

CHILDREN'S



VILLAGE

Hope and Healing for Children


VOICE

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WINTER 2022

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

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Season of Change

Fall is always a busy season of activity and transition in East Texas. Our calendars fill with school and church events interspersed with family gatherings and holiday parties. Our wardrobes, decorations, diets, and chore lists change along with the weather. Although it is busy, fall is also a season of reflection. As we finish off the last pieces of pie from Thanksgiving and start unraveling the Christmas lights, our end of year preparations cause us to reminisce over the many changes that have taken place on our campus throughout the year.

As we searched for the right couple to help us fill a newly reopened house, our Cottage A parents received and answered a call to ministry in another state. Thankfully, we have the best staff at Children's Village! Our assistant cottage parents, director, administrative assistant, and volunteers stepped up in a big way to ensure our kids were loved and cared for during the transition. While we may have had some crazy days (and nights) rotating in and out of the cottage, the children were able to enjoy the summer with little disruption to their routine. After a month of fun and relaxation, both sibling pairs were placed with family members before the start of the new school year.

immediately agreed to keep Cottage A open in order to welcome these children while the new cottage parents finished training and preparations in Cottage B for new residents. With the assistants keeping Cottage A running, Tommy and Ruby were able to complete their training and reopen Cottage B with the acceptance of another young sibling group. During this time, our call for more full time cottage parents was answered by a wonderful couple from Florida, Craig and Leslie. They were able to move into Cottage A, completing training and getting to know the kids and other cottage parents, while the assistants took on the majority of the day to day care, which has truly been a blessing. To say that changes happen quickly on this campus is an understatement!

The first month of school passed leading to fall

Despite the challenges brought on by a global pandemic and a number of regulatory changes within the foster care system over the past few years, Children's Village has remained steadfast in serving our community. With a firm foundation and desire to help children and families in need, Children's Village persevered through difficult times leading to a season of growth in 2022. Summer was a time of seemingly endless change for us. We celebrated the retirement of our Executive Director, Kathy Steinocher, after 20+ years of faithful service to our campus and foster children in northeast Texas, and welcomed our new director, Matt Rogers. Our cottage parents and assistants were busy entertaining 4 children (2 sibling pairs) in Cottage A during the school break while staff and volunteers spent time cleaning and refurbishing Cottage B in an effort to reopen it.

Around the same time, our search for cottage parents was finally successful, and we added Tommy and Ruby to our campus family. We planned to have a quiet couple of weeks training the new cottage parents and doing some cleaning and repairs around Cottage A, but God had other plans for us. After a weekend of rest, staff gathered over breakfast to discuss plans for the work to be done when we received the call that a sibling group of 3 children from here in Smith County was in desperate need of placement and in danger of being split up. Our assistants once again rose to the challenge and

weather and Halloween candy. Before we knew it, Jack-o-Lanterns gave way to pumpkin pie, and it was time to reflect and give thanks. We were able to sit down to a campus wide Thanksgiving dinner this year with 2 full-time cottage parent couples, 5 part time assistant cottage parents, and 5 children on campus. For the first time since March of 2019, both cottages at Children's Village are fully open, operational, and occupied by families. The love and support our children and staff have been shown by the community during this season of change has been truly amazing, and we are so thankful for it. Change can be difficult, but it often brings growth. We are excited by the growth that has taken place at Children's Village this year and looking forward to new growth in the near future.

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.

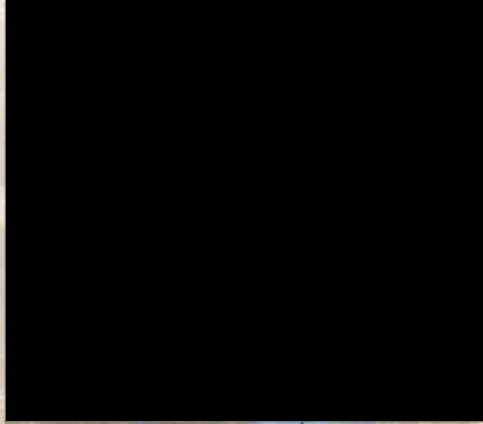
Beyond the Holidays

Each Christmas Children's Village receives multiple offers from individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to throw parties and provide presents for our children. We feel blessed to have so many supporters that want to make the holiday special for our families. Christmas is always a truly memorable time for our kids as they receive an abundance of gifts and experience an outpouring of love from the community.

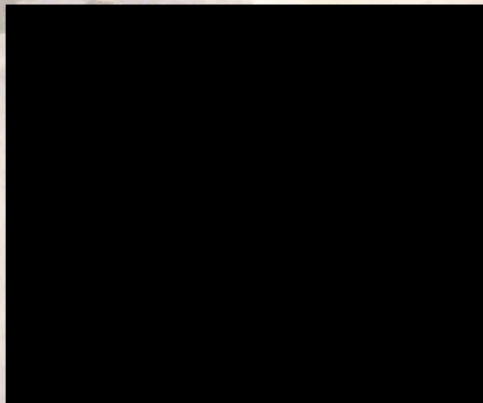


We are frequently asked what items children and cottage parents at Children's Village may need beyond the Christmas season. Our families have the same needs as any other family. We need mundane daily-use items such as cleaning supplies, hygiene products, diapers, and clothing. Basic household items like kitchen knives and utensils, pots and pans, and towels and linens frequently need to be replaced. Small appliances and electronics wear out very quickly in large households with daily use. Coffee pots, microwaves, blenders, alarm clocks, and vacuum cleaners are all fairly inexpensive on their own, but costs can add up fast when multiple items are needed. We occasionally have to replace large appliances like washers or refrigerators that are no longer economical to repair. Our cottage parents have created Amazon Wish lists with small items they may need in the houses that are posted on our website. We may also occasionally share requests through social media when we have need for a large item to be replaced. While we understand that

not everyone is able to donate, we simply ask that you share our wish lists and social media posts whenever you see them.



Like most other children, ours are often involved in fundraising campaigns for their schools and any extracurricular activities they may participate in. We typically post these fundraisers on Facebook, and again, ask that you help us by clicking 'share'. This year one of our children joined the band at Chapel Hill Junior High and needed her own instrument, so we asked for the community's help in purchasing one. Our small social media campaign enabled us to provide this young lady with an instrument she may not have otherwise received. We will continue to post similar needs as they arise and hope that you will share them in an effort to broaden our support base.



Keeping our Children's Village families active and entertained is another task where we appreciate help. Our families typically contain 5 or more people, so outings and ticketed events in the area can be quite costly. Our families recently enjoyed a trip on the Polar Express thanks to tickets provided by CASA for Kids of East Texas. Last year, we received passes to the Discovery Science Place

and one of our cottages was gifted a season family pass for the Caldwell Zoo. A seasonal zoo pass is easily the most requested item from our children and families. Tickets to local fairs and festivals, passes to the Hudnall Planetarium, movie tickets, or other events around the area are welcome opportunities for our families to explore and have fun. Even gift cards for kid-friendly restaurants for days when activities keep our families away from home at mealtimes give our children the opportunity to experience new things and fully engage with the community.



At Children's Village, we welcome all levels of support. Whether you are making financial contributions to help us purchase a new minivan or inviting our families to join yours for a church program, you make a positive impact on the life of the children we serve. Every contribution helps us to pursue our goal of being a Christian home that provides hope and healing for abused and neglected children in northeast Texas. We thank you for your support, generosity, and prayers.



Growth Through Community Support

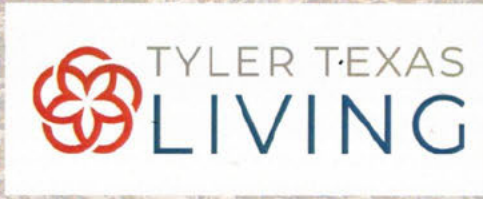
Our primary goal for 2022 was to recruit and hire new couples in order to open both cottages and serve more children, and we are extremely excited to have reached this goal. Entering the new year, our goals include continuing to expand our outreach and finding new ways to share our story throughout the local area. Although Children's Village has served northeast Texas for 40 years, we remain somewhat anonymous. In September, we accepted a group of siblings from here in Smith County. During our first court hearing, the CPS worker, Court Appointed Special Advocate, and attorneys were all surprised to learn there was a program right here in Tyler able to serve children in need while allowing them to remain in their county of origin. We intend for this to change and would like our community's help in spreading the word about Children's Village.



Children's Village is a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit residential children's facility serving the City of Tyler and its surrounding counties in northeast Texas. We are licensed and regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services and have a contract with the Department of Family and Protective Services to provide homes for children in the Texas Foster Care System. However, our contract with DFPS is non-financial, meaning that we do not accept any reimbursement from the state when they place children with us. Children's Village is completely privately funded through donations, fundraising, and grants.

Much of the funding for Children's Village comes from fundraising efforts in the Tyler area. One of the largest fundraisers we hold each year is our benefit golf tournament. This September, a full slate of 26 teams took to the links for a

wonderful day of golf at Holly Tree Country Club. Our title sponsor, Tyler Texas Living, led a group of over 30 sponsors to make this event a success. When the final scores were tallied, the team from Income Portfolio Strategies took home this year's title and retain bragging rights until the 2023 tournament. Our gratitude goes out to all the sponsors and teams that showed up to support Children's Village, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's tournament.



Aside from organized fundraisers like the golf tournament, Children's Village relies heavily on contributions from individual supporters. This is why sharing information about our program is vital to our success. Throughout 2022 we have made a concerted effort to reach out and build relationships with local churches and civic organizations, while increasing our presence on social media. We have succeeded in reaching more people throughout the community who were previously unaware of the existence of Children's Village, which has generated new interest and increased financial donations. Generous gifts from individuals, groups, and businesses this year have funded several campus improvement projects that were completed by volunteers. Flower beds have been replaced at Cottage A, and new ones installed at Cottage B. External lighting was installed or replaced on all buildings to improve lighting and security on campus, and general home maintenance and repairs were completed in both cottages.

Local volunteer groups have been such a blessing to us by helping to keep our operational costs down. Various groups from Shiloh Road Church of Christ, Rock Hill Baptist Church, Lindale Church of Christ, and First Baptist Church of Hawkins have volunteered their time to serve our campus this year. They have completed

multiple campus improvement projects to ensure all who live on or visit our campus experience an inviting, safe environment. Volunteer efforts go far beyond providing labor on these projects. They help connect our children and families with the community and expand our village beyond our campus.



Children's Village would like to sincerely thank everyone that has supported us this year by participating in fundraising events, donating, volunteering, or simply sharing our information with others. We look forward to continuing to share our journey with you for years to come. We produce these newsletters twice a year and mail copies physical copies to anyone that requests them. We also post current and previous issues of the newsletter on our website. We are currently active on Facebook and intend to grow our presence on Instagram and other social media platforms in 2023. You can help support Children's Village by sharing our information with your family, friends, church groups, and civic organizations. If you know of a business or organization that supports charitable endeavors, please make them aware of Children's Village and our mission. If anyone would like more information about what we do, we are always open to meeting with and speaking to new groups. Simply contact us at administration@childrensvillageoftexas.org or 903-592-3421.



Remember the People You Love...

IN HONOR OF

Mae and Art Johnson

Mark and Julie Nicholson

Tom and Margaret Stewart

Charlotte Wilson

Pay It Forward

Jerry Keely

Jerry Atherton

Jim and Cary Gillen

Green Acres Celebration Class

Nancy Kenly

Chuck and Cathy Long

Kevin North

Carlisle Pearson

Patricia Spess

Kathy Steinocher

Frederick Stidman

Ashley Washmon

-N-

Lucy, Annie & Will Nicholson

Arthur & Mae Johnson

-O-

-P-

Mildred Plummer

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

-Q-

-R-

Beck Wolf Roosth

Steve and Dolly Wolf

-S-

Ronald Shoenbrun

Linda Adams Ellis

Jon Michael Simmons

Randy and Jo Ann Grooms

-T-

Kim Talkington

Greg and Karla Potts

Lessley Ann Triggs

Steve and Dolly Wolf

-U-

-V-

-W-

Jane Everett Whitney

Steve and Dolly Wolf

Dr. Steve Wilson

Charlotte Wilson

-X-

-Y-

-Z-

MEMORIALS

-A-

Margo Adams

Randy and Jo Ann Grooms

Mary Ella Adams

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

-B-

Harold Beaird

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

Randy and Jo Ann Grooms

Chuck and Cathy Long

Anette Bedgood

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

Kathy Steinocher

-C-

Dr. Raymond Wilson Cozby

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

Randy and Jo Ann Grooms

Chuck and Cathy Long

Charles and Estelle Racusin

Kathy Steinocher

Dick Tubbs

-D-

-E-

W.C. Enmon

Rodney and Mary Sue Beaty

Betsy Bender

Mike Cannon

Chris and Cheryl Chambers

Elwood Eichler

William and Artie Sue Flanigan

-F-

-G-

Carter Gabriel

Randy and Jo Ann Grooms

Chuck and Cathy Long

Kathy Steinocher

-H-

Bo Hildebrand

Steve and Dolly Wolf

Dot Hodge

Mark and Tracey Bedgood

-I-

-J-

-K-

-L-

Paul Lilly

Randy and Jo Ann Grooms

Theresa Cope Lilly

Steve and Dolly Wolf

Billy Lynn

Greg and Karla Potts

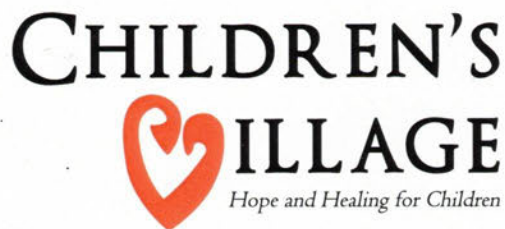
-M-

Curtis W. Mewbourne

Chuck and Cathy Long

Kathy Steinocher

Steve and Dolly Wolf



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