

BOYS & GIRLS C O U N T R Y News

Spring 2020

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Vince's View

Walk of Hope Tour

Curious about life on our campus and in our cottages? Would you like to see firsthand the warm, family-oriented home your support makes possible?



Come join us for a tour of our campus and cottages. It's an hour of wonderful stories, great information and an inside look at where our children live. This is not a fundraising event. Bring only an open heart and a friend.

Below are our upcoming tour dates. You can find more information on our tours on our website.

Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Meet in the Administration Building

- April 4
- May 2 (Spring Festival)
- Sep.12
- Oct.3

Jonah arrived at Boys and Girls Country six months ago. He has had a rough start adjusting to a new environment and trusting our staff and his peers. The elementary school has called several times concerned about his behavior and lack of coping skills. One of his worst days involved knocking down furniture and throwing objects in the classroom. I had a hard time visualizing his small frame knocking down chairs and school supplies. I was not sure if we could keep him in our care due to his intense anger and lack of self-control, but our staff was determined not to give up. We prayed for wisdom and patience, and the good news is that he is still with us.

There is no doubt he has come a long way since the first couple of weeks of school, and we are determined to see him succeed in education and in life.

Even though Jonah still struggles every day, we see him warming up to everyone by giving hugs, high fives and fist bumps. His story is one of many at BGC – a child on the road to healing and building trust with his new family and friends. When I see our kids here, I think about their destiny and all of the wonderful things that are coming their way. Maria Montessori once said, "Within the child lies the fate of the future." This statement by Dr. Montessori gives me hope in our work with children.

Faith continues to be a core value in all that we do at BGC. I often tell our staff we cannot fulfill our mission without the help and empowerment of

the Holy Spirit. God is in the childcare business, and He is the strength we need at all times. Scripture reminds us that He is the God who guides and provides. He is also the God who heals and is often referred to as "Jehovah Rapha" in the Old Testament. Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, is the great physician who "binds up the brokenhearted, proclaims freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1). The prophet Jeremiah also gives the same assurance: "I will restore you to health and heal your wounds" (30:17). I sleep well at night knowing our staff and children are in the hands of a Mighty God!

"When I see our kids here, I think about their destiny and all of the wonderful things that are coming their way."

Jonah is on a wonderful journey as he learns core values such as faith, integrity, cooperation and honesty. These are skills that will help him overcome the many challenges he will face throughout life. Your support continues to make these miracles happen every day at BGC. We are now in our 49th year of taking care of the children of Greater Houston! Thank you for helping us keep the dream alive because we cannot do it without you. ❤️

Vincent Duran
Chief Executive Officer

Give securely online at www.boysandgirlscountry.org/donate

Looking Back


Heritage Award Dinner Success!

Thank you to our underwriters, volunteers and guests for making the 2019 Heritage Award Dinner a wonderful success. Your gifts are an investment in our kids' futures, helping them to make their own marks on the world.

Hosted at the Hilton Americas Hotel on Wednesday, October 30, the event featured stories of the impact BGC makes on children's lives, a gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment by Jeff Foxworthy. It attracted more than 1,000 guests, including Houston's influential philanthropists and business owners.

The event honored the philanthropic achievements of the Scianna family who invest their time, talent and treasure in various community organizations like Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Waller Area Chamber of Commerce, the Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation, Reach Unlimited and others. Chuck Scianna has served on the BGC board of directors, and the entire family has been involved for more than a decade with Spring Festival and sponsoring one of the cottages.

"We believe in having a diversified philanthropic investment portfolio, and BGC is on the top of our list. We can go out and see the return on investment every day. We can see the productivity, we can see what the kids are getting and we can see the dedication of the staff out there and the teaching parents. It's a huge payback," shared Mr. Scianna during the award acceptance speech. 

Save the date for the 2020 Heritage Award Dinner – October 29, 2020.




From Our Children

Christmas Memories

"I am thankful for seeing my family and the presents were so good. The best event was Day of Wonder because all of the people who came were so kind to spend time getting special presents for all the kids. I hope everyone's Christmas was as great!" **Aaron**, 11 y.o.

"My favorite part about Christmas was being with my Cottage 5 family because of the time we spent together. I had the best present ever which is a drone you can fly inside and outside. I love that everyone was happy with their presents, even me. The weather was so good on Christmas day. It was a perfect day!" **Zorian**, 11 y.o.

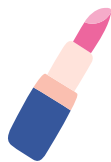


"Christmas was amazing because I spent time with my family. The High Rollers were my favorite part because the motorcycles were cool. My favorite thing to eat was candy canes and hot chocolate. I enjoyed spending Christmas day with my Cottage 5 family and my best friend Adrienne. We played with remote-controlled cars and had a great time." **Aiden**, 8 y.o. 

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsor: **Treney**

College and Career

Korin at Aveda



In recent years, the focus on encouraging high school students to pursue higher education has increased. And while the pursuit of higher education is commendable, attending a 4-year college is not the best fit for every student. At Boys and Girls Country, we want our kids to know there are other paths to becoming self-sustaining and contributing adults. Becoming a tradesman or entering a vocational school can be a great alternative to college.

Cosmetology is Korin's passion, and last year she was accepted to the prestigious program at Aveda Institute. Attending Aveda required a long daily commute from Hockley to The Woodlands, but Korin was committed to succeed. She has proudly maintained As and Bs in her coursework while studying and practicing 11 or more hours each day and working a part-time job.



First day at the Aveda Institute



Korin along with other Aveda students volunteered at the "Night of the Superstars" event

Korin's program at Aveda is almost complete, and she is excited to have that accomplishment under her belt. She has learned a variety of hair and make-up techniques and says that coloring is her favorite part because she loves seeing different outcomes based on what the clients want. Her dream is to own a salon one day.

"Boys and Girls Country has helped me out tremendously in every aspect of my life. I very much appreciate the support of our staff and mentors," commented Korin.



Congratulations to Korin! We are so excited that God is setting her up for excellence. ❤️

Join Pedal for a Purpose

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020


www.bikereg.com/pedal-for-a-purpose



Ride support provided by Sugar Cycles.

You Grow Children for Life

Nearly 90% of the children who call Boys and Girls Country home come from families living in poverty. Many have lived in substandard housing and experienced food insecurity, and some come from abusive backgrounds. Your investment in Boys and Girls Country helps to break the cycle and effects of poverty and neglect for children by providing a secure, stable, Christian home environment. Your support helps children thrive in life, and we are so proud of the unbelievable perseverance that these kids find thanks to God.

Below are a few highlights from our 2019 Annual Report. 



13

high school graduates



2 + 1

graduated with a Bachelor's and Associate degree



3.2

Campus GPA



21

kids worked a part-time job



17

kids participated in 4H and FFA



27

kids participated in VN Christian Retreat



19

new drivers



38

service projects completed



55

students played sports



To read a complete Annual Report, please visit bit.ly/bgcar2019



Boys and Girls Country SPRING FESTIVAL 2020

Saturday, May 2: 11am-5pm

ACTIVITIES

- Classic Midway Games
 - Live Music
 - Crafts and Inflatables
 - Classic Carnival Food
 - Basket Sale
- Including toys, games, trips, gift cards, sports memorabilia and more!



PRICING

- FREE admission and parking
- All-day Children's Activity passes are \$20 (ages 5 and up) or \$5 (ages 4 and under).
- Food tents will be on site for an additional charge. Snacks and meals range from \$2 - \$8.

MUSIC

Enjoy music from local artists throughout the day!

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



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

FUN FESTIVAL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

WHAT IS SPRING FESTIVAL?

Spring Festival is a critical fundraiser for more than 100 children and young adults whose families are in crisis and depend on Boys and Girls Country to provide hope, love, support and safety. Your support helps break the cycle of poverty, pain and abuse and gives loving parents to the kids who desperately need them.



Our **mission** is 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.

Our **vision** is that every child has a place to grow up and a sense of being home.

YOU CAN HELP

- Underwrite a zone or sponsor a booth
- Donate a gift card or a basket
- Volunteer at the event
- Bring your family to this fun festival
- Help us spread the word by distributing event flyers

Contact Shannon Smith at 281.290.1288 or ShannonS@boysandgirlscountry.org for details.



Saturday, May 2: 11am-5pm | FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING!

Fall & Winter Highlights



Regina and the Lady Bulldogs won their varsity basketball tournament.



Heritage Awards Dinner helped us raise vital funds to support our children.



Farid was crowned Homecoming King at the Waller High School football game.



Kaleigh was crowned 2019 Waller County Fair Princess.



Our College & Career mentors visited Destiny at Wharton County Junior College. She was helping with the costume and set design of the theatre production "Farce of Habit."



We are proud of our young adults who participated in Teen Court. It helps them build leadership skills and empathy.



We are so proud of our kids who participated in the 4-H Waller County Fair.



Our kids enjoyed baseball and softball practices with Waller County Sports Association.



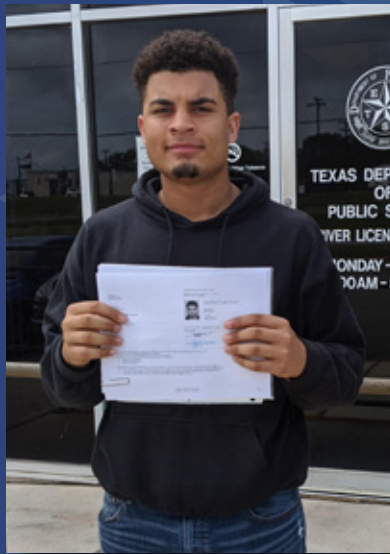
Tour of Lights was a great success thanks to the creativity and commitment of our cottage families who brought the Christmas spirit to campus.



Our cottage families celebrated Thanksgiving together as one big family.



N.W. San Jacinto High Rollers held their 40th Anniversary Toy Run for BGC kids. What an amazing time!



Mark and other young adults received their driver's licenses.



Our Cottage 5 family volunteered to put together hygiene kits for hurricane relief with Mrs. Frances and Faith United Methodist Church.



Many sponsors made Christmas absolutely magical for our kids.



We are so blessed to see Boys and Girls Country alumni thriving as successful adults and many of them are now parents themselves. "Home for the Holidays" is a wonderful tradition where our former students come home and spend time together.

October 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

In Memory Of

Thank you for remembering someone special with a gift to our children at Boys and Girls Country.

Abby Mr. and Mrs. Dale Seyler	Ms. Jane E. Plumlee Jody Swift TOPS #1442 Mr. and Mrs. Julius Zapalac	Patricia Jones Ann G. Dowell	Susan Shaw A.A. Brautigam
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John Anderson Marvin D. and Mary Jo Boswell Cal and Millie Reed	Thomas Connell William K. and Linda C. Harkness	Kyle Killough Cal and Millie Reed	Jerry Slezak Steve and Caroline Compton
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Bernice Bradfield Robert E. Bradfield	Adeline Garrison William G. Garrison	Nancy W. Parker Mr. John S. Parker	Bernice and Gladys Underwood Charlotte U. Martin
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	Rusty Howard Steve and Caroline Compton	Mark Schiel A.A. Brautigam	Virginia Wood A.A. Brautigam
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	Glen Jewell Ms. Wendi Davis		

We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate notifications of corrections.

Honorarium

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Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

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Jan Armao

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Kelly Baehren

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Join our Family Tree online: bit.ly/bgcfamilytree



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Would you join our Family Tree?

The Boys and Girls Country Family Tree is our newest opportunity for you to help our kids. It is a very special group of people that's dedicated to our kids. They have decided to become monthly donors and continue blessing the work we do all year long.

Family Tree members give on a monthly basis which allows us to plan for our kids and spread donations throughout the year.

From baseball sign ups to 4-H and graduation... our kids are encouraged to be active in their community and pursue their gifts and talents all year long. Your recurring contributions ensure our kids have a safe and secure home and loving parents so that they can focus on thriving and exploring their talents in every month and season.

Visit our website bit.ly/bgcfamilytree and decide what level of support is convenient for you. Thank you for your generous hearts! ❤️

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.

For questions about this mailing or to make an address change, please call 281-351-4976. Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of our children and their families.

Make Your Contribution Online!

Your gift today will ensure children from families in crisis have a safe home, a loving family, and a future as successful and contributing adults.

Give securely online at
www.boysandgirlscountry.org/donate
Thank you for your gift to change the lives of our children!



To donate by mail, simply include and return your donation in the envelope enclosed.

Connect with us!

Contact Information:

info@boysandgirlscountry.org
Phone: 281.351.4976
Fax: 281.351.4978

