD TILLMAN ABELDT, JR.

Linda Adams Ellis

MARGO ADAMS

Steve and Dolly Wolf

EARLINE ANDREWS

Linda Adams Ellis



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Guinn
Patrick and Charlotte Hickey
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jones
Roy Coffee, Jr.
Scott Petty, Jr.
Dr. Paul Latta and Mrs. Latta
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lilly
Elizabeth Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Martin
William Nelson
J Blake Pogue
Mark Race
Ramey & Flock, P.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Renick
Raandi and Kerry Russell
Donald Ruthven
Ashley Smith
Dr. and Mrs. H. Don Smith
Tim and Jennifer Smith
Squyres & Co LLP
Dr. Marvin Stephens
Penny Stephens
Cheryl Ann Threlkeld
Lee Tynes
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Van Deventer
Mr. and Mrs. Don Warren
Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Wharton
Steve and Dolly Wolf
John Yeaman
Shannon Noble

-D-

-E-

DOUG AND TAVIE ELLIS
Dan and Laquetta Lemmert
JUNE ELLIOTT
Linda Adams Ellis

-F-

ROBERT FAULKNER
Maddox Residential and Commercial
Service
REV. BOB FEATHER
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Margaret
Stewart

-G-

CARTER W. GABRIEL
Chuck Long
Dottie Buie

-H-

BILL AND AVIS HALBERT

Randy and Karen Fitzgerald
Arthur and Mae Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mohr

CHARLES EDGAR HAMILTON

Genecov Foundation

DR. CLARK HAMPE

Linda Adams Ellis

JEANNE HIBBS

Adele Regan
Steve and Dolly Wolf

DR. SAMUEL HOUSTON

Linda Adams Ellis

H. T. HYDE

Cathy and Chuck Long
Linda Adams Ellis

VERNA HOLLIMAN

Dottie Buie

-J-

-K-

CAREY KING

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

MR. HARDIN KRITZ

Dottie Buie

JULIA KUKRAN

Dottie Buie

-L-

ROBERT LAYTON

Linda Adams Ellis

LEONARD LEIFER

Claire Leifer

**GEORGE AND RUTHIE
LEMMERT**

Dan and Laquetta Lemmert

LARRY LEWIS

Kathy Steinocher

ROY LILLY

Steve and Dolly Wolf

MARIANNE LONG

Linda Adams Ellis

-M-

BROOKLYN PAIGE MILLER

Keith and Carole Cummings

EVELYN MUNTZ

Linda Adams Ellis

-N-

**LUCY, ANNIE AND WILL
NICHOLSON**

Arthur and Mae Johnson

-O-

-P-

CLIFF ROSE

Tommy and Diane Brown

BARBARA ROGERS

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Minter

-S-

RONNIE SCHOENBRUN

Steve and Dolly Wolf

CALVIN SMITH

Linda Adams Ellis

**DEANNA SMITH AND CLIFFORD
SMITH**

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

MELVIN STIEFEL

Hank and Suzy Crouse

EARL "BUDDY" STORY

Steve and Dolly Wolf

LARRY PRICE SIMMONS

Steve and Dolly Wolf

MICHAEL SIMMONS

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Martin

Claire Leifer

-T-

JOANN TURNER

Steve and Dolly Wolf

DAVID TURMAN

Steve and Dolly Wolf

-V-

NELI VERBEEK-KOK

Dottie Buie

-W-

JOHN ROBERT WELCH

Tom and Margaret Stewart

SANDY WHEELER

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Jackson

STEVE WILSON

Charlotte Wilson

LEWIS WILLIAMS

Edmond Schaded

-Y-

DONNA YOUNGBLOOD

Tommy and Diane Brown

Children's Village Benefit Golf Tournament

The next big fundraiser for Children's Village will be our Golf Tournament in the Fall. This year's event will be held at the Hollytree Country Club on September 26, 2022. Please follow us on social media for updates regarding sponsorship, volunteering, and registration.



The Challenges to Growth

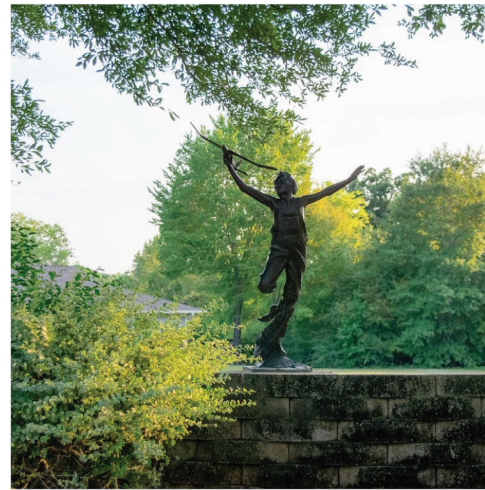
Children's Village is a Christian home that provides hope and healing for abused and neglected children. This is our mission statement and the reason we have been serving this community for over 40 years. DFPS Region 4 is centered in Tyler but includes over 20 counties throughout the northeast portion of Texas. From Carthage north to Texarkana west to Paris south to Palestine and east again, every city and small-town falls in the area Children's Village serves. However, Children's Village is not broadly known throughout the region.

Children's Village model also does not seem to be publicly known or understood. Children's Village operates a Cottage Parent model which has been acknowledged by the State of Texas as the "most family-like setting" available in the foster care system. Married couples are hired to live full-time in homes provided on our campus. They serve as surrogate parents for children placed in their homes and fulfill every role and duty a couple would in their own home in the community. Unfortunately, there are constraints placed on our homes that are not typically found in community homes.

Children's Village falls into a grey area with regard to how we are licensed and regulated. We are licensed as a General Residential Operation (GRO) despite not operating like a typical GRO that provides communal housing for children with rotating shift workers. We operate more closely to a community foster home but do not fall under the Child Placing Agency (CPA) licensing rules. Often, this leaves us in precarious situations with regard to how we are regulated. This is directly affecting how we serve children and how many we can serve under our Cottage Parent model.

There are currently regulations placed on all GROs, Cottage Parent models included, that limit the number of children that can be served in a home without overnight awake staff being

provided. Any time more than six children are placed in a home, there must be someone awake in the home 24 hours a day. This is understandable in typical GROs that may have 20 to 100 or more children in one physical building. These GROs are staffed with rotating shift workers. Overnight awake staff must be present in those facilities to ensure the safety of each child at all times.



In the Cottage Parent model, the couple never leaves though. They live in the home. If a child wakes during the night, the Cottage Parents wake and attend their needs as would happen in a traditional family home in the community. Since Children's Village is licensed and regulated as a GRO, despite being a Cottage Parent model, the state views our entire campus as one facility. We have two separate cottages with their own physical address and utilities but are viewed as one "building" by the standards. This limits us to having no more than six children on the entire campus or requires us to provide awake overnight supervision in each cottage. This includes children belonging to the Cottage Parents.

Think about this for a moment. If you have

four children in your home, and your neighbor has three children, would it be considered normal for both of your homes to hire someone to stay awake in your living room overnight? The resounding answer is no. I cannot imagine a situation where this would be considered "normal" or "family-like" which is the type of home we strive to provide at Children's Village. This is an issue that must be resolved by DFPS or the State Legislature.

My goal in writing this is to explain the limitations we face in recruiting and hiring married couples to fill our Cottage Parent positions. In order to serve the most children allowed by our regulations, we need to employ married couples with no children of their own. The population we serve is birth through elementary school. This often presents two obstacles. Young, married couples are starting their own families and already have young children. Older, married couples with grown children have historically not been fond of the idea of going back to changing diapers, potty training, etc.

Outside of the limitations placed on us by the GRO regulations, our greatest obstacle is a lack of widespread knowledge about who we are and what we do. As previously mentioned, we have a large service area. We are a Christian organization who seeks families to raise children in a home centered around church life and Christian morals and values. Yet very few Cottage Parent applicants come to us from the churches in our service area. This February, we began reaching out to churches throughout our service area via mail and email in hopes of reaching a Married Couple with the desire to serve children that may not know this opportunity even exists. While that effort has not yet generated any applicants, our hope is our letters, in addition to this article, will eventually reach the right couple.

Anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity may contact us through the administration@childrensvillageoftexas.org mailbox.



P.O.Box 6564
Tyler, Texas 75711-6564

Address Service Requested

Children's Village does not receive any state or federal funds, but relies solely upon contributions from individuals and organizations. If you would like to help us provide for the daily care and needs of our children please contact our business office at 903-592-3421. Your generosity and compassion can positively impact a child for a lifetime.

Find Your Living Memorial

Give Gifts That Keep On Giving

Do you have a friend or loved one you wish to honor in a special way? Children's Village can help honor that person through our Memorial Program or our Tribute and Remembrance Program. The funds you provide in this manner are used for food, clothing, shelter, and education for our boys and girls. At the same time, it is a thoughtful way to say to a friend, relative or bereaved family that you care.

Here's How It Works

Memorial Gifts are acknowledged immediately by a personal card to the bereaved family. No mention is made of the gift amount. Many find this "living memorial" more meaningful than flowers.

Tribute and Remembrance Gifts can be sent in honor of a birth, birthday, anniversary, graduation, illness, recovery or occasions such as Mother's Day or Father's Day. They are promptly acknowledged. The amount is not mentioned.

Three Ways to Give Through Your Will

1 Specific Amount

I give the sum of \$_____ to Children's Village and Family Service Agency, Inc., a Texas not-for-profit corporation with its principal office located in Tyler, Texas, to be used for its general purposes.

2 Percent of Residue

I give _____% of the residue and remainder of my estate to Children's Village and Family Service Agency, Inc., a Texas not-for-profit corporation with its principal office located in Tyler, Texas, to be used for its general purposes.

3 Entire Estate

I give my entire estate to Children's Village and Family Service Agency, Inc., a Texas not-for-profit corporation with its principal office located in Tyler, Texas, to be used for its general purposes.

These samples are only suggestions. Legal forms should always be prepared by our attorney.

The enclosed gift of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
 \$25 or \$ _____

Name _____

City/State _____

is sent to remember

Memorial Birthday

Wedding Anniversary

Holiday: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Please send an appropriate card to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

My name is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Relationship _____

Thank you for your gift! It will help make a difference in the life of a child.

Please send this form to:

Children's Village
P.O. Box 6564, Tyler, TX 75711-6564