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 these 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 over 1,400 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 generous investors like you give tirelessly, allowing us to forgo the government funding that would otherwise restrict our programming.

Boys and Girls Country provides a home and family to over 100 children and young adults each year who have come to us from circumstances that limit their ability to succeed. 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 the distance with our kids. 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 2016, Boys and Girls Country will celebrate 45 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.
Dear Friends of Boys and Girls Country:

By the time you read this, we will have begun our 45th year! We are enthused and honored as Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Directors to present the progress made by and for our families in 2015. Most certainly, we want to thank you for investing in and believing in our children and young adults.

When coming to us from a family in crisis, the most important thing a child needs is a caring, stable home. Our children are guided, encouraged, and taught Christian values by Teaching Parents who step in to care for them as if they were their own.

Last year was exciting for many reasons. Our families are large, and they need a lot of space. After much planning, construction began on the first of 11 new homes, tailored for the needs of our children and our Teaching Parents. Our Waller ISD children earned a 3.3 grade point average, and our college students brought home a 3.0 GPA for the fall semester. We celebrated many milestones, including Rebekkah’s graduation from Baylor University and her first job at Oracle, Amy’s wedding, and the high school graduations of nine of our kids.

We know from national data that kids from out-of-home placements are more likely to end up in jail than to graduate from college. Your investment pays dividends in the lives of the children that look to us for a home. Our home runs close to 90% capacity, with many more calls for service than we can answer. Through it all, we remain true to our mission to provide a loving, stable, Christian home for the children in our care.

You can be assured that your investment is sound. Boys and Girls Country is accredited with the Better Business Bureau and meets all 20 standards for charity accountability. We are a Guidestar Exchange Gold Participant, and a 3-star Charity Navigator member. We carry no debt and receive unqualified opinions from an independent audit firm annually.

In an area heavily influenced by the energy industry, we know that all of us in Houston will struggle in the year ahead. Your ongoing and generous support - which includes investments from individuals, churches, foundations, corporations and civic groups - ensures that our youngest children will have a home here for many years to come.

We are grateful to each of you for partnering with us to raise these capable, deserving, hardworking, grateful Christian girls and boys. Please pray for our children and for our mission. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Lou Palma
Executive Director

Matthew P. Rotan
Chair, Board of Directors
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 1,403 children and young adults in need. In 2015, your help allowed 111 children and young adults to call Boys and Girls Country home.

All children need love and nurturing to thrive, and they need food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education to grow up and become contributing adults. The children who come to Boys and Girls Country live in situations that impede their chances for success in life. Nearly 75% of the children who come to Boys and Girls Country are from families living in poverty; half have not received routine dental and medical care; 43% come from single parent homes.

The families who turn to Boys and Girls Country for help want the best for their children. Last year, 1,249 families called for help. When we are unable to help them, referrals for other services are provided.

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 1,403 children and young adults in need. In 2015, your help allowed 111 children and young adults to call Boys and Girls Country home.
Each child lives in a cottage with seven other children, a married Teaching Parent couple (and any children they may have), and a single Teaching Parent. Teaching Parents care for the kids who come to Boys and Girls Country and are the backbone of our program. In comparison to the eight hours of pre-service training foster parents receive, Teaching Parents at BGC receive three weeks of pre-service training and an additional 30 hours of training throughout the year. In this way, we have created a system and maintain a culture that protects our children.

In addition to providing for their basic needs, we want each child to build healthy relationships, acquire responsibilities, and grow and develop within the context of a stable, structured and loving home environment. A child’s success hinges on his or her overall health—physical, emotional and spiritual. To address all of these factors in a coordinated way we use a Plan of Service, which is created for each child during the intake process and monitored by the entire program team.

Each cottage family is unique and has its own traditions, hobbies, and characteristics. For every child who lives at Boys and Girls Country—whether they stay for three years (the average length of stay) or 13 years—the family experience stays in their heart and they will always carry it with them. With this foundation of a “forever family” and a thorough education, we help children build successful outcomes for their lives.

In 2015, with the help of HomeAid Houston and a generous gift from Board Director Mike Watford, BGC broke ground on the Joanne H. Watford Cottage, the first of 11 new energy efficient, family friendly homes on our campus.
It gets expensive to feed and clothe more than 100 children and young adults every year! In 2015, it cost $150 per day to care for one child on the Robinson Campus and $142 per day to care for one young adult on our College and Career Campus. Every single investment you make in our children is critical to their success and Boys and Girls Country’s ability to provide them with a home. Thank you!
Many of the children that arrive at Boys and Girls Country have suffered from abuse, neglect, loss, or other emotional trauma. The staff at BGC closely monitors the emotional health of each of our children, referring them when needed to trained counselors who meet with children individually, in groups, or with siblings.
Due to frequent moves, 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. 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.

Beginning at an early age, Boys and Girls Country prepares its children for life and education beyond high school. All high school juniors take the PSAT or PACT. Journeying Juniors and Soaring Seniors are programs designed to prepare our 11th and 12th graders for graduation and continuing education.

The Education Lab is open more than 500 hours each 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.

BGC celebrated 9 high school graduates in 2015

9 high school graduates in 2015

8 in 2- or 4-year college

1 in military

105 High School graduates since 1997

80 hours of tutoring weekly

3.3 campus-wide GPA!
Becoming an adult does not happen overnight! 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.

George’s Story

George maintained a 3.0 GPA last year while working part-time and participating in campus life. He is pursuing a degree in Business Marketing, and credits his BGC mentors for helping him find the confidence to move forward in college. “Hearing my mentors on campus tell me they are proud of me is incredible; these are words I thought I would never hear. Today, I couldn’t be happier with my life. For once I am making choices to improve myself and my future. I believe in me, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to prove myself to the donors of this wonderful organization.”

Rebekkah’s Story

Boys and Girls Country celebrated Rebekkah’s graduation from Baylor in 2015… the first person to graduate in her family! “I often think about how my eight-year-old self would react if she were told that one day she would graduate from Baylor University. The person I have become today and the things I have accomplished I owe to Boys and Girls Country and its supporters. Going forward, I plan to give back to Boys and Girls Country in any way I can.”
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.

Bayou City Fellowship provides the BGC staff with special treats several times throughout the year.

The Young Professionals Group gave over 300 hours of volunteer time in 2015, and raised more than $21,000 for BGC!

More than 200 volunteers helped make Spring Festival a success.

55 church and community groups came to Boys and Girls Country to do projects like paint, mulch, and deep clean

6 Boy Scouts did their Eagle Scout projects at Boys and Girls Country

11,017 volunteer hours in 2015 provided by 2,204 volunteers
We are grateful for our diverse donor base of individuals, corporations, foundations, churches, civic groups and other friends who give generously to provide for our children. Boys and Girls Country does not rely on government grants or other support that would place strict limitations on the duration or quality of care we provide. Our 2015 revenue totaled $5,232,161.

Boys and Girls Country’s expenses are similar to those of any family: groceries, clothing, doctor and dental visits, extracurricular activities, college tuition, utilities, transportation and maintenance. A large portion of the operating budget is used to pay our staff that love and care for our children 365 days a year. In 2015, our expenses totaled $5,903,480.

Boys and Girls Country is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity and a GuideStar Exchange Gold Participant. Our agency profile can be found on DonorHouston, an online database hosted by the Greater Houston Community Foundation for the purpose of informing potential donors. 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.
Board of Directors

Chair:
Matthew P. Rotan

Chair Elect:
Randall B. Hale

Board of Directors:
William F. Aimone, III
Michael Bennett
David J. Bishop
Donna Boyer
Craig A. Bunk
Jan Patterson-Cameron
Rodney Eads
Scott Galloway
Mike Gatewood
Sten L. Gustafson
Robert Kurtz
Charles H. Listen
Penny Requa Loyd

Brian P. McCabe
Mark L. Mey
John T. Nesser, III
Gregory P. Pappas
Ben Pisklak
Ryan A. Rodgers
Robert W. Roten
Chuck Sciana
Mark Slaughter
Steve Stephens
John F. Sullivan
John R. Sult
Jeremy D. Thigpen
Jim Tomforde
Kristie J. Trice
Peter S. Wardenburg
Michael Watford
William Way
Scott Wegmann

Honorary Lifetime Board Directors

Leonard A. Bedell
Bennis G. Butler
H. Douglas Church
H.L. Gardner
Howard S. Hoover, Jr.
Philip L. Leggett, M.D.
Janette McDonald
Charles M. Rampacek
R. Allen Schubert
Jack I. Tompkins
C. Kenneth Wall
Reed G. Wood

Advisory Council

Les Allison
James Bloodworth
Russell Bowers
Hulda Coskey
Carl Curtiss
Ronnie Deyo
Lesha Eisenbrook
Steve Emmott
Bradley Freels
Robert F. Gray, Jr.
Robert L. Howard
Todd M. Johnson
A. John Knapp
Robert Kneppler
Carolyn Little
Michael M. Lowther
Ralph McIngvale
Karen Rosales
Dick Scott
Mark Taylor
Beth Thompson
Frank Todaro
Howard L. Wagner
Dane Whitehead
T. Michael Young

Management Team

Lou Palma, Executive Director
(281) 803-3136
dloup@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Jim Allen, Chief Financial Officer
(281) 290-9159
jima@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Will Henry, Director of Residential Services
(281) 803-3138
willh@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Teri Medina, Director of Education/Counseling/College and Career
(281) 803-3144
terim@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Elaine Petranek, Director of Planned Giving
(281) 290-1287
elainep@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Melissa Simon, Director of Development
(281) 290-6102
melissas@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Quintes Stark, Director of Operations
(281) 803-3143
quintess@boysandgirlsorganization.org

Don Weber, Director of Human Resources
(281) 290-1286
donw@boysandgirlsorganization.org

BOYS & GIRLS COUNTRY
A Home for Children
18806 Roberts Road
Hockley, TX 77447
www.boysandgirlsorganization.org
281.351.4976