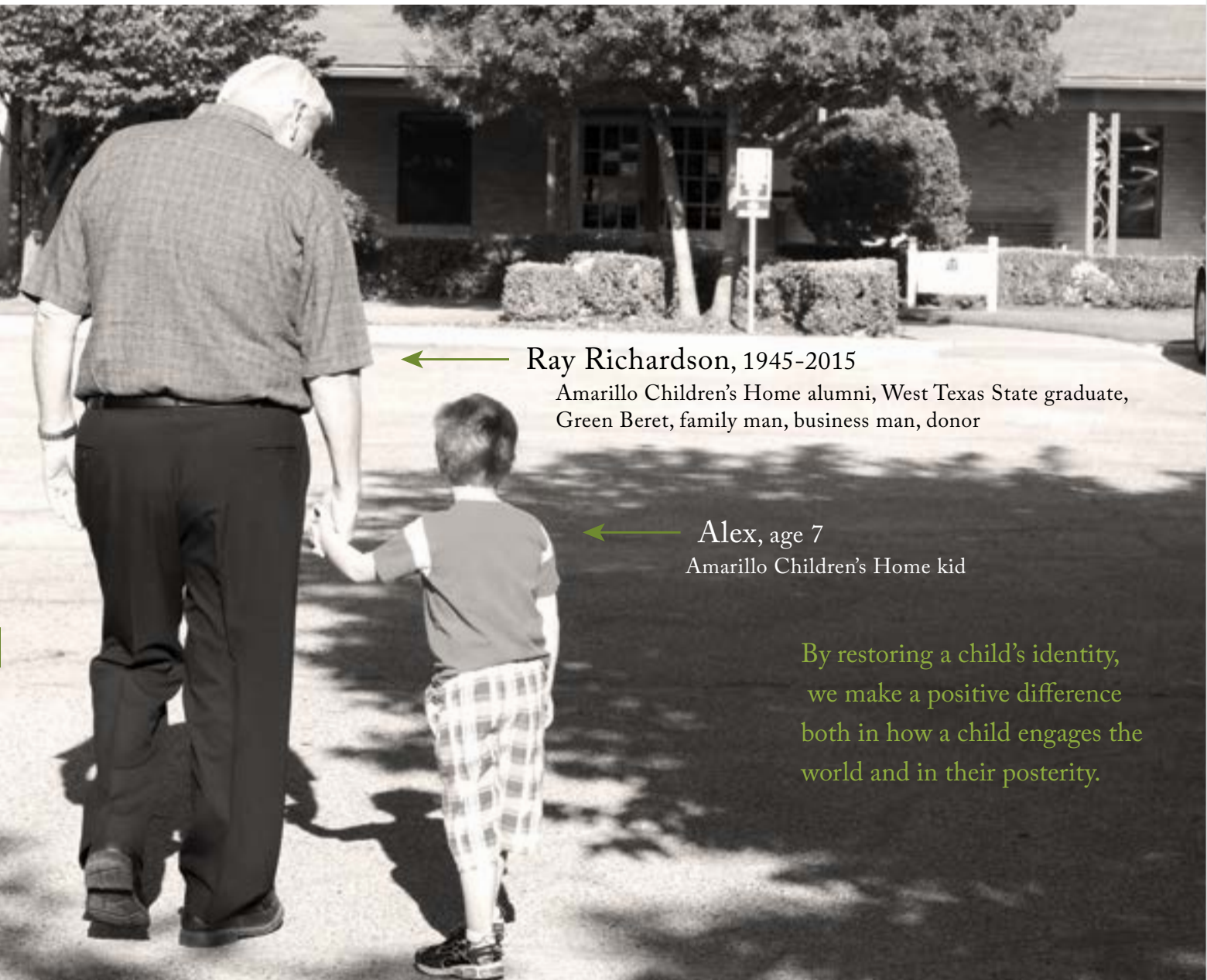


WE **BELIEVE** in GENERATIONAL CHANGE  
*through children.*

May 2021

**ACH**   
est.1924

**AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME**




← **Ray Richardson, 1945-2015**

Amarillo Children's Home alumni, West Texas State graduate,  
Green Beret, family man, business man, donor

← **Alex, age 7**

Amarillo Children's Home kid

By restoring a child's identity,  
we make a positive difference  
both in how a child engages the  
world and in their posterity.

Together, we can change the ending – for the kids here now and for future generations.  
Because **Together, we are**  (*greater than*).

[AmarilloChildrensHome.org](http://AmarilloChildrensHome.org)

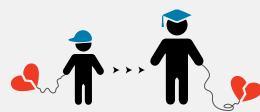
**AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME** began out of a single decisive moment.

In 1923, Dr. R. Thomsen, *minister for today's First Presbyterian Church*, and some friends were meeting for coffee. They saw 3 children crying outside, orphaned and hungry. At this critical point, these men chose to act: **to feed and clothe the little ones and find them proper care.** As a result of that event, Amarillo Children's Home officially opened in March 1924.

**OUR MISSION**

TO RESTORE THE IDENTITY OF **CHILDREN**  
SO THEY CAN REALIZE THEIR **GREAT VALUE** AND **BE A BLESSING** TO OTHERS.

**WHO WE SERVE**



primarily children removed from their homes by the foster care and judicial systems, ages 5 - 18+



young people from difficult, traumatic, often impoverished situations with a history of abuse and neglect



our speciality is kids who are difficult to find a home for, including sibling groups and older teens



the length of stay is based on a child's needs: a few months to many years

**HOW WE SERVE**

we intentionally seek out each child's needs, gifts and passions to provide opportunities for growth and a new identity to cling to



we are highly adaptable: quick to respond and swift to implement new methods to best serve each young person who comes to us



our unique after-care program gives guidance and assistance to post-high school kids as they grow into adulthood



WE HOPE YOU'LL **PARTNER** WITH US.

STUFF WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

**1 SCHEDULE A LUNCH & LEARN FOR YOUR GROUP**

We offer these opportunities for groups to have lunch on our campus and learn more about Amarillo Children's Home. If you have a group who would be interested, please call our office at 806-352-5771. We'd love to bless your group and get you scheduled to learn more about our story.

**2 THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING ROOTS & WINGS**

Did you know 70% of our funding comes from community donations? Roots & Wings is our major fundraising venue each year, but another highly impactful way to invest in ACH is through monthly giving - check out the insert to see how you can help provide stability for ACH and for Panhandle kids!

**3 THANK YOU RUN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS!**

RunBiz is one of the many local businesses who offers superior services, but also gives back to the community. RunBiz and all of their employees have supported Amarillo Children's Home through their time, talents and matching financial donations. Thank you!

[AmarilloChildrensHome.org](http://AmarilloChildrensHome.org)



**A PROFILE OF GIVING.**

**JACK THOMAS (& family):** volunteer, board member, hero  
Your consistent investment creates generational change through children. Lives redeemed. The future transformed.

*the* **PART THAT MATTERS**

*A hero is important in a story because they do the difficult things. They don't have to help everyone, and maybe they can't help everyone, but they choose one person they can impact - they can stick up for that person and do the hard things - things that are maybe not convenient and maybe not even easy - but a hero can change the story drastically for one person.*

- Jack Thomas

I remember one of my teachers saying every story has conflict. I think that's true. I can't think of a single example of a good story that doesn't have conflict. How the characters respond to conflict and how their response shapes the ending - I think that's the part of a story that really matters.

*This point of conflict is where Amarillo Children's Home enters the story of our kids.*

My role at ACH started with volunteering - helping with cottages, hosting grilling nights... My wife and I believe it's important our kids see us spend our time and money on things which are important to us and learn real life ways we can live like Jesus did - taking care of those in need and helping others do the same. Volunteering turned into a board position where I felt I could make a meaningful impact.

I developed a heart for this place because I couldn't bear the thought of my own kids not having a safe place to grow up - not having

someone pour into them, love on them and help them through the stresses of life. I wanted to help create a safe environment for other kids.

ACH serves kids who might not otherwise get that help. We keep brothers and sisters together. We take in kids who may be a little older than foster or adoptive families are willing to take. And we're impacting them at a very critical point in their development as young men and women when they have so many stressors, so many competitors for their attention and their priorities - our community needs this.

Amarillo Children's Home helps these kids create generational change. We can affect how our kids react to stresses in their life, how they someday parent their own kids. We teach the kids productive ways to deal with stress, to deal with heartbreak, and hopefully these kids channel that into how they develop as adults.

*As we teach our kids new ways of being and of seeing the world, we help change the ending of their story.*

**WE BELIEVE.**

Restoring a child's identity makes their story **>** their past. Because of your support, we have the staff we need to teach our kids who they are and to remind them when they forget.

**WHEN A CHILD**  
*comes* **TO ACH...**

*they might be any age*  
from **5-18**



they have been targets for anger, abuse, rejection, lies.

**THEIR FOCUS**  
IS ON **THEMSELVES**



A resulting mindset of self-preservation manifests itself in fearfulness, brokenness, acting out and damaged relationships. They exist in a constant state of anxiety, and are consumed by simply surviving.

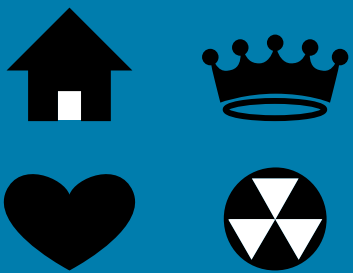
Kids come to us from situations of abuse and neglect - failed by those who are supposed to love them best. They come wounded and angry, used to fighting for their place in this world, and not knowing any other way to live.

**WHEN WE SAY WE CAN CHANGE THE ENDING**  
**THIS IS WHAT WE MEAN:**

We combat the negative narratives of their past. As truth overcomes lies, they learn the value of others, and they are able to be a blessing to the world around them. They are able to have healthy relationships and grow to be healthy adults.

**WHEN A CHILD**  
*lives* **AT ACH...**

*this could be anywhere*  
from **6 MONTHS-**  
**MANY YEARS**



we pour into them true home and family, value, acceptance, safety and security.



**THEY BECOME ABLE**  
**TO LOOK OUTWARD**

They learn to receive and give love, to trust those who are trustworthy, to rest in safety and provision. They get the chance to have a childhood and are given the opportunities to grow and thrive.



**WE  
DO.**

Since 1924, we have been comprised of an amazing community of people who do. People like you, who see the need and give of their resources so this vital work can be accomplished.

## A BETTER LIFE story taken from an interview with ACH alumni, Billy Smith

*I have a favorite memory from probably the 3rd or 4th day after I got to Amarillo Children's Home. It's a scary time for any kid. Everything is new. We were sitting down to eat that night - we had all made spaghetti.*

*The house parents had a young daughter - probably two or three. She just grabbed a handful of spaghetti and threw it at one of the kids.*

*I was not expecting that.*

*Everybody paused for a second; then an all out food fight broke loose!*

*(Now, I wouldn't recommend this because they will make you clean it up, for sure!)*

*That situation sticks out in my mind because it was the first time I ever felt safe - the first time I didn't fear the reaction, but felt safe and comfortable with a family.*

I showed up on the doorstep of Union Cottage a scared 11-year-old. At the door were two house parents and six boys ranging from age 9 to 17 staring me in the face ready to welcome me.

When I was taken from my birth mother's house, I went into an emergency shelter. Kids are only supposed to be there 60 days. I was there 6 months. Nobody wanted me at that time. I was acting out. I was not that desirable, cute little baby... but Amarillo Children's Home gave me a chance.

Right after I arrived, I was taken down to the basement of the administration building to get clothes. Becky was the person who, at that time, provided everybody with clothes. She's pretty much an angel - one of the kindest women I've ever met. She walked me through the basement and let me pick out some things. I had shown up with only what I had on my back. I started to let my guard down a little right there in that basement.

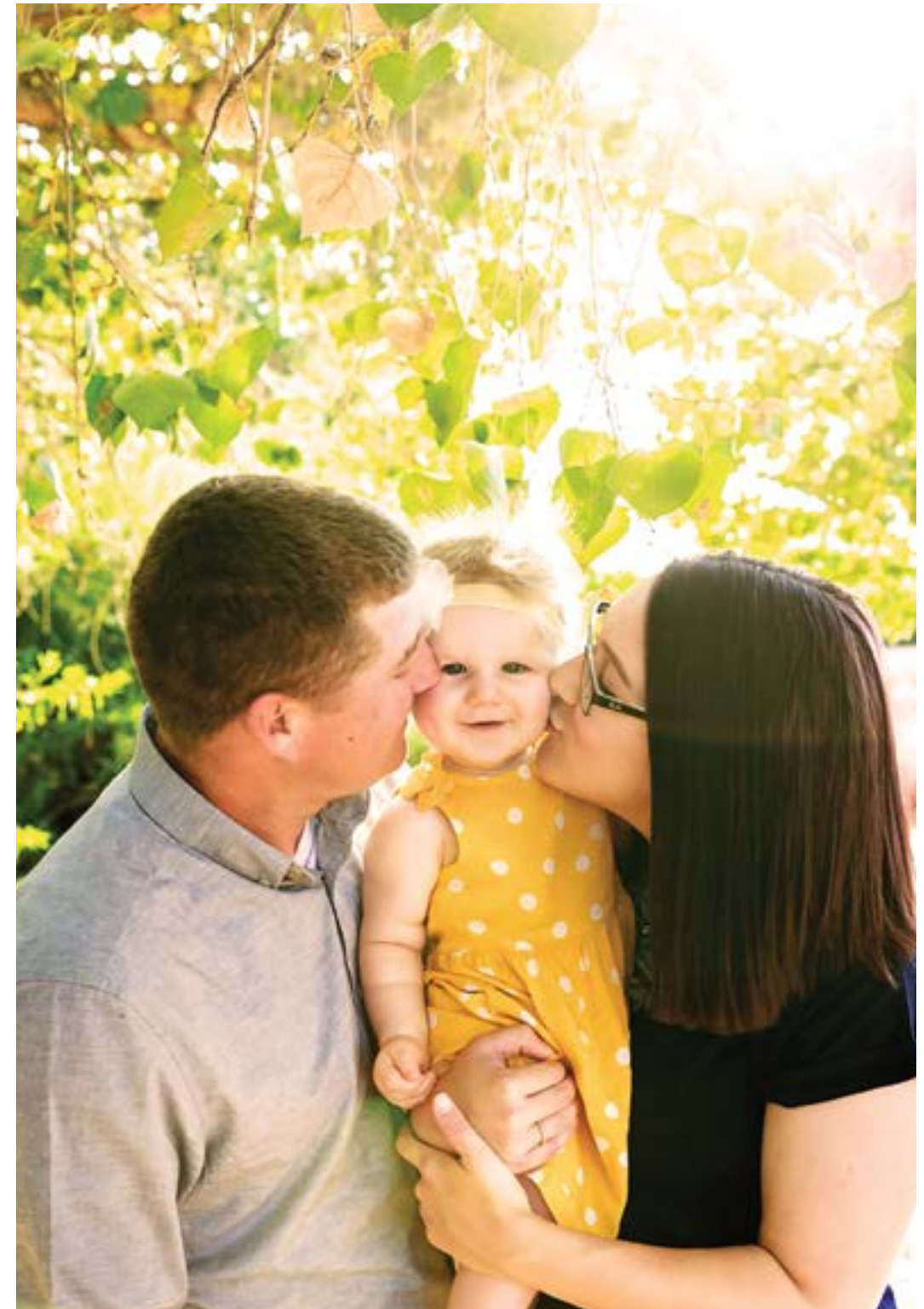
Amarillo Children's Home builds family by the people they put in place here.... they hire house parents, administration and staff who want to make you part of their family - who teach you, nurture you and give you the structure they would provide their own kids.

I'm 34 now, and I honestly don't have any idea where I would be without Amarillo Children's Home - probably along the same lines as the place I was taken from - an emotionally and physically abusive parental relationship full of neglect. If ACH hadn't stepped into my story, taken care of me and shown me a different way... well, you grow into what you're around.

Without ACH, I would have probably fallen into that same pattern with my kids. But the people here showed me you can discipline and love, and you can do these things without yelling, being physically abusive or being neglectful. I have two kids, Zoey - who is two and a handful, and Oliver. My favorite thing to do with Oliver is sleep - he's two months old. With Zoey, we do things like play ring-around-the-rosie until I'm too dizzy to walk. I really enjoy teaching her new words and new dance moves. It's really cool to see her learn things and get so excited.

Like me, ACH kids come from the community and go back into the community after they leave. We all want strong, independent kids who grow up to be strong, independent adults who do positive things for the world around them. That's what these kids can do.

Because of people like you - donors who have given to Amarillo Children's Home - I am able to live a better life. I have an amazing wife I couldn't have gotten without the lessons I learned and the structure and resources which were given to me by ACH. I wouldn't be a good Dad to two amazing kids. I wouldn't have this life without the generosity of this community.



**WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING MONTHLY TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT MISSION?**

*Give online at [amarillochildrenshome.org/give](http://amarillochildrenshome.org/give), or use the enclosed envelope to help provide a safe place for kids to call home.*

## A WORD *from* OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*We help our children understand their past is only a few chapters in their story, not the entire book.*

Everyone loves a good story, whether as a book, film or podcast. Each story is unique, and it's those distinctions which make a story interesting. There are also differences which make a story difficult to hear or to look at. At Amarillo Children's Home, our children have lived these not-so-easy stories – stories filled with fear, hurt, anger and sadness. By no fault of their own, our kids were born into homes riddled with substance abuse, violence and poverty – many of them living stories which have been repeated in their families for generation upon generation.

When children come to us, we enter their story, and we begin the work to change the ending: transforming chaos to stability, confusion to clarity and darkness to light. The restoration of an identity – as one who is fearfully and wonderfully made by God – is not something that can happen overnight. It takes time and intentionality for those concepts to become beliefs.

Amarillo Children's Home works with consistency and conscious effort, so generational change can occur. We help our children understand their past is only a few chapters in their story, not the entire book. We cannot control the beginning, but we can do what is necessary in the middle of the story in order to change the ending. An ending filled with happiness, love and purpose is what we all strive for regardless of how our story began.

Will you be part of the effort to change the ending for our kids? Seeing a child's life-story progress from a difficult beginning to a path of restoration is beyond awe-inspiring, and it is something we cannot accomplish alone. **Join us**, because Together, we are > .

Thank you, and God bless,

*Belinda Crelia-Palacios*

Belinda Crelia-Palacios,  
Executive Director, Amarillo Children's Home

**BE A VOICE!** Tell others about us – friend us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram – learn all you can and share what you learn.

**SINCE  
1924,**

**AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME** has been at work in this community, changing the face of the Panhandle for the better.

The mission isn't finished. Future generations are blessed through each child we reach today.



7 year-olds become 17 year-olds become 37 year-olds become 77 year-olds

**GENERATIONAL CHANGE  
STARTS HERE**

when a child comes to ACH.



His family will be **DIFFERENT** because his identity is **RESTORED**.

He is leaving a **LEGACY** of his own.