

BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY 2016



Annual Report



Mission

To change the lives of children from families in crisis by loving and nurturing them in a Christian home environment, raising them to become self-sustaining and contributing adults.

Vision

That every child has a place to grow up and a sense of being home.

About Boys and Girls Country

When Tommy and Jean Robinson founded Boys and Girls Country (BGC) in 1971, they were acting on their desire to turn confused, misguided and hopeless youth into productive, responsible citizens. To do this, they provided these youth with a loving Christian home environment, an education, a vocational training program, and a shared sense of responsibility. That original goal has not changed, and over 1,400 children and young adults have found a home at Boys and Girls Country since that day.

The program at Boys and Girls Country is unique in several ways. First and foremost, we have remained true to our Christian roots, addressing the spiritual needs of our children in addition to their physical, social, emotional and educational needs. We are only able to do this because generous investors like you give tirelessly, allowing us to forgo the government funding that would otherwise restrict our programming.

Boys and Girls Country provides a home and family to over 100 children and young adults each year who have come to us from circumstances that limit their ability to succeed. Our families “do life” together. They attend church, do homework, prepare meals, and do chores together. Like all families, we have our struggles, but we do that together too. Boys and Girls Country guides our kids through educational milestones, supports them emotionally as they navigate life’s challenges, holds them accountable to their peers and the greater community, and encourages them to dream big and achieve goals.

Finally, Boys and Girls Country goes the distance with our kids. Unlike other group living programs, our kids never age out of our program. In 1997 we established our College and Career program, giving Boys and Girls Country the capacity to support our high school graduates until they are independent adults. Whether they attend college, trade school, serve in the military, or begin a first job, they have a home and the support of family. Our College and Career mentors live on campus and are available to guide our young adults through choosing college classes, moving into a dorm room, putting together a resume, or learning to cook a meal. It is not uncommon for graduates of our program to come back to ask for advice or just visit.

in 2016, Boys and Girls Country celebrated 45 years of providing a home for children whose families are in crisis. Thank you for being a part of our story and our history. Most importantly, thank you for making our vision a reality for our kids.



Dear Friends of Boys and Girls Country:

In 2016, Boys and Girls Country celebrated 45 years of providing a Christian home to children from families in crisis, and we couldn't have done it without you. As we enter our 46th year, we are as enthused and as honored as we imagine our counterparts were that first year, back in 1971. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and children, we are pleased to present this report on the progress made by and for our families in 2016.

The number one "need" for each child coming to us from a family in crisis is a caring, stable, positive set of Teaching Parents to teach, encourage and guide them. This is best completed in a safe, comfortable Christian home that can meet the space needs of a large family. In 2016, we completed the first of 11 new homes, tailored for the needs of our extended and diverse families. The Joanne H. Watford Cottage is complete and work on two more cottages is underway.

We know from the national data that kids from out-of-home placements are more likely to end up in jail than to graduate from college. Thanks to your many investments, our kids have a chance to dream big. Not only did they earn a 3.4 Grade Point Average at the end of 2016, but we celebrated the college graduation of our Alexandra from the University of Texas, who now works in Seattle for AdsUpNow.

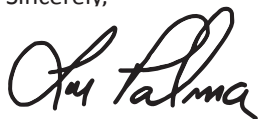
Our kids and families continue to be active in their youth groups and churches. All that we achieve is made possible through God above. Our Teaching Parents, who are instrumental in all of the progress that our children make, help us fulfill our mission to raise our children "in a Christian home environment."

Your investment in Boys and Girls Country is sound. We are accredited by the Better Business Bureau and meet all 20 standards for charity accountability. In addition, we are a Guidestar Exchange Gold Participant, and a 4-star Charity Navigator member. We carry no debt and receive unqualified opinions from an independent audit firm annually.

As I approach my 8th anniversary as Executive Director, I have submitted to the Board of Directors my plans for retirement. Turning 69 this year, I'm finding that health issues pursue me. Unfortunately, CEO skills are perishable skills. So, consistent with past practices, our Board has formed a search committee to secure my replacement. The board is committed to continuing the legacy of excellent leadership at the home and will be diligent in the selection process.

Your continued tremendous investment in Boys and Girls Country ensures that our children will have a home for years to come. We are grateful to each of you for partnering with us in raising these capable, deserving, hardworking, grateful Christian girls and boys. I am more confident than ever that the best times for our Boys and Girls Country families are yet ahead. God bless Boys and Girls Country and God bless you!

Sincerely,



Lou Palma
Executive Director

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTORS



In 2016, we celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the founding of Boys and Girls Country



Our Watford Cottage family celebrated the ribbon cutting of their brand new home, the Joanne H. Watford Cottage

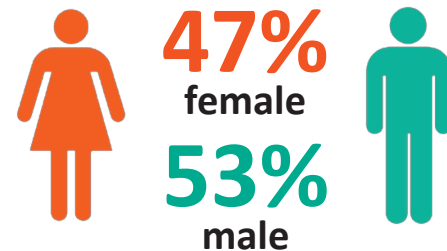
THE NEED



2,464
calls for help

All children need love and nurturing to thrive, and they need food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education to grow up and become contributing adults. The children that come to Boys and Girls Country live in situations that impede their chances for success in life. **More than 75% of the children that come to Boys and Girls Country are from families living in poverty; over half have not received routine dental and medical care; most come from single parent homes.**

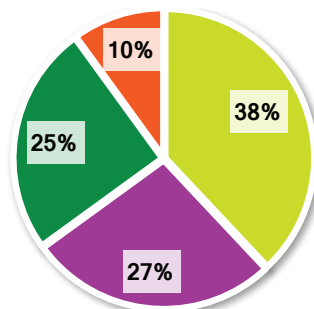
The families that turn to Boys and Girls Country for help want the best for their children. **Last year, 2,464 families called for help.** When we are unable to help them, referrals for other services are provided. Children come to us from all 13 counties in the Greater Houston area, with the majority (75%) coming from Harris County, Ft. Bend (8%), Montgomery (3%) and Waller (7%) counties.



WHO YOU HELPED

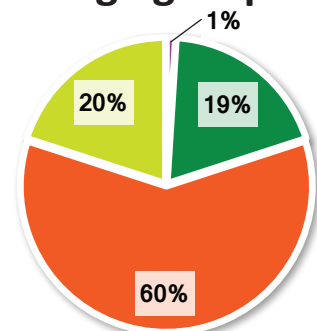
Boys and Girls Country is licensed by the State of Texas as a residential home. **Since its founding in 1971, Boys and Girls Country has cared for 1,435 children and young adults in need. In 2016, your help allowed 122 children and young adults to call Boys and Girls Country home.**

Ethnicity



■ African-American ■ Hispanic
■ Caucasian ■ Other

Age groups



■ Age 5-7 ■ Age 13-17
■ Ages 8-12 ■ Ages 18 and older



OUR HOME



34
Teaching Parents



12
Single Teaching
Parents

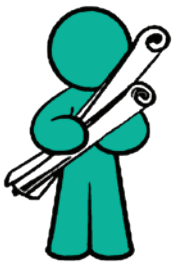


11
Married couple
Teaching Parents

Each child lives in a cottage with seven other children, a married Teaching Parent couple (and any children they may have), and a single Teaching Parent. Teaching Parents care for the children who come to Boys and Girls Country and are the backbone of our program. In comparison to the eight hours of pre-service training foster parents receive, Teaching Parents at Boys and Girls Country receive three weeks of pre-service training and an additional 30 hours of training throughout the year. In this way, we have created a system and maintain a culture that protects our children.



Teaching Parent training per year



270
Plans of
Service

In addition to providing for their basic needs, we want each child to build healthy relationships, acquire responsibilities, and grow and develop within the context of a stable, structured and loving home environment. A child's success hinges on his or her overall health – physical, emotional and spiritual. To address all of these factors in a coordinated way we use a **Plan of Service**, which is created for each child during the intake process and monitored by the entire program team throughout his/her time with us.

Each cottage family is unique and has its own traditions, hobbies, and characteristics. For every child who lives at Boys and Girls Country—whether they stay for three years (the average length of stay) or 13 years—the family experience stays in their heart and they will always carry it with them. With this foundation of a “forever family” and a thorough education, we help children build successful outcomes for their lives.

Length of Stay



32%
Less than 1
year

32%
4-7 years

26%
1-3 years

10%
8 or more
years





COST OF CARE



8,320



meals
served
per month



\$146 a day
per child at
Robinson Campus

\$149 a day
per young adult at
C&C Campus

It gets expensive to feed and clothe more than 100 children and young adults every year! In 2016, it cost \$146 per day to care for one child on the Robinson Campus and \$149 per day to care for one young adult on our College and Career Campus. **Every single investment you make in our children is critical to their success** and Boys and Girls Country's ability to provide them with a home. Thank you!



Per week



55
gallons
of milk



22
large bottles
of dish soap



130 lbs
fresh
produce



375
loads of
laundry



30
pounds
of bacon



85 lbs
ground
beef



WELL-BEING



356
medical visits



157
dental visits



17
orthodontic
visits

Many of our kids come to Boys and Girls Country without ever having received consistent dental and medical care. Every child in our home receives required immunizations, twice-yearly dental visits, and routine check-ups, as well as any emergent or special medical or dental attention needed.



891
individual
counseling
sessions



15
sibling group
counseling
sessions

Many of the children that arrive at Boys and Girls Country have suffered from abuse, neglect, loss, or other emotional trauma. Staff at Boys and Girls Country closely monitors the emotional health of each of our children, referring them when needed to trained counselors who meet with children



1,033
prescriptions
filled



144
injections/
immunizations



BGC celebrated 5 high school graduates in 2016

EDUCATION






3.4
campus-wide
GPA!

Due to frequent moves, many children who enter our home are several grade levels behind their peers in key subjects. In addition, many have special educational needs that have never been addressed. Research shows a clear link between grade point average and future earnings. Every child who comes to Boys and Girls Country is assessed by the Education Coordinator to determine appropriate grade level and identify any needed educational services.

Beginning at an early age, Boys and Girls Country prepares its children for life and education beyond high school. All high school juniors take the PSAT or PACT. Journeying Juniors and Soaring Seniors are programs designed to prepare our 11th and 12th graders for graduation and life after high school.

High School Students

		
4 in dual credit courses	29 Pre-AP, AP or honors level	12 in Vocational Certification courses

The Education Lab is open more than 500 hours each year. Paid and volunteer tutors help our kids achieve academic success. Out-of-school time and summer enrichment programs are in place to reinforce learning at every opportunity.



110
hours
of tutoring
weekly

5 high school graduates in 2016	110 High School graduates since 1997
4 in 2- or 4-year college	1 in military



Nearly
\$120,000
in endowed
scholarships awarded
to BGC students

COLLEGE AND CAREER



TRACY'S STORY

Becoming an adult does not happen overnight! In 1997 the College and Career program was established to give Boys and Girls Country high school graduates a place to call home while they pursue a college or technical degree, start a job, or join the military.

 **1** college graduate in 2016

 **25** college or trade school graduates since 1997

Boys and Girls Country kids are always our kids! Many come back just to visit, get advice or receive mentoring. Some need financial advice or help through a temporary crisis. Through it all, we remain family.

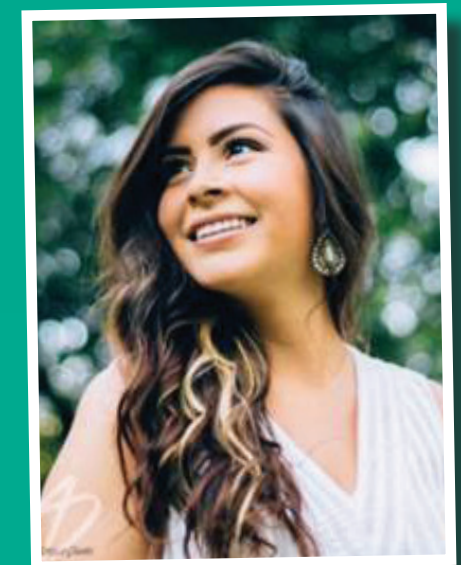


17 young adults lived on College and Career campus



27 alumni received some support from us (mentoring, homework help, financial assistance)

Tracy lived at Boys and Girls Country for five years and graduated from Waller High School in 2015. This fall, she started her sophomore year at Texas State University in San Marcos and is on her way to becoming a cytotechnologist, a lab professional who studies cells and cellular anomalies. "I love biology and working in labs, and I have always wanted to pursue a career in science. I've joined a volleyball group and am doing some volunteering. Over the summer, I worked at Kroger in Cypress in the produce and floral department, gaining important retail experience. I'm so excited to be back at school, and I intend to work hard this semester so I can accomplish all my goals. I know how blessed I am and can't thank everyone enough for making my dream of attending college a reality."



CELEBRATING ALEX

When Alex arrived at Boys and Girls Country, she was only 8 years old. Along with her 3 brothers, Alex grew up here and graduated from high school. Thanks to your investment, we celebrated Alex's college graduation from the University of Texas in May. "It feels like it was just yesterday when Mrs. Teri took me on a college visit. I fell in love with my university and the city of Austin immediately. I'm so proud to have graduated from UT with a Bachelor of Science in Communications Studies. Boys and Girls Country has been there for me every step of the way, whether it was helping me figure out what to major in or believing in me when I was overwhelmed with finals. And now they're helping me transition into a new chapter in my life." We're proud of you Alex!



Bayou City Fellowship provided numerous treats for our children and staff

OUR VOLUNTEERS

7,058
volunteer hours in 2016
provided by

2,022
volunteers

totaling over
\$177,226
in valued hours



The Young Professionals Group gave over 300 hours of volunteer time in 2016, and raised more than \$31,000 for BGC!

Boys and Girls Country is blessed with the dedication of hundreds of volunteers who choose to spend their energy, time and resources to enrich our kids' lives and improve our home. From tutoring in a cottage, to teaching our kids how to bake cupcakes or play the guitar, to helping our families deep clean, these special people find the time to bless our kids with their time, experience and love.



Our Community of Faith friends mulched our campus, bringing over 50 volunteers and donating the mulch

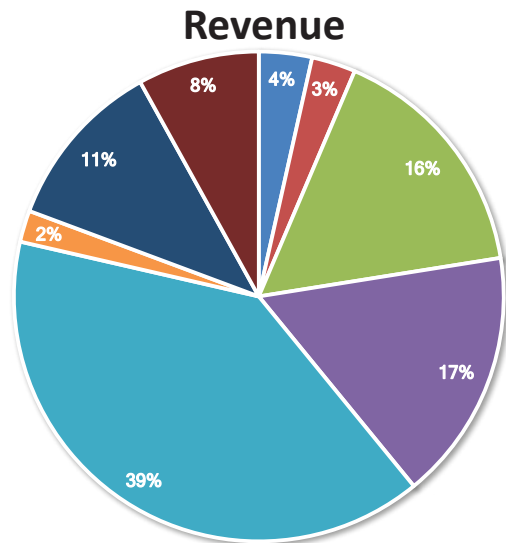
61

church and community groups came to Boys and Girls Country to do projects like paint, mulch, and deep clean



3 Boy Scouts did their Eagle Scout projects at Boys and Girls Country

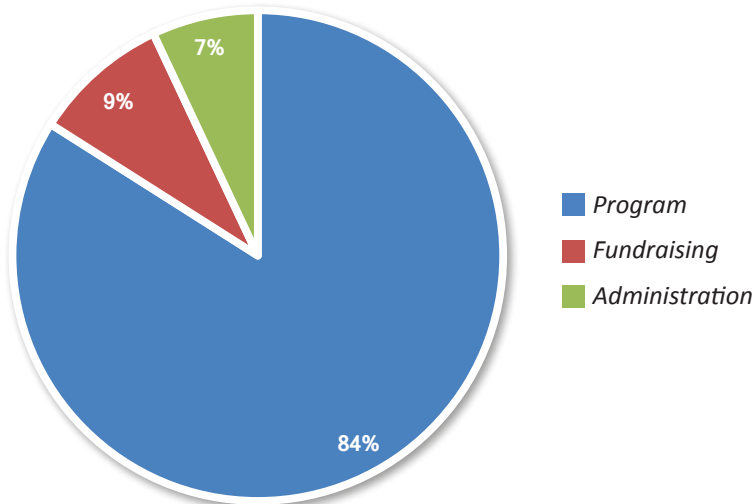
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



- Annual Fund - Board
- Corporations
- Foundations
- Special Events - net
- Grant from Endowment Fund
- General and Individual Contributions
- Reimbursement for care
- Other Income

We are grateful for our diverse donor base of individuals, corporations, foundations, churches, civic groups and other friends who give generously to provide for our children. Boys and Girls Country does not rely on government grants or other support that would place strict limitations on the duration or quality of care we provide. **Our 2016 revenue totaled \$5,761,135.**

Expenses



Boys and Girls Country's expenses are similar to those of any family: groceries, clothing, doctor and dental visits, extracurricular activities, college tuition, utilities, transportation and maintenance. A large portion of the operating budget is used to pay our staff that love and care for our children 365 days a year. **In 2016, our expenses totaled \$5,671,828.**

Boys and Girls Country is a 4-star Charity Navigator organization, a Guide star Exchange Gold participant, and a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity. Our agency profile can be found on DonorHouston, an online database hosted by the Greater Houston Community Foundation for the purpose of informing potential donors. We are independently audited annually, and adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Please contact our office at 281-351-4976 or visit our website at www.boysandgirlscountry.org for a copy of our IRS 990 and most recent audited financial statement.



Our Board of Directors raised more than \$2M for our kids at the Heritage Award Dinner

ENDOWMENT FUND

\$17 Million
in assets in the
Endowment Fund including

57 Chairs at the
Children's Table

19 Named
Scholarship Funds

The Boys and Girls Country Endowment was created in 1998 to support, encourage and assist the activities of Boys and Girls Country of Houston, Inc. by providing long-term funding for its activities.

2016 Board of Directors

Chair:

Randall B. Hale

Immediate Past Chair:

Matthew P. Rotan

Board of Directors:

Michael Bennett
David J. Bishop
Craig A. Bunk
Jan Patterson-Cameron
Rodney Eads
Scott Galloway
Mike Gatewood
Bryan Herr
Robert Kurtz
Charles H. Listen
Penny Requa Loyd
Brian P. McCabe
Stephen M. McEachern
John T. Nesser, III
Travis Overall

Ben Pisklak
Ryan A. Rodgers
Chuck Scianna
Dick Scott
Mark Slaughter
Paul C. Sorensen
Steve Stephens
John F. Sullivan
John R. Sult
Jeremy D. Thigpen
Frank Todaro
Jim Tomforde
Kristie J. Trice
Peter S. Wardenburg
Mike Watford
William Way
Scott Wegmann
Michael J. White

Ex-Officio:

William F. Aimone, III
Donna Boyer

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Bennis G. Butler
H. Douglas Church
H.L. Gardner
Howard S. Hoover, Jr.
Philip L. Leggett, M.D.
Janette McDonald
Charles M. Rampacek
R. Allen Schubert
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Reed G. Wood

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Carl Curtiss
Ronnie Deyo
Leshia Elsenbrook
Steve Emmott
Bradely Freels
Robert F. Gray, Jr.
Sten L. Gustafson
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Todd M. Johnson
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Robert Kneppler
Carolyn Little
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Ralph McIngvale
Gregory P. Pappas
Karen Rosales
Robert W. Roten
Mark Taylor
Beth Thompson
Howard L. Wagner
Dane Whitehead
T. Michael Young

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BOYS & GIRLS
C O U N T R Y
A Home for Children

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