

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

May 2022



AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME

We Can Do It!



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

Our kids are powerful people, able to believe in and fight for their own futures ... because of you!
Together, we are ➤ *(greater than).*

AmarilloChildrensHome.org

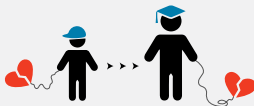
AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME began out of a single decisive moment.

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.

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 more challenging to find a home for, such as 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 TOUR
FOR YOURSELF
OR YOUR GROUP**

When you come on campus at Amarillo Children's Home, you can't help but feel more deeply connected to our mission. If you're interested in a tour for yourself or your group, please call our office at 806-352-5771. We'd love to share our heart and story with you in the unique way a campus tour allows.

**2 THANK YOU FOR
ROOTS & WINGS**

We deeply appreciate each of you who attended or gave to our annual Roots & Wings fundraiser, March 1. Because 70% of our funding comes from community donations, the money we raise at Roots & Wings is vital to accomplishing our mission. Thank you for your continued support!

**3 PRAYER IS A
POWERFUL TOOL!**
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our kids - that they will make and be good friends and will learn well at school and at home.

Our houseparents - that they will be strengthened and encouraged.

Our staff - that they will tirelessly serve with wisdom and dedication.

AmarilloChildrensHome.org



**A PROFILE
OF GIVING.**

Jeff Wilkerson

Faithful ACH volunteer for seven years running. Handyman. Builder. Fixer of what has been broken.

THE JOY OF RE-SERVICE

I enjoy being active and productive. The nice thing about ACH is you can see the results of your productivity. It's rewarding to repair something and give it new life..."

-Jeff Wilkerson

Retirement is often seen as a time to kick back and relax, to take up new hobbies, to have a well-earned period of leisure after a long career. For Jeff Wilkerson, retirement has meant a transition to nearly full-time volunteer work in the maintenance department at Amarillo Children's Home.

Originally from Clovis, New Mexico, Jeff served at the police departments in Portales and Amarillo and at the New Mexico Department of Public Safety in Santa Fe before retiring to Amarillo. Once back in the Texas Panhandle, Jeff began volunteering in 2013 at Snack Pak 4 Kids. He came to ACH in Feb 2015, doubling our maintenance staff.

Right away, Jeff and Maintenance Manager Brad Bonzer hit it off, and the lively duo is often seen driving around campus on a golf cart as they head from project to project. The

care and keeping of 7 cottages, 19 vehicles, several other campus buildings and the campus grounds keep the two of them hopping.

"The way I look at it," Jeff shared, "we're directly involved with the health, safety, and welfare of the kids... the safety and wellbeing of the kids is what I care about."

Jeff expressed that helping here comes from a place of love - he really enjoys handyman work, and serving ACH kids in this way gives him joy and enhances the quality of his life. He most enjoys summer when the teen boys help with a few projects. If the kids have an interest, Jeff likes to engage them and foster their natural inquisitiveness.

Jeff is a fixer of broken things, a mender, a restorer. We are so grateful he has chosen to join our family.

WE
BELIEVE.

Restoring a child's identity makes their story > their past.
Because of *your support*, we have an incredible staff committed
to facilitating God's work of redemption in our kids.

WHO ARE YOU?

It's a question which has pervaded Robert Villegas' life in ways he never expected when he first heard it voiced from a houseparent at Amarillo Children's Home in 2001. "Who are you?" he was asked at age 14, sitting around the 50-year-old, 14-seater dining room table in Union Cottage. It struck him as a meaningful question then, and has remained so throughout his life. As a young teen, he recognized it to mean those asking cared about him and were in for the long haul. He later came to regard the question as his guiding star, indicating, "These people are asking the right questions. This is where I want to be."

"Who are you now?" Buddy Fox, Robert's elementary school principal turned college mentor, asked when Robert was questioning his career path. "Who are you?" he has been asked in every job interview in which he accepted the job. "Who are you?" he has been asked repeatedly by people who have spoken life into him.

So, who is Robert Villegas? At first glance, Robert is a suit-wearing Freshman principal at Palo Duro High School, an energetic father of 3, helper to an autistic brother, a success. A deeper look reveals a man full of passion who thrives on helping others succeed, who has big dreams and the drive to achieve them.

The late Guy Saunders, a life-long friend of Amarillo Children's Home who was highly engaged with ACH during Robert's years here, told him, "You're going to make an impact in the world no one has seen before, but you just don't know it yet. So be you. When you're you, everyone around you is a better them."

During his years at Amarillo Children's Home, Robert discovered he is a light for people – that his outlook changes how others see. He found out he comes alive when he gets to help others grow. He acquired life skills which have served him well. "One of the most impactful things I learned was greeting others. It doesn't seem like a big deal, but it's so important. There is something to be said about making people feel comfortable around you. When you take that first step, that initiative to bring someone in, it makes all the difference for those around you." He learned these things because he was at ACH.

"There is a negative phenomenon in the foster care 'system' – as a 'system' it's processing kids. When you process kids, the other side of that is prison – that's the adult version of the 'system.' ACH doesn't process kids; they build relationships with kids. They are building *life-long* relationships. I am a better person today because I lived at Amarillo Children's Home – they taught me to be more than *just a foster kid*. I found my identity. I know who I am, and a lot of that is because people at ACH showed me. They showed me I was somebody, that I mattered. Now I want to do the same thing for other people. **That's who I am**"

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING MONTHLY TO HELP ACH KIDS DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE?

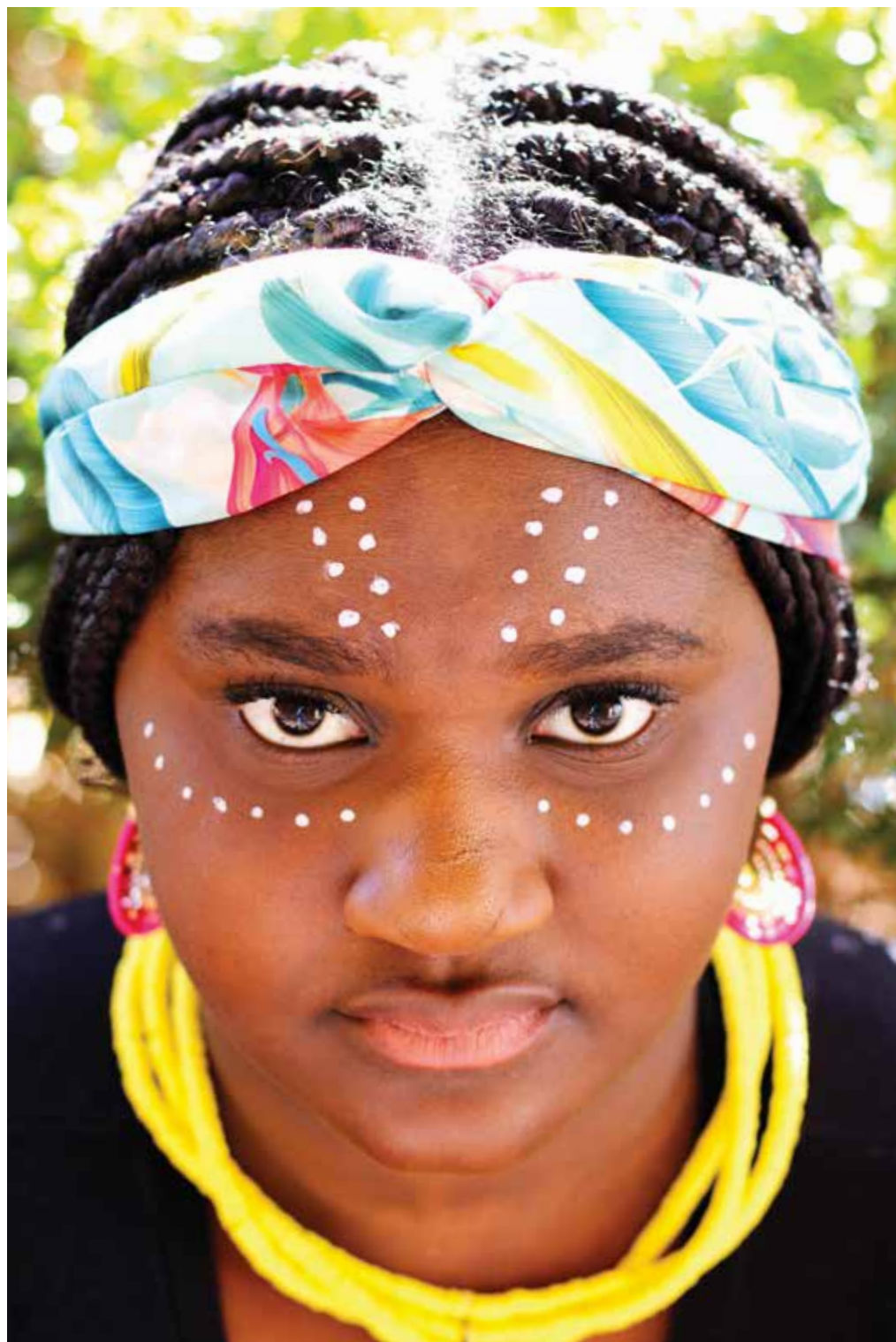
Give online at amarillochildrenshome.org/give, or use the enclosed envelope to help fulfill this great mission.

AmarilloChildrensHome.org



My eldest daughter has started asking questions. The other day, she asked me, "Do you have a mom?" I started to say, "No," but then I paused a second. I realized I have many moms, and I have many dads. I have so many people who have been there for me and who have spoken into my life.

-Robert Villegas



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.

The mental stress and the day-to-day difficulties of being homeless were a chasm between Jess and her hopes and ambitions. Today, she can safely look into the future and say, “all the dreams I have for me are possible now.” She doesn’t have to worry about how she is going to be able to complete these goals because she knows she has a support system around her.

-JoAnn Wilson

I am a warrior.

Even though I’ve been through so much, I haven’t let it define me. I keep going, and I think that makes me pretty strong. I am kind, open-minded and articulate. I make people smile. I love helping people.

I was adopted in 2020, but a little bit after that, my adoptive Dad kicked me out. Since then, I haven’t had a real home. I moved from friend’s house to teacher’s house to motel. I’m 18, so I’m considered too old for foster care, but I’m still in high school. I just want to be able to go to school and not worry that someone will kick me out or that I’m going to overstay my welcome.

I want to graduate high school. I want to go to Amarillo College, get certified as a phlebotomist and work in a hospital. I’m good with people, and I’ve learned to calm myself so that the person I’m working with becomes calm. I think I’m going to be good at this.

I’m a hard worker. I want to save up enough money to buy a car – at least one reliable enough to drive back and forth to school and to my job.

Living at Amarillo Children’s Home the past few months, I have learned so much about friendship and feeling safe. I am able to concentrate on school and work because I’m not worried about where I’m going to sleep or how I’m going to eat.

I’ve learned not everyone in life is going to hurt you.

I’ve learned asking for help doesn’t make you weak.

I’ve learned being myself is not only OK, it’s what I’m meant to do.

I’m learning more about who I am, and I’m becoming more authentically me.

I AM A WARRIOR.

Since she is over 18, the state doesn’t cover any of the costs associated with Jess’s care.*

IT IS BECAUSE OF THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS LIKE YOU THAT WE CAN ENSURE JESS AND OTHERS LIKE HER DON’T FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS.

A WORD *from* OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What did Jesus know that enabled Him to do what He did?...He knew that each human being is a treasure. And because He did, people were not a source of stress, but a source of joy.

-Max Lucado

Spring has sprung! This time of year always feels like a new beginning with endless possibilities: grass is green again, trees are leafed out and flowers are in bloom. Everything is alive and fresh.

Amarillo Children's Home is much like spring for the young people we serve. They have come from sad, hurtful and lonely places, and ACH is a where their new beginning can start. We give kids the safety and security they need to be able to begin the discovery of "who am I." A key part of our mission statement is to restore a child's identity so they can realize their great value. We work tirelessly to help children understand this very important concept. Once a child begins to not only understand this but to actually believe it, well, this is when the magic really starts to happen. Seeing a child bloom into who God has intended them to be is one of the greatest joys we have.

Our theme last summer was "made on purpose for a purpose". I love this! It speaks directly to the goal of a child beginning to explore who they are and who they want to be. The potential of the children we serve is great. This is evident in our alumni. Our kids have become teachers, nurses, business owners, corporate executives, social workers and more. Many have families of their own and have broken the cycle of abuse and neglect. Amarillo Children's Home helped them begin this journey by allowing them to grasp their God given identity and figure out who they are.

As with spring, the possibilities for our children are endless, but only because of the commitment and support we receive from you. Thank you for believing in our kids and for being a part of helping them discover their great worth.

Thank you and God bless you,

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.

SUMMER IS FOR BUILDING

A profound period of intentional activity designed to work synergistically to fulfill our mission statement - we **LOVE** summer!

COMMUNITY



STIR
weekly
get-together



**Blue
Hole**



**Family
Camp**



**Grill &
Chill**



**Mission
Week**
local missions



**Canyon
Waterpark**



**High Ropes
Course**



**Back to
School
Bash**