



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

Hannah at the youth retreat at  
Champion Forest Baptist Church – Jersey Village

**BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY**  
**news**  
**spring 2022**

**in this issue:**

- 2 VINCE'S VIEW
- 3 CELEBRATING MILESTONES
- 4 DONOR SPOTLIGHT
- 5 SPRING FESTIVAL
- 6 IN MEMORY
- 7 HONORARIUM
- 8 PRAY WITH US



## VINCE'S VIEW

### Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Over the last two years, residential programs like Boys and Girls Country have experienced significant changes in supervision requirements and family engagement. The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was recently enacted to turn the focus of the current child welfare system toward keeping children safely with their families instead of out-of-home placement. This new legislation and a federal lawsuit against the state of Texas have been front and center in the media as of late.

The importance of growing up with immediate family or relatives can never be matched by residential care or a foster home. Some of our kids have a layer of support through a guardian or a relative living in the community. They have frequent off-campus visits throughout the year with their loved ones. However, for some of our kids who have no family or safe place to visit, BGC is a stable and loving place that they call home. Sadly, there will always be kids who fall into this category. Thankfully, the doors of our home will always be open for them.

As an organization, we are taking further steps to help the families of our kids and share with them helpful resources and services. This year we have added Family Enrichment Days on campus. These are weekend events where parents and guardians can come and participate in interactive workshops and team-building exercises that enhance parenting skills. Our successful model of care doesn't have to be a secret to our donors or community. BGC has been

blessed with state-of-the art facilities that support our education and counseling programs. We have hired experts in our field in order to meet and exceed best practices in residential care. Our program model is evidence-based and nationally-accredited. As the leader of BGC, it is my honor to showcase our program's results and impeccable reputation in the community.

The New Testament reminds us that, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27)

I have always said that taking care of God's children is kingdom business, and I cannot think of a better investment than the BGC mission. Whether a child lives with us for six months or six years, we will give them love, faith, a warm bed and a safe place to call home.

**Vincent Duran**  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. The photos above are from our first Family Enrichment event.





### Shiloh's First Christmas At BGC



Christmas at Boys and Girls Country (BGC) is a magical time filled with celebrations, presents, fellowship and love. It is special to see the excitement and joy through the eyes of a child who is new to BGC like Shiloh. For so many kids who come to BGC, Christmas is associated with the pain and abuse they experienced in the past. We are blessed that when they come here they have a new family to help them create happy memories.

Shiloh's first Christmas at BGC began with a visit to Color Me Mine, where he painted with his BGC friends and met Santa. The next celebration was the San Jacinto High Rollers' annual toy run. As the club members paraded by on their motorcycles, Shiloh waved and cheered. He said he had never seen so many motorcycles in one place!

When it came to decorating his cottage, Shiloh was thrilled with the theme his cottage family selected: the movie "Elf." He wore a custom T-shirt along with his cottage brothers, and everyone was given a role to play for the Tour of Lights event. Their hard work decorating the cottage paid off because they won second place! The boys were all smiles that night.

Day of Wonder is when sponsors of each cottage celebrate Christmas with the cottage families with food, gifts, a festive activity and the birth story of Jesus. "We opened our presents, made gingerbread houses and then we ate some yummy food," Shiloh said.

Many of our kids visit their family for Christmas, but it's not always the case depending on the situation at home. On Christmas day, Shiloh celebrated at a staff member's house with a friend from BGC. They rode bikes, enjoyed being outside and spending time with each other.

Thanks to all of the generous donors and supporters of BGC, Shiloh not only had an amazing time celebrating Christmas, but



**When asked how his first Christmas at BGC was, Shiloh said, "it was the best thing I've ever done."**

he received a number of exciting presents. Some of his favorites are his new LEGO Technic set, remote-controlled car, robot set and coding set.

Thank you for helping our kids grow up in a loving and stable family environment.

### Alma's Graduation

Alma had many things on her plate recently, but we are so proud of her diligently pursuing her goals. She graduated with an Associate of Arts degree from Lone Star College - Tomball in December! The College & Career program organized a well-deserved graduation party, and just a few weeks later, she began her next chapter of life.

At the beginning of the year, Alma moved into a dorm at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). This big step terrified her, but she knew it would be a good experience and was comforted knowing that a friend from Boys and Girls Country (BGC) is also a student there.

"I prefer to do school online, so I'm really nervous about going to SFA," Alma said prior to starting her semester. "I thought it would be better if I step out of my comfort zone and grow in a way."



Despite her anxiety, Alma has successfully settled in at SFA. She is studying psychology and enjoying her scientific literacy class. Alma loves living in the dorm and is making a lot of new friends.

"I've pushed myself to go to many socials to meet more friends. I've also been going to a lot of school games to revel in the school spirit," Alma said.

She is excited about her future and is considering a career in Applied Behavior Analysis therapy and a master's degree in clinical supervision. Alma never imagined these career goals prior to coming to live at BGC.

**"Everything I'm doing now, I'm shocked. I never thought I could do this," Alma said.**

Alma has a bright future thanks to donors and supporters like you. It is amazing to see how she has grown from a shy young adult into a confident young woman who is ready to conquer the world.

Thank you for being there for our kids and helping them achieve their dreams.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Tokio Marine's Dedication to BGC

Providing a loving, stable home for children from families in crisis is only possible with the support of our devoted donors. Tokio Marine HCC (TMHCC) has been an advocate for our children for many years. Their involvement began with sponsoring Boys and Girls Country's (BGC) annual bike ride, Pedal for a Purpose, and their involvement has grown to sponsoring a cottage at Christmas and offering to match employee donations to BGC. We are thankful that their chief financial officer Tom Weist recommended BGC as a charity to support.

"When I first moved to Houston in 2011, I bought a bike from Bike Barn in Cypress. They had a group ride every Saturday morning, which I joined," Weist said. "In 2013 or 2014, the store manager mentioned the BGC charity ride. Bike Barn was providing free services to riders and was helping to raise awareness. I brought this to Chris Williams' (TMHCC's former CEO) attention as he was looking for charity events where we could participate. He liked the charity and the event, so we sponsored. The rest is history."

**"It is a great route for a great cause," Callahan said. "Boys and Girls Country provides lasting long-term benefits to the Houston economy by intervening in the lives of local children through their programs. Taking a ride in the middle of the Texas spring can help save lives."**

TMHCC looks forward to Pedal for a Purpose every year. Their employees volunteer at rest stops along the ride to pass out snacks and cheer on the riders. One of the riders in Pedal for a Purpose is the executive vice president of TMHCC, Mark Callahan.

In addition to sponsoring Pedal for a Purpose, TMHCC sponsors a BGC cottage family at Christmas. They devote their time and resources as a team to make sure our kids have the best Christmas



Tokio Marine team volunteering at Pedal for a Purpose 2021

possible. The celebration comes with a delicious meal, the gifts that our kids hope for and a time of fellowship. These celebrations create memories that our kids carry throughout their lives. The TMHCC team shared that they receive overwhelming joy when they see the smiles on our kids' faces who open their gifts and experience the true magic of Christmas fellowship as a family. Christmas 2021 marked six years of their support, and TMHCC is planning on supporting BGC further in 2022.

We are also blessed to receive funds from TMHCC who has a matching program for its employees. When employers match donations, it not only helps to raise more vital funds for our program, but it also encourages employees to give back to their community.

"As part of our Good Company values, we are committed to making a positive impact through meaningful change for the communities in which we live and work," marketing associate, Casie Majewski said. "We implemented the Impact Program (through Benevity's Spark platform) to make giving easier and to provide a fun and easy way to give time or money to causes that matter to TMHCC and our employees."

We feel so blessed to have the support of TMHCC through the years. Their generous support changed the lives of many children, and we look forward to our continued partnership.

## PEDAL FOR A PURPOSE

April 9, 2022

Visit [www.bit.ly/p4pbgc](http://www.bit.ly/p4pbgc) for more details and safety guidelines.







# Boys and Girls Country SPRING FESTIVAL 2022

Saturday, April 30th: 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

- Classic Midway Games
- Crafts
- Giant Inflatables
- Basket Sale



## Activity Passes

- \$20 for ages 5 and up
- \$5 for 4 and under

## Food and Activity Tickets

- \$1 each

*Food and activity booths range from 2 to 10 tickets.*

## FOOD

- Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
- BBQ
- Chicken Tacos
- Classic Carnival Food

18806 Roberts Road, Hockley, TX 77447 | [www.boysandgirlscountry.org](http://www.boysandgirlscountry.org)  
Free Admission and Parking

# OCTOBER 1, 2021–JANUARY 31, 2022

## 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

### **Dennis Beck**

Mrs. Tommie Beck

### **Floyd and Dorothy Bender**

Ed and Kathryn Mellor

### **Reverend James Blumhorst**

Harriet Blumhorst Graf

### **Mark Blumhorst**

Harriet Blumhorst Graf

### **James B. Boomer**

Marcella G. Boomer

### **Thomas Charles Brennan, III**

Ms. Judith Job

### **Jack Brewer**

Leonard Bedell\*

Gary L. and Kathy H. Friedel

Mr. and Mrs. Olin Harn

Stephen L. and Lorel B. Hohl

Thomas H. and Marney S. Kepner

Janette McDonald

Richard and Elaine Petranek

Darrell and Tina Roquemore

B.J. and Sarah Smith

Reed G. and Janet Wood

### **Stanley C. Brown**

June Brown

### **Fred Brumley**

Mrs. Jean Brumley\*

### **W.M. Brumley, Jr**

Mrs. Jean Brumley\*

### **Reverend F. Graham Cliff**

Mary-Jo Cliff

### **Joe Carranza**

Teri Colwell

### **Bill Dowdy**

Doyal R. and Carol A. Gillespie

### **Bob and John Marcus Dugan**

William K. and Linda C. Harkness

### **Les and Jewel Dunn**

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sturm

### **Milton and Naomi Ellis**

Susan A. Long

### **Jana Boomer Ermis**

Marcella G. Boomer

### **Barb Franchina**

Mrs. Emilee Ahern

Ms. Jackie McBride

Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Smolenski

### **Hugh Frye**

Mr. and Mrs. H. Matthew Frye

### **Kelley Garza**

Paula McHam

### **Sandy and Donnie Gower**

Ms. Donna Gower

### **Brett Hall**

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nugent

### **Mike Harmeier**

A.A. Brautigam

### **David Hendricks II**

David Hendricks

### **Harriette Higginbotham**

Sharolyn and Mike Wood

### **Willie and Mildred Hill**

Ms. Nancy Sims

### **Helen Howard**

Ms. Lauren Pully

### **Bessie Jones**

Ms. Lee Ann Watson

### **Josh**

Mr. and Mrs. John Phillip Baldez

### **Dale Kemp**

Kyrie K. Cameron

Jan Cameron

### **Talon Wyatt Killingsworth**

Ms. Mary V. Bond

### **Jim Larkin**

Mrs. Shirley Larkin

### **Bennie Lofton**

Ms. Cheryl Sloan

### **Mary Ellen Lundquist**

Norman E. and Nancy S. Algert

Marjorie S. Halvorson

Marilyn Mahoney

Ms. Malinda Wright

### **Gemma Maddox**

William K. and Linda C. Harkness

### **Jennifer Malota**

Mr. and Mrs. Kerry L. Sims

### **Jerry McAhren**

Jack E. and Carolyn Little

### **A.C. Miller**

Pamela Miller

### **Christian Mohn**

Dennis R. and Nelda Carlile

### **Brian Neeld**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Neeld

### **Bud Patterson**

Michelle M. Sivadon

### **Elijah and Nelda Petty**

Curtis and Deborah Petty

### **Jeannine M. Plesnicher**

Carl and Laurel Plesnicher

### **George Rampacek**

Charles Rampacek

### **Ruby Jean Schiel and five children**

Schiel B-R-C-P-B-B-L Foundation

### **Ashlee E. Schoenfeld**

Ken and Barbara Schoenfeld

### **Johnie Schulte**

Stan Forde

### **Bill Shipwash**

Ann B. and C.R. Dale

### **Wayne and Joan Smith**

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Thomas

### **TJ Smock**

San Jacinto High Rollers Hardin Chapter

### **Lauren M. Spleth**

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Howard

### **Rita Spleth**

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Howard

### **Lucy Anderson Stewart**

Allyson Newcombe\*

### **Brodie Tamplin**

Ms. Lee Ann Watson

### **Bernice and Gladys Underwood**

Charlotte U. Martin

### **Ken Wall**

Leonard Bedell\*

Carolyn Patterson

### **Kim Wilson**

Mr. Ben F. Wilson



# Honorarium

**Darlene Andrews**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Mike Arnold**

Eye of the Needle Fund

**Axel and Jeri Baehren**

Scott and Kelly Baehren

**Harold and Ray Nell Baker**

Lisa Taylor

**David Bishop**

Brad and Denise Williams

**Brian Blaylock**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Jan Cameron**

Teresa Fish

**Tis Gaston**

Cecelia Bishop

**L.C. and Cathy Courtney**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Amber and James Fenimore**

Lawrence B. and Diana C. Lipton

**Don and Terry Frazee**

Ronald Luedtke

**Hollie Garza**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Tamara Gibbs**

Ms. Beth Jones

**Goudelock Family**

Ms. Sara Gilheart\*

**Rosie Granat**

Ms. DeAnn Sumner\*

**Milton and Jennie Graves**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Mary M. Green**

George F. and Donna S. Burger

**Sheila A. Green**

George F. and Donna S. Burger

**Gary Gries**

JIREH Industries USA

**Malcolm and Darla Guerra**

Mark Nicoli

**Victoria Hachat**

Ms. Janette Cleveland

**Bob Howard**

Ms. Diana Howard\*

Ms. Lauren Pully

**Ann and Jack Hurt**

Mr. and Mrs. H. Scott Galloway

**Jake and Rose Jacobson**

Laura Hicks\*

**Vi Janac**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Marilyn Kent**

Ms. Decie Autin

**Carmen and John Knapp**

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Schubert

**Eric Law and Jennifer Gomez**

William DeForest

**Carolyn Little**

Jon C. and Carey M. Hall

**Jack and Carolyn Little**

Jim and Pam Little

**David Lopez**

Cora Diamond

**Scott Miller**

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Zator

**Thelma Mooney**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Newcomers and Neighbors  
of Greater Houston**

Mrs. Marjorie Barclay

**Bernice Nicastro**

Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

**Ernesto Osorio**

Ms. Lee Ann Watson

**Travis Overall**

Tellepsen Corporation

**Ben Pisklak**

Mr. Paul Pisklak

Ronald and Cisi Pisklak

**Bob and Carole Roten**

Jim and Dianne Hammelman

**Ginny Robertson**

Scott and Stacey Maurice

**Pamela Rush**

Doyal R. and Carol A. Gillespie

**Ms. Brigitte Schmidt**

Dana Cook

**Rita and Chuck Scianna**

Grady Hesters

Morgan Hesters

**Milton and Judy Smith**

Shannon and Jay Smith

**Steve and Anne-Laure Stephens**

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Campbell

Erin and Cary Bounds

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hubbard

Jay Monroe

**Jody Swift**

Rich Brittan

**Pete and Marilyn Wardenburg**

April and Peter S. Wardenburg, Jr.

**Sam and Edna Williams**

Judith Vicknair

**Reed and Janet Wood**

Mr. and Mrs. Victor A. Burk

Mr. and Mrs. Ben H. Powell

**Spencer and Madlyn Yantis**

Shannon and Jay Smith

**Dr. Brian Zator**

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Zator

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

\*Includes gift(s) made to the Boys and Girls Country Endowment Fund



18806 Roberts Road  
Hockley, Texas 77447

*Change Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
N. HOUSTON, TX  
PERMIT #11163

## 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Chair

Chuck Scianna

Bill Aimone III

David Bishop

Donna Boyer

Georgene Britz

Craig Bunk

John Dalton

Carlos De Aledcoa Bueno

Bart Duckworth

Scott Galloway

Mike Gatewood

Kathy Gibson

Linsy Goodson

Will Harper

Bryan Herr

Raleigh Jenkins

Herb Listen

Brad Marks

Scott Martin

Matthew Mealey

Parker Mears

James Miller

Travis Overall

Ben Pisklak

Ryan Rodgers

Dick Scott

Paul Sorensen

Zach Springer

Kristen Stedham

Steve Stephens

Randy Stilley

J. R. Sult

Jim Tomforde

Kristie Trice

Mike Watford

Bill Way

Scott Wegmann

Michael White

James Wu

### Chief Executive Officer:

Vincent Duran

### Advisory Council:

Jim Bloodworth

Jan Cameron

Hulda Coskey

Ronnie Deyo

Rodney Eads

Lesha Elsenbrook

Steve Emmott

Brad Freels

Sten Gustafson

Randall B. Hale

Bob Howard

John Knapp

Robert Kneppeler Jr.

Bob Kurtz

Carolyn Little

Michael Lowther

Penny Requa Loyd

Terrence Malloy

Stephen McEachern

Mark L. Mey

Bo Pierce

Sally Ramsay

Matthew P. Rotan

Karen Rosales

Mark Taylor

Howard Wagner

Peter Wardenburg

T. Michael Young

### Honorary Lifetime:

Leonard Bedell

Bennis G. Butler

H. Douglas Church

H. Larry Gardner

Philip L. Leggett, MD

L. Janette McDonald

Charles M. Rampacek

R. Allen Schubert

Jack I. Tompkins

Reed G. Wood

## PRAY WITH US

Friends, 2022 is off to a great start for BGC. We have welcomed new kids and staff members and look forward to continuing to help even more children from families in crisis. Also, after two years of not being able to hold Spring Festival, we are thrilled to be hosting this fun, family-friendly event once again. Life at BGC never really slows down, and this year looks to be no different! We ask that you join us in prayer for the following:

- That our new kids and staff members have a smooth transition into life at BGC;
- That our community remains safe and healthy;
- That our Spring Festival is successful in raising vital funds for BGC to continue providing services to children from families in crisis;
- That our kids feel loved and supported.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP



To donate by mail, please use the envelope enclosed.



To give securely online, visit [www.boysandgirlscountry.org/donate](http://www.boysandgirlscountry.org/donate)



Text "BGC" to 22999 to donate and receive exciting updates about our kids.



Purchase supplies from our BGC Amazon list: [www.bit.ly/wishlistbgc](http://www.bit.ly/wishlistbgc)



Choose "Boys and Girls Country of Houston" as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases through Amazon Smile.



If you know a family who may need a placement for their child at BGC, please share our information with them. We hope BGC can serve families that are hurting in so many ways right now.



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

## FIND US ONLINE



@boysandgirlscountry

For questions or address changes, contact us:  
[supportkids@boysandgirlscountry.org](mailto:supportkids@boysandgirlscountry.org) | Phone: 281.351.4976

*Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of our children and their families.*