



2017 Annual Report

BOYS & GIRLS
COUNTRY
A Home for Children



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 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 almost 1,500 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 of God's grace, daily prayers and generous gifts from investors like you.

Boys and Girls Country provides a home and a family to more than 100 children and young adults each year who come from difficult circumstances which no child should ever experience. 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 above and beyond when it comes to growing children for life. 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 2017, Boys and Girls Country celebrated 46 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.

www.boysandgirlscountry.org

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTORS

The city of Houston and its residents experienced quite the gamut of emotions in 2017. From Hurricane Harvey to the Astros becoming World Series Champions to our big snow day, we can say it was a year to remember.

The Boys and Girls Country campus was blessed to avoid major damages from Harvey. Unfortunately, we cannot say we were able to escape the storm's wrath. A few of Houston's children perished in the floods; one of them was a younger sibling of a student in our care. You can never be prepared for such devastating news, but our children and staff rallied around that family with love and support. We know many of you were praying for us during the hurricane, and we can honestly say we felt the presence of your love and prayers the whole time.

2017 was a monumental year of outcomes and successes for our students. Joseph was the prom king, and Morgan was the homecoming king at Waller High School. Robert will graduate in the top 5% in his class this year and is preparing to go to Oklahoma Christian University with a number of scholarships in hand. It would take pages and pages to describe all the accomplishments of our students. Every day we learn something new they've accomplished that makes us incredibly proud of them.

Like all loving parents we are dedicated to helping our children become the next generation of leaders despite the circumstances from which they have come. For that reason it was a priority this year to enhance our counseling center.

We are now staffed with top-tier counselors trained in the latest research of trauma-informed care. Every day they help our students find healing, support and restoration to move forward without a fear of dreaming.

As we begin 2018, Boys and Girls Country will continue to remain good stewards of our resources. We do not take this challenge lightly. Every dollar will be managed well and every donation will be put to good use. Our board and staff take great pride in our exceptional ratings with the Better Business Bureau, GuideStar, and Charity Navigator. Our reputation has been stellar for 46 years, and we will continue to be Houston's premier children's home. We are pleased to announce that Steve Stephens, CEO of Amegy Bank, will serve as our Board Chair for 2018-2019. We are very fortunate to have the benefit of Steve's leadership over the next two years.

You invest, volunteer and support our children, and that's what makes us a family. We know you will celebrate with us as you read this annual report. If you have not been out to visit lately, please come see our new cottages and the many wonderful things happening in the lives of our children. The complete list of tour dates can be found on our website. We are so grateful for your love and support. Thank you for growing children for life at Boys and Girls Country!



Vincent Duran
Executive Director



Randall B. Hale
Chair, Board of Directors



Randall

Vince

"It has been my honor to work with such dedicated and wonderful people."
— Randall B. Hale

WHO YOU HELPED



35% of Houston children live below the poverty level

MORE THAN 90% of the children who come to Boys and Girls Country are from families living in poverty

2,308

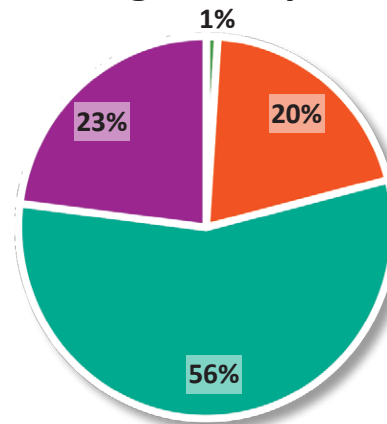
calls for help were received last year; most came from single parents who were seeking our support for several reasons:

- 1) Difficulty providing basic care
- 2) Abuse and neglect
- 3) Difficulty providing supervision
- 4) Difficulty resolving children's behavior issues

Children come to us from all 13 counties in the Greater Houston area, with the majority (81 percent) coming from Harris County. 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 1,469 children and young adults in need.** In 2017, your help allowed 124 children and young adults to call Boys and Girls Country home.

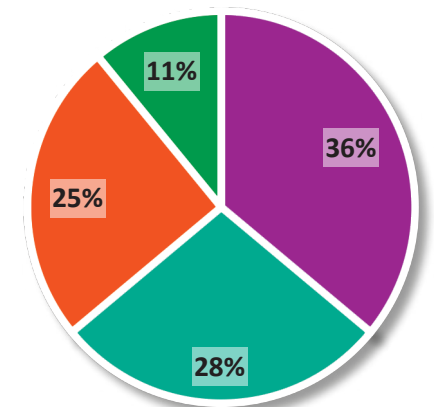
You helped **124** children in 2017.

Age Groups



■ 5-7
■ 8-12
■ 13-17
■ 18 and up

Ethnicity

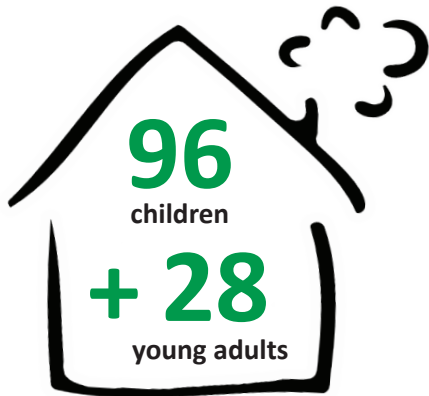


■ African-American
■ Caucasian
■ Hispanic
■ Other

You Provided a Loving Home

The Boys and Girls Country program is made up of a network of cottage families and an extended Christian neighborhood that supports our children as they learn and grow, provides them with educational and emotional support, holds them accountable to their peers and the greater community, and encourages them to dream and achieve goals.

Teaching Parents care for the children who come to Boys and Girls Country and are the backbone of our program. The Teaching Parents live in the cottages, working eight days on and four days off throughout the year. They serve as role models, providing encouragement, accountability and support 24 hours a day, every day of the year.



Called Boys and
Girls Country home



30:8

Our Teaching Parents undergo 30 hours of training before entering our program, compared to the 8 hours of training for guardians in the foster-care system.

3 years
average length of stay

Boys and Girls Country is not a children's shelter and our care is not temporary. The average stay of a child in our home is three years, but many stay here longer or grow up here.

"I adore my teaching parents! I'm beyond grateful for all they do and all they put up with from us. They make our cottage feel like home, and I look forward to seeing them after a long day. I was brought to BGC because my grandmother who raised me was no longer physically able to take care of me, so I appreciate the family and support I've gotten here," said Tirzah. She has been at BGC for almost 7 years.

OUR
HOME



COST OF CARE



You Provided Care

It takes many resources to provide for our Boys and Girls Country families. We are just like any other family! **That's why every single investment you make in our children is critical to their success and well-being.**

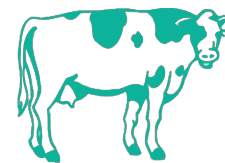
In 2017, it cost **\$147** per day to care for one child at BGC. This cost includes housing, food, clothing, healthcare, counseling, and teaching parents.



6,210
meals served per month



2,720
snacks served a month



4,000
pounds of beef a year



5,720
boxes of cereal a year

"I had lived on nothing but ramen noodles, pinto beans and cornbread for most of my life. At my first dinner at BGC there was a table piled high with every fixing you could imagine, bowls filled with mashed potatoes, gravy, yeast rolls, creamed corn, and peach cobbler with Blue Bell Ice-Cream for dessert. The fatted calf at the Hill Cottage was a huge heaping pile of the most aromatic chicken fried steak this side of Amarillo...what a vision!" shared Casey B., a BGC alumni.

You Made Them Healthier

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.



349
medical visits



43
optical visits



165
dental visits



1,206
prescriptions



65
immunizations



Many of the children who come to 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. In 2017, half of the children living at the Roberts Road campus were in counseling at any one time.



1,327
individual counseling
sessions

“The most exciting development is when kids make the transition from being afraid or uncomfortable with therapy to telling us, ‘I think this is really helping me.’ We want them to handle their anger and grief appropriately. I try to remind them, don’t let the past cut off your blessings!” explains Clinical Director B.J. Barksdale.

WELLBEING



EDUCATION

You Helped Them Reach Their Potential

Did you know that 64% of HISD students were identified as “at-risk” in 2016*? 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. 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.



2,280

hours of tutoring
provided last 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.



6

High School
Graduates in 2017



4

in dual
credit courses



1

in military



8

in 2 or
4 year college

*according to childrenatrisk.org

You Helped Them Become Successful Adults


Children do not “age out” of Boys and Girls Country. Most children placed in foster care or a child welfare system have to leave at the age of 18. At Boys and Girls Country, our kids are encouraged and able to remain part of the family as young adults through the College and Career program.

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.

COLLEGE AND CAREER

 **1**
college graduate
in 2017

 **28**
young adults lived
on C&C campus

 **28**
alumni received
support from BGC



Joseph's Story

After roaming the streets of Houston for three years Joseph arrived at BGC at age 16 severely malnourished. He thought it was better to be homeless than to live in an unstable home with a parent struggling with addiction. We were thrilled to see the gaunt, listless boy beginning to improve his health, succeed at school, and take leadership in the cottage.

“My time at Boys and Girls Country has been life-changing, not only affecting my life but my future lineage. BGC has allowed a kid with zero aspirations and heading down the wrong path to be able to have a second chance at being a normal kid and have a normal family.”

Joseph graduated from Waller High School in 2013 and began taking classes at Stephen F. Austin State University the following fall. He will be graduating with a degree in Economics from the University of Houston in the fall of 2018.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Your Volunteer Efforts Made a Huge Impact

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.



1,481

volunteers came to our campus in 2017

⋮

5,424

hours of service were provided

⋮



Totaling over **\$130,935**
in valued hours



Leana



From Our Volunteers

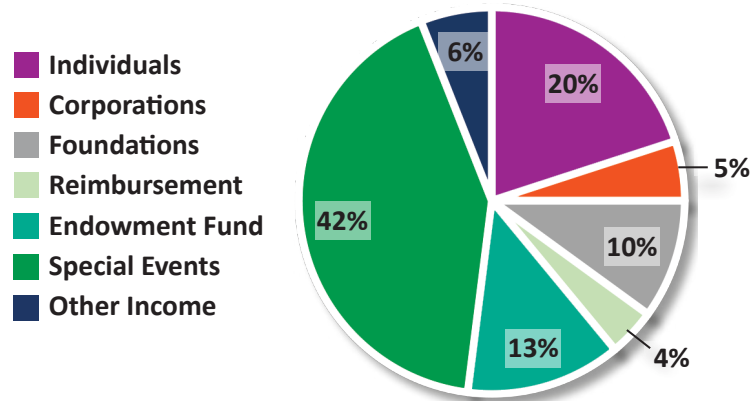
As the mother of two college-aged boys, Leana, one of our regular volunteers, knows the value of providing love, family and education to kids. "My volunteer experience at Boys and Girls Country is very rewarding. I go away feeling that these children are given a chance to become not only self-sufficient, contributing members of society, but with all they learn and the guidance and love they are given, they will be outstanding members of society. I feel very fortunate to be involved with this fabulous organization!" Shared Leana.

Leana has been a friend to BGC since 2012. We are so blessed to have her as a volunteer and appreciate her tireless energy and hours of hard work!

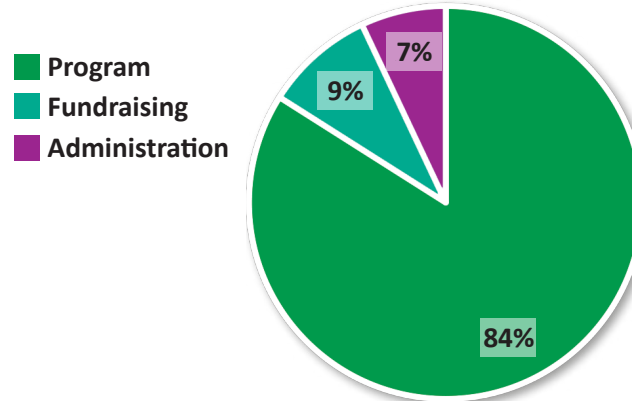
You Invested In Their Future

It takes a village to support our kids. We are thankful for to our donors for providing food, safety and a loving home for our children. Boys and Girls Country depends on private funding from the community to sustain operations. Our organization is not a United Way member agency, nor does it rely on state or federal grants, which would impose restrictions on the duration and quality of care provided. Thank you for trusting us with growing children for life!

Revenue \$4,894,764



Expenses \$5,706,632



At Boys and Girls Country we are transparent in everything that we do. Boys and Girls Country is a 4-star Charity Navigator organization, a GuideStar Exchange Gold participant, and a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity. 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. You are invited to tour our campus and experience the impact we make in children's lives.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Endowment Fund

\$19.6 Million

in assets in the Endowment

⋮

57

chairs at the children's table

⋮

19

named scholarship funds





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T. Michael Young

Executive Director:
Vincent Duran

Contact Us

18806 Roberts Road
Hockley, TX 77447
www.boysandgirlscountry.org
281.351.4976

Vincent G. Duran
Executive Director
vinced@boysandgirlscountry.org
Office: 281.803.3136