BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY News

Fall 2020

Vince’s View ......................................2
College and Career ........................................3
Alum Spotlight ...........................................3
New Cottage Dedication ............................4
The Heritage Campaign ...............................5
Summer in Review ......................................6
In Memory ..................................................7
Honorarium Gifts ........................................7
Amazon Smile .............................................8

Read about this year’s Heritage Campaign on page 5
Vince’s View

It seems the world was taken by surprise by COVID-19. Our lives have been changed in so many ways, and all the things that seemed so important a year ago do not seem so urgent right now. God is not surprised by this one bit. The things that scare us and shake us in this new reality do not nudge the Almighty. His plan is perfect and divine. His assurance is steadfast, and His grace and mercy have not changed. The New Testament reminds us that, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

The impact of this pandemic will change some things forever. The hard truth is there will be no return for some businesses and ministries. However, we pray that the mission of Boys and Girls Country will continue. Thankfully, we are still here serving the most vulnerable children in the Greater Houston area. Our mission has always been based on a Biblical mandate: “Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and destitute” (Psalms 82:3). Over the years, I have learned that some of our donors and volunteers have been poor, oppressed or destitute at one point in their life. I believe this is one of the purest motivations to support the ministry of BGC.

Not only has our mission not changed, but our faith has not changed in the midst of this crisis. In fact, my faith has been inspired and has increased in the midst of the most uncertain and confusing time in modern history. According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, “One-quarter of U.S. adults overall (24%) say their faith has become stronger because of the coronavirus pandemic, while just 2% say their faith has become weaker.”

The community of BGC has relied on faith to help us press on in recent months. This summer we had to find another gear to push through several challenges and obstacles. We had a campus-wide quarantine for several weeks, and teaching parents found little relief as they battled the heat, long hours and staying at home for the safety of others. I commend our teaching parents and staff for their patience and diligence. We found new ways to become creative while taking care of children around the clock.

The good news is that the laughter and smiles have returned to our community. The routine of school assignments, sports and other activities have lifted our spirits as we prepare for our traditional fall and winter events. We are still practicing social distancing and all the safety precautions to keep our children safe while living in the world of COVID-19. I pray that you enjoy the stories and updates in this newsletter. Your gifts and support make these miracles happen every day at BGC. Good seed in good soil can grow a hundred-fold (Matthew 13:8). The children and mission of BGC have been good soil for nearly 50 years. Thank you for helping us keep the mission alive! 💚
Pursuing Their Dreams Despite Adversities

The Class of 2020 faced unprecedented challenges during their senior year due to COVID-19. However, they are pressing forward with determination so nothing gets between them and their dreams.

Some of our girls took advantage of newly available job opportunities as “sanitizers” for Prairie View A&M University, working to disinfect and deep clean every day. Lone Star College continues to be a wonderful resource for our kids who choose to live on campus while obtaining their associate degrees. The campus is closed for in-person classes, but our students have started the semester online.

Some of our graduates have moved off campus. Cameron has begun classes at Rice University. She is attending virtual and in-person classes and enjoying the comfort of her dorm room. Mark was accepted into the architecture program at University of Texas in San Antonio. He is living in a campus apartment and enjoying smaller class sizes while UTSA has limited the number of on-campus students.

The Class of 2020 is strong, and we know they are going to rise above any challenges to achieve success. Thank you for your continued prayers for them as they navigate their way and discover what the Lord has in store for their futures.

By Jayna Harris, BGC College & Career Mentor

Alum Spotlight

Thankful for The Foundation BGC Provided

John’s mom left when he was four, and his grandparents began caring for him. But health issues prevented them from giving him the care he needed. He was placed at Boys and Girls Country (BGC) when he was six. As expected, John was unsure about his new home, but with time he understood the value of living at BGC.

John says BGC offered him a family, and he experienced things he thought he would never do like going to baseball games, visiting AstroWorld and celebrating Christmas as a family. The memories of family holidays remain very dear to him. He is grateful for the values he learned and for the Christian foundation that he relies on as an adult.

“I loved the faith-based approach to everything at Boys and Girls Country. I am Christian now because BGC rooted me in faith,” shared John.

After turning 18, John quickly realized college was not for him. He preferred more physical labor. Since 2017, he has worked in the oil field as a control technician. Although he is often away from home, he enjoys his job and says that BGC prepared him to succeed in life.

“After everything I have been through, I realize how BGC gave me the necessary skills to be where I am today: social skills, etiquette, work ethic and how to take care of myself,” he added.

John is very grateful kids like him have a place to call home, and that’s why he became a BGC donor. Thank you, John, for giving back to BGC and providing for children in need!
The newly built Woodforest Cottage was dedicated in September, and we could not be more excited! The cottage will be home to eight boys from the former Cottage 11 and their teaching parents, Cody and Angela Noble and daughter Lily. For some of the boys, they’ll have their own rooms and bathrooms for the first time. This is the fourth completed cottage on campus as part of our campaign to replace the original cottages due to weathering and inefficiency.

We are so grateful for the generous investment from the Woodforest Charitable Foundation which made this new home possible. Partners in this cottage rebuild include Woodforest National Bank, HomeAid Houston, Empire Communities, Ziegler Cooper, Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA) and a number of other vendors who donated materials, labor and services.

“A home is a place of safety and comfort. Providing a home for the children and young adults at Boys and Girls Country is one of the first steps in meeting their emotional and physical needs. The opportunity to live and flourish in an environment that cares for their total well-being and spiritual growth is of utmost importance to us. We are delighted to partner with an organization that offers so much to the future of our youth,” shared Kim Marling, Executive Vice President of Woodforest Charitable Foundation.

“The impact that this amazing cottage makes on the lives of our children is immeasurable. The kids who come to us experienced trauma, abuse, malnourishment and are behind their peers in school. A cottage is a home where they can start a new life in a caring and loving environment. It gives them hope for healing, opportunity to grow spiritually and a chance to dream big. We cannot thank our partners enough for the investment of their treasure, time, labor and resources into making this cottage a reality,” commented Vincent Duran, CEO of Boys and Girls Country.

Everyone was thrilled to celebrate this cottage’s completion despite various hurdles along its way, including COVID-19. Now it is a beautiful loving home that offers plenty of space for a large cottage family to gather, for each child to have his own room and for all the kids to play and relax together. You are invited to view our dedication ceremony here: www.bit.ly/woodforestdedication
Heritage Campaign

Thanks for Your Support!

Because of COVID-19, we made the difficult decision to cancel our annual Spring Festival in May and the Heritage Award Dinner in October; these revenues constitute about 45% of our budget. In their place, we have created the Heritage Campaign, the revenue from which is absolutely critical to the care of our kids.

We are very thankful for everyone who has committed to support our campaign! With God’s blessings and the support of friends like you, lives are being changed at Boys and Girls Country. Every year we are inspired by our seniors who have overcome so much in their lives and are finally reaching the big milestone of graduation. Despite the current circumstances, our Class of 2021 will soar! We invite you to watch testimonials from some of our seniors as they share how their lives were changed thanks to your support. Please visit our website www.bit.ly/heritagecampaign to view them.

“They will soar on wings like eagles.” Isaiah 40:31

Our Sponsors

Cottage

Katherine and Scott Galloway
Terry and Marcy Malloy
Mirand Response Systems
Bo and Lisa Pierce
Reynolds and Reynolds

Community Life Building
Amegy Bank /
Steve and Anne-Laura Stephens
Herb and Cheryl Listen

Chapel
Aldecoa Coffee
Avalon Investment & Advisory
Janet and Michael Bennett
Richard and Toni Bergmark
David and Nancy Bishop Family Foundation
Brookfield Properties
Vincent and Ashley Duran
Grant Thornton, LLP /
Georgene and Mike Britz
Tracy and Randall B. Hale
Bob and Helen Howard
Lisa and Bob Kurtz
Betsey and Ronnie Martin
Randal McDonald Family
Paula and Mark Mey

Education Lab

Mexa Bank
American First National Bank
www.lafnb.com

Gateway Family Foundation

Jan and Joe Netherland
Larry and Kelli Oaks
Dodie and Dick Scott
Shipley Do-Nuts
Joan Skipper, in memory of Lawrence Skipper
Smith
Joe and Elma Vaughan
Walter Oil and Gas Corporation
Marilyn and Pete Wardenburg
Watford Family Foundation
Williams

College and Career
Ernst & Young LLP (EY)
Patterson + Sheridan, LLP
Jim Tomforde / Marsh & McLennan Agency
Woodforest National Bank

Recreation and Enrichment
A Friend of Boys and Girls Country
Arctic Pipe Inspection
Kristin and Craig Burch
Jason and Sharon DeLorenzo

The Herr Family

Hugesen
Polymers USA LP

Rushing River Foundation
Chuck and Rita Scianna / Sim-Tex, L.P.
Watford Family Foundation
Loraine and Scott Wegmann

Bart and Debi Duckworth
DX Service Company, Inc.
NaDean and Rodney Eads
Fayez Sarofim & Co.
The Floun Family
Paul and Mandy Forbes
Wendy K. and James B. Fryfogle
Connally and Will Harper
HockleyWood Business Park
IBC Bank / Craig and Elizabeth Bunk
Gary and Michele Inglish
Joanna and Brad Marks / IW Marks Jewelers
Kim and Scott D. Martin
Sherry and Steve McEachern
Dan and Kim Moody
John Mooz - Hines
The Pisklak Family
Ranger Steel Services, LP
The Rodgers Family
Matthew P. and Elizabeth Rotan
Audrey and Zach Springer
Randy and Sandy Stilley
J.R. and Susan Sult
Max and Kenna Supkis
Meg and Dick Weekley
Patti and Paul Yetter / Yetter Coleman, LLP

Sponsors listed as of print deadline.
This summer was unlike any other. Despite the tough times, our teaching parents did a great job of keeping the kids entertained and on track with learning. Friends provided special deliveries. And our kids were troopers through it all!

Thanks to Will Overall and family, our kids received a special surprise on a hot summer day...the Kona Ice Truck!

The boys of Cottage 5 made a prayer box so they could battle the COVID-19 blues with prayer!

The Cottage 7 boys kept their summer service project close to home by cleaning up and weeding around campus.

Cottage 3 got creative in keeping their summer outings outdoors. They enjoyed a day at the Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park!

Every Wednesday, the Hamill Foundation Cottage share devotionals. Even young Charles shares his heart with his older cottage brothers!

Our Cottage 8 family enjoyed an old school movie night watching Ghostbusters at the Showboat Drive-In.

Mr. Calvin showed off his skills by teaching the girls how to plant and care for a beautiful new tree.

Cottage 5 and 6 guys beat the heat with a good old-fashioned water balloon competition!

This summer, we were so blessed to have a full library of donated books on campus to fill the endless hours of quarantine.

Hamill Foundation Cottage is grateful to their coaches, Carl and Richard, for teaching them new skills at the Alkek Velodrome in Cullen Park.
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

Irene Abercia
Florence Abercia

Gail Adcock
Mr. Dale Adcock

Amy Alderson
Mrs. Erin L. Molder

Bob Allen
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Larkin, Jr.

Melvin Armstrong
Ken and Cynthia Dickenson

Donald Bisett
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gardner, Jr.

Bernice Bradfield
Robert E. Bradfield

Tommy C. Bussell
Barry A. and Sharon L. Campbell

William G. Darsey, III
Boyle and Trisha Boyles
Thomas and Kay Gallatin
Barbara D. and Henry G. Habel, Jr.

Tom and Patsy Patterson

Joshua "Joshy" Dashkovitz
Mr. and Mrs. John Phillip Baldez

Gary Dufour
Noel T. and Betty Jean Jones

Elmer Faykus
Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

Patsy Gaston
Mr. James Bishop

Cathy Gibbs
Mr. David Robinson

Fay Goodwin
Ms. JoAnn Tickner

Bill Gould
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Larkin, Jr.

Jody and John Grant
Ms. Pamela Sue Rush

Judge E. L. Guidry
James and Ruby Bloodworth

Dorothy Guinn
Tom and Patsy Patterson

June Hamilton
Ms. Patricia Holloway

Dorothy Hampton
Ms. Linda Norris

Jamir Hannah
Ann B. and C.R. Dale

Keith "Taz" Heine
Mr. Albert Bratcher

Virginia Hitt
Ms. Elleesa K. Chavez
Ms. Melanie Cruz
Ms. Pam Garza
Mr. Jeff Herrin
Ms. Linda Joyce
Ms. Linda MacDougal
Ms. Jacqueline McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. John Panzarella
Ms. Denise Sparks

Arleah Hillegest
A.A. Braught

Wiley David Hodges
Dave Phillips and Sehnaz Dogan-Phillips

Virginia Hollenshead
Tom and Patsy Patterson

Howard S. Hoover, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gardner, Jr.

Alvin Horn
Reed and Janet Wood

Helen Howard
The Chin Family*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Egan

Chris Huffman
Marcella G. Boomer

Mr. Dale A. Kemp

William (Bill) Kiely, Sr.
Ms. Vera Anderson
Ms. Michelle Buchanan
Mr. Richard Corder
Ms. Kristi Curry
Ms. Constance Gardner
Mr. Bruce Gilman*
Ms. Andrea Meece
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Meece
Ms. Lisa Myers
Mr. Sam Nasr
Mr. Larry D. Nelson
Ms. Cindy Prewitt
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Rapp
Ms. Laura Rickey
Jan and Brian Rickmers
Mr. Michael Rodriguez
Mr. Sylvan Schwartz, Jr.
Mr. Anthony Siebers
Ms. Erica Swett

The Twisted Sisters: Melanie, Lori, Laura, Hebert, Deana, Lisa, Stacy, Veronica, Angie & Mitzi
Mr. Don Tulk

Mr. Tim Turner
Mr. Chris Wentland
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Wilcoxson

Dorothy Joan Kruse
Kirk F. and Jolene Peterman

Margaret LeNorman
Mr. and Mrs. T. Carroll Strange

Bill Lipscomb
Randy and Merry Zator

Sarlyn Sue Logan
Mary Lou Kirves

Cindy Lye
Craig and Mandy L. Bussell

Jennifer Lee Malota
Mr. and Mrs. Kerry L. Sims

Patsy Marling
Mike and Cindy Gatewood

Nelda Martin
Marcella G. Boomer

Randal B. McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Bedell*

Charles Melton
Mary Ellen Lundquist

Christian Mohn
Marcella Mohn

Jean F. Morrow
Jody Swift

Plato J. Pappas
John B. and Sharyn Soror

Edwin G. Pierson, Jr.
Celia and William F. Aimone, III

JoAnn Ostrowski Post
Carl N. and Betty Jean Tongberg

Tom and Jean Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gardner, Jr.

Ethel and Ed Shannon
Mrs. Betty B. Dawson

John Spitznagel
Wrenne West

Anne Towery
Mr. H. Talbot Cooley

Bernice Underwood
Charlotte U. Martin

Bernice and Gladys Underwood
Charlotte U. Martin

Tony Vallone
Jane and James W. Allen, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Bedell*

Nancy Vernon
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bronstad

Jan Wagner
Mr. Dale Wagner

Gray Wakefield
Mrs. Betty B. Dawson

Donna Waleszonia
Marcella G. Boomer

Michael Wells
James and Ruby Bloodworth

Jean Whipple
June Hinkle

Jeannette Williams
Tis Gaston

Stephen "Woody" Woodring
Grantwoods Water Supply Corporation

McCall Gibson Swedlund
Barfoot PLLC

Water District Management Company

Charles Zenker, Jr.
Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

---

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

**In Honor Of**

Fay Goodwin
Ms. JoAnn Tickner

Bill Gould
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Larkin, Jr.

Jody and John Grant
Ms. Pamela Sue Rush

Judge E. L. Guidry
James and Ruby Bloodworth

Dorothy Guinn
Tom and Patsy Patterson

June Hamilton
Ms. Patricia Holloway

Dorothy Hampton
Ms. Linda Norris

Jamir Hannah
Ann B. and C.R. Dale

Keith "Taz" Heine
Mr. Albert Bratcher

Virginia Hitt
Ms. Elleesa K. Chavez
Ms. Melanie Cruz
Ms. Pam Garza
Mr. Jeff Herrin
Ms. Linda Joyce
Ms. Linda MacDougal
Ms. Jacqueline McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. John Panzarella
Ms. Denise Sparks

Arleah Hillegest
A.A. Braught

Wiley David Hodges
Dave Phillips and Sehnaz Dogan-Phillips

Virginia Hollenshead
Tom and Patsy Patterson

Howard S. Hoover, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gardner, Jr.

Alvin Horn
Reed and Janet Wood

Helen Howard
The Chin Family*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Egan

Chris Huffman
Marcella G. Boomer

Mr. Dale A. Kemp

William (Bill) Kiely, Sr.
Ms. Vera Anderson
Ms. Michelle Buchanan
Mr. Richard Corder
Ms. Kristi Curry
Ms. Constance Gardner
Mr. Bruce Gilman*
Ms. Andrea Meece
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Meece
Ms. Lisa Myers
Mr. Sam Nasr
Mr. Larry D. Nelson
Ms. Cindy Prewitt
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Rapp
Ms. Laura Rickey
Jan and Brian Rickmers
Mr. Michael Rodriguez
Mr. Sylvan Schwartz, Jr.
Mr. Anthony Siebers
Ms. Erica Swett

The Twisted Sisters: Melanie, Lori, Laura, Hebert, Deana, Lisa, Stacy, Veronica, Angie & Mitzi
Mr. Don Tulk

Mr. Tim Turner
Mr. Chris Wentland
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Wilcoxson

Dorothy Joan Kruse
Kirk F. and Jolene Peterman

Margaret LeNorman
Mr. and Mrs. T. Carroll Strange

Bill Lipscomb
Randy and Merry Zator

Sarlyn Sue Logan
Mary Lou Kirves

Cindy Lye
Craig and Mandy L. Bussell

Jennifer Lee Malota
Mr. and Mrs. Kerry L. Sims

Patsy Marling
Mike and Cindy Gatewood

Nelda Martin
Marcella G. Boomer

Randal B. McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Bedell*

Charles Melton
Mary Ellen Lundquist

Christian Mohn
Marcella Mohn

Jean F. Morrow
Jody Swift

Plato J. Pappas
John B. and Sharyn Soror

Edwin G. Pierson, Jr.
Celia and William F. Aimone, III

JoAnn Ostrowski Post
Carl N. and Betty Jean Tongberg

Tom and Jean Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gardner, Jr.

Ethel and Ed Shannon
Mrs. Betty B. Dawson

John Spitznagel
Wrenne West

Anne Towery
Mr. H. Talbot Cooley

Bernice Underwood
Charlotte U. Martin

Bernice and Gladys Underwood
Charlotte U. Martin

Tony Vallone
Jane and James W. Allen, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Bedell*

Nancy Vernon
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bronstad

Jan Wagner
Mr. Dale Wagner

Gray Wakefield
Mrs. Betty B. Dawson

Donna Waleszonia
Marcella G. Boomer

Michael Wells
James and Ruby Bloodworth

Jean Whipple
June Hinkle

Jeannette Williams
Tis Gaston

Stephen "Woody" Woodring
Grantwoods Water Supply Corporation

McCall Gibson Swedlund
Barfoot PLLC

Water District Management Company

Charles Zenker, Jr.
Edgar and Carolyn Reeves

---

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

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

---

Join our Family Tree online: bit.ly/bgcfamilytree
As Christmas season approaches, we hope you will consider adding “Boys and Girls Country of Houston” as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile. When you shop at Amazon.com, 0.5% of the purchase price will be sent to Boys and Girls Country! Go to Amazon Smile, log in with your regular Amazon login and choose Boys and Girls Country of Houston as your preferred charity. There is no cap on the amount Amazon will donate and almost every product sold by Amazon is eligible. Sign up now if you haven’t already and share with friends! To date, we have received almost $2,500 thanks to shoppers like you! Thanks for loving our kids! For step-by-step instructions, visit www.bit.ly/bgcamazon

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.

Making Your Contribution

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!

Make Your Contribution Online!

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.

Connect with us!

Contact Information:
info@boysandgirlscountry.org
Phone: 281.351.4976
Fax: 281.351.4978