



BOYS & GIRLS
COUNTRY
NEWS
SPRING 2026

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BOYS & GIRLS
C O U N T R Y

MISSION

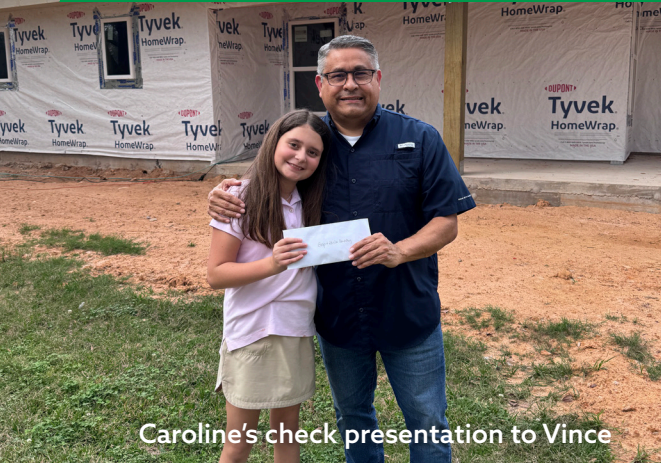
To change the lives of children from families in crisis by loving and nurturing them in a Christian home environment, raising them to become self-sustaining and contributing adults.

VISION

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

Vince's View

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Caroline's check presentation to Vince



Vince on a recent trip to New Mexico

I lived in New Mexico for 6 years while serving as a chaplain and school counselor. Many of my students were from The Navajo Nation. It was a new experience for me as I learned new customs, traditions and a few phrases. The high value on community and extended family was not a new concept to me, but I had not seen these values held in such a sacred manner.

The idea of an "orphan" is a rare concept in the Native American culture. Extended family is fluid and many cousins and close friends are considered brothers and sisters. Additionally, communal parenting is sacred with the elders holding the same level of respect and authority as parents.

As a friend of Boys and Girls Country, you are our extended family, and we feel your love and support every day. Being a family-centered community where every child grows up connected, supported and never alone is sacred on our campus. This is why I strongly encourage our friends to visit our campus and cottages. The smiles and gratitude from our children cannot be quantified.

Every January we celebrate our extended family at the annual Friend of Children Awards. This luncheon gives us a chance to thank the many partners we have that keep the mission alive at Boys and Girls Country. We have partners in family business, medical, education, corporations, churches as well as everyday mentors and volunteers.

Many of us are familiar with the African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child." Boys and Girls Country is a village, and the friends in our community have sustained us for 55 years and counting.

Our village is young and old. My friend Caroline is an elementary student and recently hosted a fundraiser to support Boys and Girls Country. During the week leading up to Valentine's Day, she sold chocolate-covered strawberries and gave a generous financial gift to our program. When an elementary student shows up with over \$300 in cash, it gives me a moment to pause with gratitude on the selfless act of a child. These stories and testimonials continue to amaze me.

When I look at our kids here at Boys and Girls Country, I see a bright future for every child living on our campus. We will see 10 more graduates this year reach their academic and educational goals. What a joy it is to see 6 more college graduates and 4 high school students walk the stage in 2026. Some of our students have been here for up to 10 years. The longterm investment in our students and the deep relationships continue to make a difference. I end every newsletter by saying, "Thank you" from a grateful heart. This time I will say it like my friends do in The Navajo Nation - "Ahéhee!"

Vincent Duran
Chief Executive Officer

Friend of Children



Corporation

Reynolds & Reynolds

Corporation

Schulte Building Systems

Foundation

Rushing River Foundation

Club/Civic Group

A Sheltered Life

From the Heart

Jean Driver

Volunteer of the Year

Madonna Tovlin

Lifetime Friend

John Modesette

School Friend

Christopher Aguilar

Education Partner

Waller ISD

Family

The Sorensen Family

Bennie Mayes on Behalf of Waller ISD

"Waller ISD is honored to receive the Friend of Children Award. Boys and Girls Country is an amazing organization that does great things for children in need. It is a blessing to be part of their meaningful work, collaborating to care for the whole child and to ensure all kids receive outstanding academic and extracurricular opportunities. We are proud that our partnership has lasted for decades, and countless lives have been positively impacted by being part of both Boys and Girls Country and the Waller ISD family. We look forward to continuing to grow together and seeing the great things students achieve in the future."



Christopher Aguilar and Bennie Mayes





Vince Duran, Madonna Tovlin, Georgene Britz

Madonna Tovlin

"This is a place that has truly captured my heart from the very beginning. Every time I volunteer at Boys and Girls Country, I'm reminded that I'm exactly where I'm meant to be."



Vince Duran, Cheri Stone, Karen Rosales, Georgene Britz

Karen Rosales on Behalf of Schulte Building System

"Our family is so honored to be recognized by BGC, especially a second time! We feel so blessed to have been part of this organization for so many years."



Kellen Kocurek and Sherita Thompson

Sherita Thompson on Behalf of Reynolds & Reynolds

"Boys and Girls Country is doing incredible work in the community. So many children's lives are dramatically improved because they are part of the BGC family. We are so excited and proud to come alongside them to support with our financial and volunteer resources."

Jeff Montgomery on Behalf of A Sheltered Life

"A Sheltered Life partners with Boys and Girls Country because of our similar missions of helping children in need. Boys and Girls Country is simply the best when it comes to loving and nurturing children from families in crisis. We would encourage any and all to go visit them to understand the remarkable work they are doing to change the world for the better."



Kristy and Jeff Montgomery

Twyla's Story



Placing a child in a program like Boys & Girls Country is never born out of easy circumstances. Even in a place designed for healing and stability, it can feel uncertain for the families making the choice and for the children stepping into it. For many children, the journey begins not with confidence, but with questions.

When Twyla arrived at Boys & Girls Country, her questions revolved around whether this program would work for her, whether she could trust it and whether she dared to hope that anything could really be different.

For Twyla, that hope began in small, ordinary moments.

Through the steady presence of loving houseparents, the guidance of dedicated counselors and the quiet consistency of daily life, something began to shift.

In her BGC home, that support looked like everyday moments: meals prepared with care, prayers spoken over her and gentle but consistent accountability. Her houseparents didn't just encourage her in big ways. They showed up in the small, daily rhythms that helped Twyla feel seen, valued and safe.

In particular, Twyla points to her houseparent, Ms. Darla, as a steady and encouraging voice in her life, both in the quiet, everyday moments and in the bigger milestones. She consistently reminds Twyla that she is capable of more than she sometimes believes.

"Ms. Darla is my number one cheerleader," Twyla says. "She reminds me that I can do hard things."

At the same time, our onsite counseling program became a space where Twyla could begin to process her experiences at her own pace. Through those conversations, she learned practical tools to navigate difficult moments while also feeling heard in a way that built trust and confidence over time.



Academically, she was met with the same intentional care. Through tutoring, structured study habits and thoughtful academic planning, our education team helped her not only catch up but begin to believe in her ability to succeed.

Little by little, Twyla has found her rhythm—learning to trust the environment around her and ultimately, herself and her future.

With that foundation in place, Twyla began stepping into new opportunities. Through our 4-H program, she has discovered initiative and leadership, recently taking on the role of 4-H President.



"Being here helped me slow down and focus on what I can control and what I want for my future," Twyla shares.

Today, Twyla is looking ahead with purpose. She participates in JROTC and hopes to join the Air Force after graduation, a dream she has held since she was eleven and one that now feels within reach.

For her father, watching that growth unfold has only affirmed the decision he once struggled to make. "It was the hardest decision, but the best decision I've made," he shares.

Twyla's story is still being written.

But what is already clear is this: when a young person is surrounded by stability, encouragement and people who refuse to give up on them, something powerful happens. They begin to believe in a future that once felt uncertain.

It takes a community to create stories like Twyla's and we are so grateful for those who walk alongside us in this work.



BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY
A HOME FOR CHILDREN

SATURDAY MAY 2
SPRING
FESTIVAL
2026



Fun & Affordable
ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL AGES

- ★ Games
- ★ Prizes
- ★ Inflatables
- ★ Petting Zoo
- ★ Carnival Classics

LIVE MUSIC from
Luke Prater

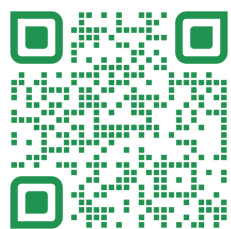
FREE PARKING
11:00am-4:00pm

Day Passes

\$20 age 5+ / \$5 under age 5

Individual Tickets

only \$1 each



More Information:

281-290-1288 | bgchouston.org

Volunteer Spotlight

CrossBar Academy



Crossbar Academy Volunteer Team

CrossBar Academy is a faith-based private school located in the Tomball area, serving students from second through twelfth grade. With strong roots in soccer and a commitment to character development, the school emphasizes service and teamwork as part of its mission.

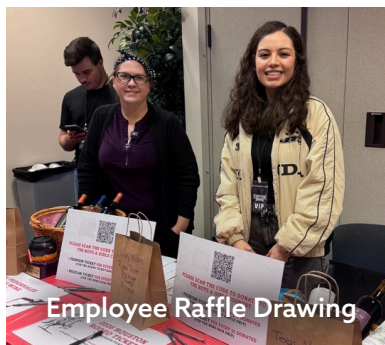
Recently, students and volunteers from CrossBar Academy partnered with Boys & Girls Country to support a service project focused on caring for our fleet of cottage passenger vans. The group generously volunteered their time and energy to complete a thorough deep cleaning of each vehicle, detailing both the interior and exterior. Their hard work and attention to detail made a meaningful impact and helped ensure safe, clean transportation for the children we serve.

We are grateful for CrossBar Academy's willingness to serve and for their dedication to making a positive difference in our community.

David Weekley



BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY Chili Cookoff Judges



Employee Raffle Drawing



Chili is served

At Boys & Girls Country of Houston, we often say that community isn't built in a moment—it's built over time by people who choose to show up. David Weekley Homes is one of those partners.

Long before this current season, they were part of our story—sponsoring a cottage, showing up with fellowship and investing time in our kids. That kind of presence matters. It is not just support for an organization—it is investment in real lives.

When David Weekley Homes invited our team to judge their annual chili cookoff, it became more than just a fun outing for our staff. Off campus events like this open the door for others to discover and connect with our mission. During the event, we were honored with a grant that will be used to refresh our playground surfacing,

helping ensure safe outdoor play for the children in our care. We were also grateful for the opportunity to share more about the work happening at Boys and Girls Country—creating a powerful moment of connection for those who support the children and families we serve.

Through a donation drive, their employees also showed up in a practical way, helping meet immediate needs across campus. They generously provided cleaning supplies that will support the day-to-day care of our homes and families.

Our partnership with David Weekley Homes works because our values align—a belief in strong families, in showing up for your community and in doing work that has a lasting impact.



55 Years of Being a Home for Children: Celebrate Our Anniversary with the Day of Giving on July 1st

For more than five decades, your generosity has made something quite extraordinary possible: turning crisis into belonging, and uncertainty into a home for children. It's what we have always been about, and it is exactly what our mission calls us to do.

Founded in 1971, Boys & Girls Country has provided a secure, stable, Christian home environment with an emphasis on education, building healthy relationships, and setting goals for the future. This year, we reach a remarkable milestone: our 55th anniversary. We can't imagine a better way to celebrate than alongside the people who make our mission possible every single day.

A Campaign as Meaningful as the Milestone

On July 1st, in honor of our founding year of 1971, we are hosting our annual Day of Giving. This year's campaign carries special significance: our goal is to rally at least 555 donors to give \$55 or more, a tribute to 55 incredible years of transforming the lives of children from families in crisis.

The numbers are more than symbolic. Every dollar you give goes directly toward providing the children in our care with the stability, love and opportunity they deserve.

Together, our goal is to raise over \$30,000 to ensure our children continue to experience what it truly means to grow up in a safe, thriving, Christ-centered home.



Here Is How You Can Give Before July 1st

We are deeply grateful for the role you have played in our story, and we are making it as easy as possible for you to be part of this special milestone:

Mail: An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. Simply fill it out and send it back at any time.

QR Code: Scan the QR code to give quickly and securely online.

Online: Visit our Day of Giving page at (<https://bit.ly/26DOG>) or scan the QR code below to make your gift and learn more about the campaign.

However you choose to give, your participation will make this July 1st a powerful testament to this community and to the children who are counting on us. Help us reach 555 donors strong and carry this mission boldly into the next 55 years.



In Memory

October 1, 2025—January 31, 2026

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

Abby Mr. and Mrs. Dale Seyler	Lindsay Clark Mr. and Mrs. George W. Walters	Jennifer Lee Malota Mr. and Mrs. Kerry L. Sims	Alan Smith Weldon and Barbara E. Willis
Florence Abercia Mrs. Delores Rock	Jean Coe Mickey Wayne Frazier	Robert E and Irene Miller Ms. Christy Ivy-Phillips	Wayne and Joan Smith Thomas & Associates Inc.
Thelma Allgood John J. and Sally B. Mitchell	Steven Key Compton Mr. Neal Peeler Mr. and Mrs. David Spence	John Nelson William and Linda Harkness	Richard Paul Smith Richard Lauer
Deedo Bailey Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Keeney	Carlton Joseph "Rusty" Danley Jr Ms. Ollie Niederhofer	Bud and Carolyn Patterson Marvin and Shirley Ballard	Lauren and Rita Spleth Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Howard
Betty Bechtel Mr. David Bechtel	Danny Dover Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L. Hohl	Marilyn Paul Ms. Ellen Thompson	Deborah Stephens Mrs. Lenore Mary Walker
Morris Brassfield Tina Adkins, A & A Advocates Mr. Michael Allen Mr. James Arnold Mr. and Mrs. Richard Craig Ms. Rashelle DeWeese Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fitzgerald Mr. and Mrs. Charley Girsyth Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gray Ms. Natalie Hernandez, M&H Team Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jeffers Kelly and Jean Lewis Jeryl and Vicki Mohn Mr. and Mrs. Roger Molde Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nelson Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Peterman Mr. and Mrs. Randy Scantlin Mr. Michael Slaven Gary P. Smith Mr. Larry Steward Mr. Josh Wedel Ms. Stephanie Wiesen	Bob and John Marcus Dugan William and Linda Harkness	Elijah and Nelda Petty M. C. Petty & Company, Inc.	Sandra Cunningham Stilley Mr. and Mrs. Will Franklin Ms. Mary Major Ms. Linda Tondou
Carolyn M Brock Ms. Jill Harding Second Baptist Church— Fresh Start Bible Study Class	Les and Jewel Dunn Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sturm	Shirley Porter William and Linda Harkness	Kay Tarsney William and Linda Harkness
June Brown Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L. Hohl	John Frazier John J. and Sally B. Mitchell	Le Poteet Reba Poteet	Jordan Taylor Melinda Grissom, MRJ Wood Products, Inc.
Cathy Holstead-Burk Mr. Victor Burk	Kelly Garza Ms. Paula McHam	James A. (Jimmy) Ray Ms. Brenda Auld Ms. Pegi Ballinger Mr. and Mrs. George Bel Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eastman Mr. Doug Godschalk Ms. Clara Heironimus Ms. Allison Mantor Mr. Stephen Ray Anthony Romano, Jersey Meadow Senior Golf Association Ms. Sabra Steed Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wise	Bernice Underwood Ms. Charlotte U. Martin
Burley Cantrell Mrs. Shirley A. Cantrell	A.B. and Faye Hegar Gary and Kathy Friedel	Lisa Rickerson William and Linda Harkness	Gladys Underwood Ms. Charlotte U. Martin
Frankie Church Mr. H. Douglas Church Mr. and Mrs. Doug Church Ms. Lisa Sailer	Willie and Mildred Hill Ms. Nancy Sims	Rhiannon Roark William and Linda Harkness	Yvonne Rodgers Victory Malcolm G. Baker, Jr.
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	Harold G. (Jake) and Rose F. Jacobson Mrs. Laura Hicks Mr. and Mrs. Gregg A. Jacobson	Ruby Jean and Bobbie Schiel Schiel B-R-C-P-B-B-L Foundation	Bobby Ware Mr. A.A. Brautigam
	Dennis Johnson Ms. Dianne Johnson	Ken Schoenfeld Mrs. Barbara Schoenfeld	Sam and Edna Williams Judith Vicknair
	Michael Jones Mrs. Patricia C. Jones	Chuck Scianna, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hightower	Mr. WJM Ms. Angie Davila
	Jody Jordan Mrs. Willie Chalker Jordan		Madlyn Yantis Sasha and Steven Smith
	Christi Neill Kennedy Reed and Janet Wood		
	John Kowpak Mrs. Marcine Kowpak		
	Harold Krause Mrs. Patricia Krause		

Honorarium

Axel and Jeri Baehren Mr. and Mrs. Scott Baehren	Mary Green George F. and Donna S. Burger	Mr. Parker Mears Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Wakefield	Mr. and Mrs. Steve Stephens Ms. Joan Skipper
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Mr. and Mrs. Scott Galloway Ann Neyland and Jack Hurt	Ms. Penny McAdams Jesse and Betty Tutor	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sorensen Mr. and Mrs. John Rickel	Mr. Reed Wood Mr. William McCain

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



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Prayer Requests

We invite you to partner with us in prayer for our Boys and Girls Country community. Please lift up the following in your prayers:

Graduates: We give thanks for our high school and College & Career program graduates as they step into this exciting new chapter. May they carry the foundation built here with confidence, purpose and faith as they move forward.

Summer: Bless our children and staff with a summer full of joy, rest and adventure. May this season be a time of growth, laughter and memories that last a lifetime.

Community Relationships: We pray that the bonds between Boys & Girls Country and our neighbors, partners and supporters grow deeper and stronger. May our shared mission draw us closer together in meaningful and lasting ways.

Children in Need: We pray that every child in our care continues to flourish. We also lift up the children beyond our walls who are still searching for safety and stability. May they find the help, love and home they so desperately need.

Our Model of Care



Find Us Online @boysandgirlscountry



info@boysandgirlscountry.org | Phone: 281.351.4976