

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

April 2023

ACH  est.1924
AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME



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

Once an ACH kid, *always* an ACH kid. **Because of you, THIS** is a place of *forever belonging*.

Together, we are  (*greater than*).

AmarilloChildrensHome.org

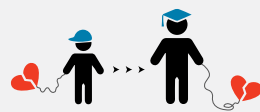
AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME began out of a single decisive moment.

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 specialty 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.

AN OPPORTUNITY to **GIVE LOVE**

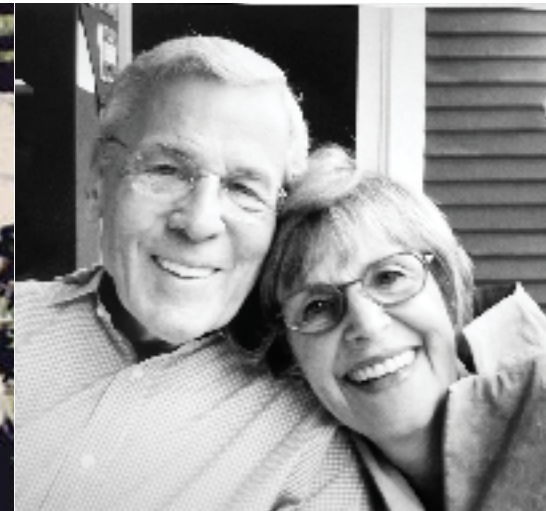


HIGHLY TRAINED PARENTS & MORE WHO CREATE A LOVING HOME

Our kids live in a home with a professional parenting couple aided by a dedicated assistant, prn assistants who work as needed and night-staff for expert 24-hour care. Our houseparents aren't trying to balance work and caring for children, this is their calling *and* their job.

The loving staff in each of our cottages are the hands and feet of God to our kids – they are the vessels through which healing comes. With the full-time mission of restoring the identity of children – through means as simple as making meals as a family and as complex as ministering peace to broken hearts who have suffered beyond what is imaginable – “the workman is worthy of his wages.” One of the most impactful designated gifts you can make is toward the salaries of these worthy individuals without whom this work cannot be done.

AmarilloChildrensHome.org



A PROFILE OF GIVING.

Patty Schneider

An adventurous soul with a heart for helping and a passion for living. Creative problem-solver. Thoughtful meeter of needs. Joyful giver & do-er.

MEET ME *in the* MIDDLE



I like that I can help Amarillo Children's Home in their work to help children rediscover themselves.

-Patty Schneider

When Bob Schneider moved from the Midwest to Los Angeles in 1970, he was ready for life in an exciting, fast-paced city. The highlight turned out to be meeting Patty Hartsough in Marina Del Ray and going for long walks together on the beach. Bob was quickly smitten, so when he got an offer from his friend, Sam Marmaduke, to move to Texas, he knew he had to convince Patty to join him.

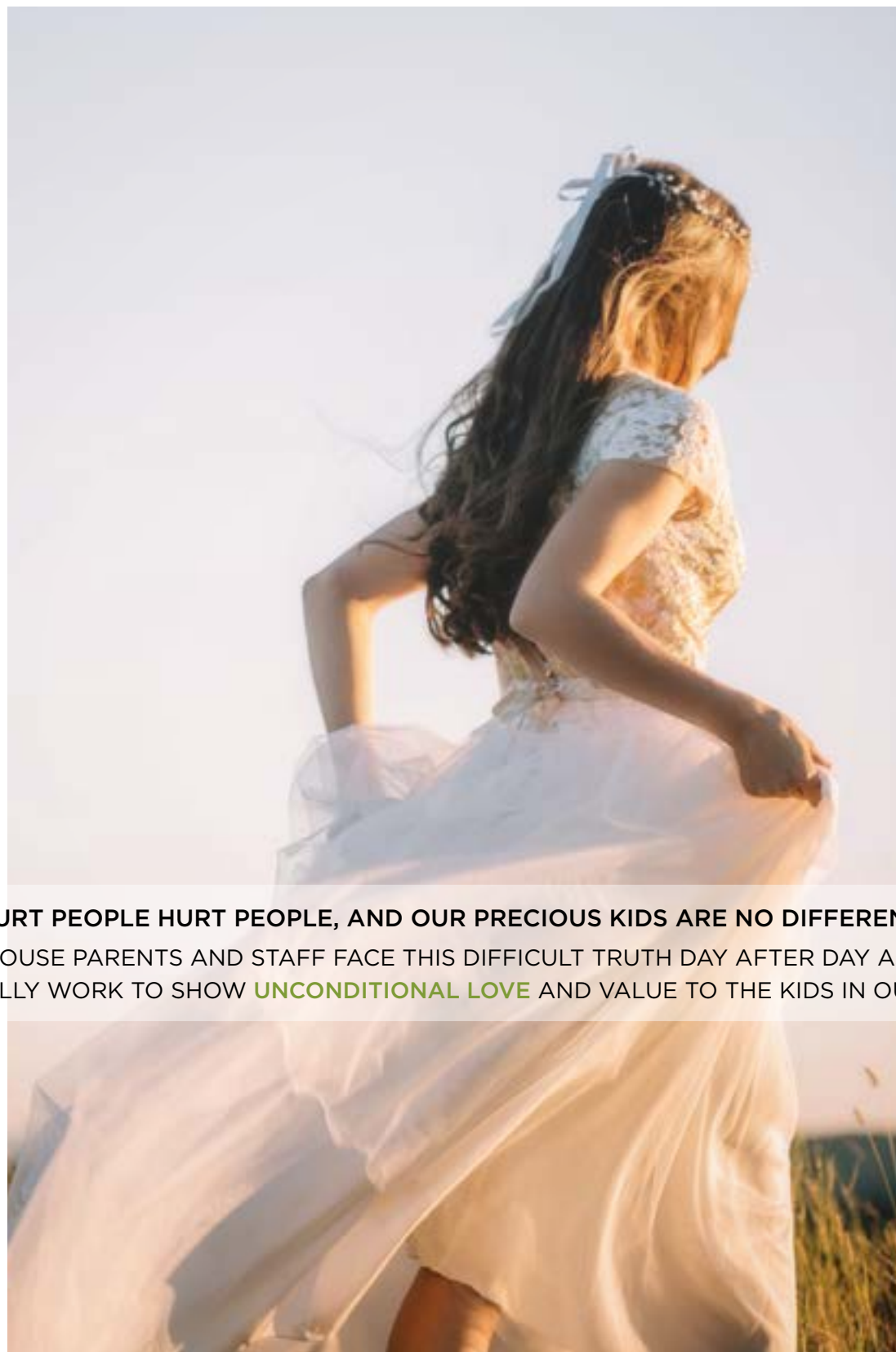
The two adventure-lovers eventually settled in Amarillo, raising their two daughters here. Patty dedicated herself to her family, her work as a teacher and her volunteerism.

During a tour of the Amarillo Children's Home campus, you could see the wheels turning in Patty's head as she absorbed the challenges our children faced and considered how she could help. She's been involved ever since – Bob jumping right on board with her.

Patty is artistic and enthusiastic, and she brings that energy to everything she does - looking beyond the surface for needs to meet and coming up with creative ways to contribute.

Patty loves that by being involved with ACH, she can share in the journey of supporting children and helping turn their lives around. She has also made the needs of House Parents her concern – recognizing these hard-working couples can't pour into kids if their own pitcher is empty.

From two different worlds, Bob and Patty “met in the middle” in Texas and the Amarillo community has reaped the blessing. Patty lost Bob in 2021, but the ripple effect of their inspiring lives coupled with their heartfelt love of this community will continue to impact Amarillo Children's Home and the kids who live here for years to come.



**WE
RISK.**

Because what is gained is > (greater than) the cost.
Your support and your prayers free us to act with purpose and
to focus on fulfilling our shared mission of restoring kids.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

An apt picture of foster care comes from Dr. Shirley Thomas, professor, pastor's wife and foster/adoptive mom of more than 100 kids. She would tell this story regarding one of her foster daughters -

"I had no trouble getting her to call me mother," she'd say.

"It was getting her to leave off that other word that was so hard."

Bright. Beautiful. Chatty. Effervescent. Serena* is a force of nature. She feels big; shows her feelings big. Six months ago, when discussing her time here at Amarillo Children's Home, she couldn't express enough *her belief* that she was in the right place until she could be adopted, *her confidence* in what she had learned and how she had grown during her time here and *her hope* that every foster child could someday encounter the unconditional love she has experienced here... *but then...*

Events which were not caused by ACH, or even within our control, but which occurred during her time here - events not limited to, but including, multiple failed hopes for adoption - soured her once enthusiastic viewpoint. Hope deferred makes the heart sick, and Serena was filled with a volcano of grief turned to fury that erupted over those who love her. It would not be quieted.

LOVE IS PATIENT... IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED, IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS... IT PERSEVERES.

Serena's House Parents loved her through it all. The staff loved her through it all. Even so, there came a point in time when it was clear that she needed a change of scenery and people. She had closed her ears to us, and would no longer hear our voices when we tried to remind her who she is. She needed a fresh start.

Serena had dreamt of her quinceañera since we had known her, and her 15th birthday was approaching, but not soon enough. We wanted our last extravagant act of love before she left to be a fulfillment of that longing of her heart. We delayed her departure as long as we could to have sufficient time to prepare. Other plans were set aside, vacations were postponed, sacrifices were made as House Parents and staff toiled to honor Serena in a beautiful way.

We wanted to remind her once more of her worth. We saw the black and white of the matter - her behaviors did not *earn* a party; she did not do anything *deserving of* a celebration. But just as our lives do not merit God's love, mercy or action on our behalf, her struggles would not keep us from celebrating her as a beautiful creation of God.

SHE IS A BEAUTIFUL CREATION OF GOD. SHE IS VALUABLE AND LOVEABLE.
SHE IS VALUED. SHE IS LOVED.

*Special Note: At the 11th hour, an associate of ACH started the process for Serena to live in their home for potential adoption. We don't know what the future holds, but we hope with her this will be her forever home. No matter what happens, we'll be here for her. **Once an ACH kid, always an ACH kid.***

HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE, AND OUR PRECIOUS KIDS ARE NO DIFFERENT.
OUR HOUSE PARENTS AND STAFF FACE THIS DIFFICULT TRUTH DAY AFTER DAY AS THEY
FAITHFULLY WORK TO SHOW **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** AND VALUE TO THE KIDS IN OUR CARE.

**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.

HOPE IN OUR HEARTS...

“

Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all...Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense...

– 1 Cor 13:4-6
The Passion Translation

This is my home. They understand where I came from. I am so happy to be back because everybody is very cordial with each other here. They have God in their hearts, and that's why they can forgive.

– Hope

Hope first came to Amarillo Childrens Home over 10 years ago when she was seven – the youngest of five siblings who became part of our family. ACH is unique in our ability to keep brothers and sisters together, even with a wide-spread age span. We adored this little bunch – poured into them, celebrated them and worked to keep those familial ties strong.

When the sibling group was adopted five years later, we waved goodbye with tears in our eyes and hope in our hearts.

When they stumbled back to us, wounded and shell-shocked from the failure of that adoption, we worked to nurture them back to emotional health. And when it became clear Hope needed more closely-supervised care than we could offer her, we made the hard decision to let go once more.

Kids leave ACH for all kinds of reasons – some return home or go to live with a relative, some graduate and decide to move out on their own, some are adopted and, sadly, a few need a different environment and we have to recognize we aren't what is best for them at the time.

Our doors do not close to our kids. If an ACH kid once again needs a place to live, we find a spot for them if at all possible.

When Hope was able to move back, our answer was an unequivocal, “YES!” No question.

When she arrived on campus, staff who had known her since she was seven – who knew the details of her difficult journey, and who knew the power of being known and unconditionally loved – full-on ran across campus to hug her and express joy at her return.

When she smiled broadly and relaxed into the hugs and the welcome, it was obvious to everyone – she was so glad to be home.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING MONTHLY TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT MISSION?

Give online at amarillochildrenshome.org/give, or use the enclosed envelope to help provide a safe place for kids to call home.



HOPE, 2016



HOPE, 2023

A WORD *from* OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



There's a quote I once had on my wall when I worked at Amarillo Children's Home several years ago : "Every act of extravagant love answers the only question everyone really has about your faith." One of our former Roots & Wings speakers, Bob Goff, said this, and I believe it perfectly encapsulates what we do here at Amarillo Children's Home.

Extravagant love in the face of deep pain and hardship is what first drew me to Amarillo Children's Home about 15 years ago. I became enamored with the way our staff love our kids... because it's not the way most of us do it. We love people who love us back, we move toward our children when they behave well and a little further away when they defy us as parents. It's hard not to take it personally when we are disrespected, called names, and rejected.

Yet our House Parents deal with this regularly. I remember one House Parent telling me every time one of her kids said to her, "I hate you," she responded with "But I love you." It's exactly how I imagine Jesus would do it. It's sacrificial, extravagant and completely counter-cultural, and it makes this little patch of land on 34th street one of the most beautiful places on earth. We all get to see the Kingdom of God come on earth as it is in heaven right here.

Our mission statement is "To restore the identity of children so they can realize their great value and be a blessing to others." As a follower of Christ, I often think about how this is my personal mission too. Daily I must remember my own God-given identity and the value Christ placed within me so I can bless others. This is true for all of us who call ourselves children of God. Daily here at ACH, we work to show our kids who God made them to be, we teach them they are made in God's image and thus have infinite value and we aspire to help them bless others.

I hope the stories you have read in this newsletter help you see and know this is a place worthy of your investment. Thank you for helping us never give up here at Amarillo Children's Home.

Emily Wood

Emily Wood,
Board Chairman and Interim Executive Director

Coming up!

ACH HOMECOMING - Fall 2023

A time to gather and celebrate 100 years of restoration.

CENTENNIAL ROOTS & WINGS EVENT - Spring 2024

On or near our 100th Birthday!

CENTENNIAL ART EXHIBIT - Sept 2024

An historical display and art show fundraiser.



AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME

Celebrating 100 YEARS of Generational Change

Stay tuned for details on our social media and through email communication.