

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

August 2023



OUR MISSION: To restore the identity of children so they can realize their great value and be a blessing to others.

Because of you, and by the grace of God, ACH can boldly face the challenges of the next **100 YEARS**.
Together, we are **>** (*greater than*).

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.



AN OPPORTUNITY
to GIVE IN KIND

OUR HOMES NEED
WHAT YOUR HOME NEEDS!

(each of them!)

WILL YOU STOCK UP OUR SUPPLY CLOSET?

You'd be surprised (or maybe not!) at how quickly teenage boys go through tupperware!

-ACH House Parent

food storage

toiletries

toilet paper

paper towels

cleaners

tissues

AmarilloChildrensHome.org



PROFILE OF
SERVICE

Kristin Elms
*Executive Administrator of Compliance
& Compassionate Problem-Solver.* Personally invested. Steadfastly committed.

THE *constant* CARE-ER

“The need is always going to be there. There will always be kids who need our help. We’re the ones who have to adjust to the changes around us but the constant in all of it is that we’re always going to have the opportunity to help kids.”
-Kristin Elms

For 23 years, Kristin Elms has quietly and consistently given of her gifts and heart to the kids of Amarillo Children's Home. Nearly 1/4 of our 100 years she's been here helping to ensure ACH is strong and ever improving.

Currently the Executive Administrator of Compliance, Kristin has worked in many positions throughout the organization, starting as an Assistant House Parent which granted her insight into the kids and into cottage life and making her uniquely effective in her many and varied consecutive roles. Today, her job includes managing a database to keep an up-to-date record on each child in our care as well as ensuring ACH is meeting the necessary standards to be in good standing with the state.

Though her job is tracking the day-to-day data of each child, Kristin finds the most joy in the beginnings and the endings here at ACH.

“When a kid gets here, they’re scared. This is a new place... they’re very apprehensive about what the next 30 minutes is going to look like. To see them half an hour later – they’re laughing, and they’re happy and that fear is gone.” And endings? Seeing an Alumni be successful in his or her own way. “That success story may be they live on their own and have children who are not in the foster care system.”

This work is intensely personal to Kristin – it became so back when she was an Assistant at Thomsen Cottage – the girls she worked with there will always be HER girls.

Being here for the kids is worthwhile – it’s what has inspired Kristin to serve and what continues to drive her. She’s seen a lot of change through the years, but one thing remains the same – all kids need to be loved and to belong. That will never end. And that is why she keeps going.



AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME

Celebrating 100 YEARS of Generational Change

WE INVITE YOU TO HELP US MARK THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE!

*This is just
around the corner!
Don't miss it!*

09/09/2023

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
& ALUMNI *gathering*

OUR CENTENNIAL KICK-OFF EVENT!

6-8 PM

FOOD TRUCKS, *Music* & FUN!

BYOC (*bring your own chair*) FREE ENTRY

*Alumni gathering from 5-6 limited to former kids and their families
& current and former staff and board members*

03/01/2024

*It's our birthday!
AND a Friday!*

ROOTS & WINGS
centennial event

with speaker Peter Mutabazi

author of *Now I am Known: How a Street Kid Turned
Foster Dad Found Acceptance and True Worth*

(downloadable on Audible)

RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY CALLING 806-352-5771

*NEXT September
Save the date!*

09/19/2024

ACH 100
CENTENNIAL ART EXHIBITION

AN HISTORICAL DISPLAY &
ART SHOW FUNDRAISER

Learn about the history of ACH while viewing
(and bidding on!) fine artworks by local professional artists.

*Be on the lookout for more information
as we get closer to the event date!*

*We're not the
only ones
turning
a century!*

WE'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO WISH



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

*One Hundred
sure looks good
on you!*



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.

THERE'S *SOMETHING* ABOUT SUMMER



The heartbeat of our summer is to provide our kids childhood experiences with purpose. This summer, as we wove through finding courage at the Blue Hole and finding God at camp, facing challenges on a high ropes course and the high of serving others during mission week, we watched our kids become difference makers in the lives of those around them. **Well done, summer.**



YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACH RESTORES CHILDHOODS & REDEEMS FUTURES.

- A STORY FROM THIS SUMMER -

REDISCOVERING *MISSION*

Tiffany was Done With It. It had been one of those weeks. She had worked late every night. She was tired. She was frustrated. She was ready to go home. Instead, she was being asked to stay late, again – two kids were coming for an emergency placement – something ACH had never done before.* They would need clothing for that night and the next day at a minimum. Tiffany sighed. *Fine*. But her heart wasn't in it.

The sight of the kids took her breath away and began to work on her heart. A brother and sister. "They look like something out of *Oliver Twist*," Tiffany thought. They were disheveled and dirty with tangled hair and haunted eyes, not a single piece of clothing the right size, the right season or anywhere near presentable.

The boy stood silently, wide-eyed and grave, not saying a word and barely moving. The girl, hesitantly and quietly murmured answers to questions about what they needed. No, they hadn't brought underwear – they didn't own any. No, they didn't have pjs. No, she didn't know their shoe sizes... or pant sizes... or shirt sizes. "You'll probably go swimming tomorrow," Tiffany told them. "Why don't you pick out a swimsuit?" The girl responded she hadn't had a swimsuit since she was 6. She was 13. While they rifled through swim gear, Tiffany gathered toiletries and hygiene items, making sure they had everything they needed and wouldn't have to ask for anything.

Tiffany noticed the boy staring at a collection of squishy stuffed animals. He nudged his sister. When she caught sight of the toys, her face lit up for the first time. "You need something to sleep with!" Tiffany told her. "Pick one out!"

"I'll bring it back tomorrow," the girl replied solemnly. "Everything you get from me is yours for good," Tiffany explained. Still, the girl insisted, "I won't get anything on it. I'll bring it back tomorrow."

As the two children walked out to sleep in strange beds that night, Tiffany knew God had been present that evening and it touched her deeply – restored her passion for her work. So much happened that night that she knew was God's timing – not least of all that there were staff in place at the right time to selflessly use the gifts they had been given to meet two kids in their place of pain on one of the hardest days of their lives. "I'd lost my purpose," She later said. "Suddenly, I realized how selfish I had been. The whole thing made me so grateful that I get to be here – that THIS is what we do."

We, all of us, are vulnerable to discouragement and weariness. The enemy wants us to be self-focussed – he knows defeat awaits us at the end of that journey. He wants us to lose sight of our personal mission and our organizational mission. But God – God wants us to know His generous provision so we never stop the outpour of love to children who desperately need it.

We serve from a place of His abundant love. Kids come to us in a place of deep need. Our mission is that through the restoration process, each child begins to understand they too can live to be a blessing. ACH will adapt to changes and overcome challenges just as we have weathered storms over the past century, and we will confidently follow the lead of our mighty, provisional God.

*In an emergency placement, kids are coming almost directly from being removed from their familial home. They have just been through a highly traumatic experience and very little is known about their emotional or behavioral needs.

A WORD *from* OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S)



And we know that
in all things God
works for the
good of those
who love Him...

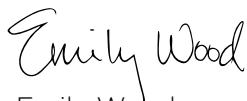
WE HAVE NEWS! There are exciting things happening around here these days!

First of all, thank you for praying alongside us for God to bring ACH the right leader. We are thrilled to introduce John Forbis as the new Executive Director of Amarillo Children's Home! John is visionary, passionate about kids and shares our calling. We can't wait for you to meet him. Thank You, God, for how You work all things for good in Your perfect timing!

God is always at work in each of our lives if we have eyes to see Him – and we see Him everywhere here on 34th street! He is working all things for good, even the unimaginable things that should never have happened to the kids in our care. We are privileged to be a part of God's redemption story. Once kids get to ACH, they get to experience God's deep love for them within a safe, family-style home where the Gospel is shown as well as taught, and it changes their lives forever. You play a vital role through your support of Amarillo Children's Home. Thank you!

Another EXCITING piece of news – we're turning 100 years old! It's a big birthday! I hope you'll join in the fun we have planned! God has great things in store for us and for you as we continue to place our hope in Him. Thank you for being part of the good which God is working here at ACH!

May you always have eyes to see God at work in your own life,



Emily Wood,
Board Chair and Interim Executive Director



...who have been
called according to
His purpose.

Romans 8:28

I'm honored to be the newest Executive Director for Amarillo Children's Home. I have spent over 20 years working with youth as an educator, school administrator and ministry volunteer. After graduating from Texas A&M University, I taught in Lewisville, TX, before moving to Bryan, TX, to work as a school principal while helping a close friend open a new church. In 2015, my wife, Alisha, and I moved our growing family to Amarillo and have planted our roots in this community. Here I've served in leadership roles for Canyon ISD and most recently at BSA Health System.

I'm incredibly blessed to join the team and community of Amarillo Children's Home. Personally, Alisha and I have opened our home to foster and adoption. I am amazed at how God has given us this opportunity to align what I am passionate about professionally with our family's calling in ministry. Alisha and I have been reflecting on all God has done to weave our story together to now be at ACH. Through so many different seasons professionally and as a family, He truly has worked all things together to lead us to this moment. We look forward to all He has in store.



John Forbis,
Executive Director, Amarillo Children's Home