

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Hope and Healing for Children

SUMMER 2024

Children's Village is a Christian home that provides hope and healing for abused and neglected children.

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Journey to Summer
- Remember the People You Love
- Azaela Run
- A Former Foster Child's Perspective
- Golf Tournament

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Journey to Summer



Matt Rogers, Executive Director of Children's Village, is pictured with his family including Katie and Amelia Rogers. Studio Art Lounge in downtown Tyler held an art show to benefit Children's Village. (Symone Sheppard/Tyler Morning Star)

We are only halfway through 2024, but this year has certainly been one for the record books! From excessive rain and dangerous storms to huge fundraising events that were more successful than we could have hoped, this has been 6 months of mountains and valleys. However, God has walked with us through each of the valleys and those mountain peaks keep getting higher.

Children's Village was founded in 1980, and after all these years our campus has started to require some serious maintenance and updating. Through fundraising efforts and careful management of resources, our founder was able to build an endowment that now provides for around forty percent of our annual operating budget. We have been able to receive some small grants in the past few years. The rest is supplied

by individual donors in the community, local businesses, civic organizations, and churches through fundraising events and recurring donations. While we do account for maintenance and repairs in our budget, some of the large, unexpected expenses (i.e. needing a new van or a new air conditioning unit) are sometimes more than we can comfortably handle within that budget. When these expenses arise, we apply for more grants and seek out new community partners. Although we started major work on our septic systems, plumbing, and air conditioning units last year, the "to do" list has been growing rapidly. As we worked on maintenance issues that popped up, we realized that we would be encountering some massive expenses in the next few years. Our HVAC units were 15 to 20 years old, most of the water heaters were 20 to 25 years old, and the average age of our kitchen and laundry appliances was around 12 years. While we were addressing problems as they arose, it became clear that we needed to address the issue on a larger scale. We needed to replace ALL of the appliances.



At the end of 2023, we applied for a large grant from The Women's Fund of Smith County to update

our kitchens and laundry rooms. The Women's Fund of Smith County formed in 2007 and has supported over 30 local nonprofit organizations by donating \$3,294,134 since that time. We were very thankful for their help with the application process, as none of us had ever done this type of grant application before. By the application deadline, every person on campus had contributed to the process in some way. We made measurements, researched appliances, got quotes on equipment and labor, wrote paragraphs, and took pictures and videos. Even the executive director's teenaged daughter got involved, doing the voiceover for our application video. All the work paid off. The Women's Fund chose to bless Children's Village with one of their grants! It could not have come at a better time. One of the 25-year-old water heaters in Cottage B died in January, and a second followed the next month. Needless to say, we immediately started putting the grant money to use!



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

To view previous newsletters, please visit our website at <https://www.childrensvillageoftexas.org/>
Also, please follow us on Instagram: @ChildrensVillageTexas and Facebook: @ChildrensVillageTexas and share our information with the community.

We have currently replaced 3 water heaters, 2 large refrigerators, 2 standing freezers, 4 dishwashers, 4 wall ovens, 4 large capacity washers, and 4 dryers between the two cottages. New range tops, countertops, and overhead ventilation have just been installed in the kitchen islands. As with any renovation, we have hit some snags along the way, but we are on track to finish the project before the end of the year with minimal inconvenience to our resident families.



March and April were filled with fundraising events that were both fun and productive. The 41st Annual Tyler Azalea Run was HUGE! More than 800 runners participated – so many that the race organizers ran out of shirts and decided to reopen sales for places in the 5k and 10k races for those who still wanted to run without receiving one. We were thrilled to welcome Texas Beefhouse as a platinum sponsor. Their sponsorship, along with three gold-level sponsors, marked the first time since 2019 that we have been blessed with higher level sponsors. Between the sponsorships and individual donations from race participants, Children's Village received the highest amount in contributions that we've had since 2018. Our kids loved participating in the race and helping hand out medals at the finish line. The Tyler Azalea Run is always one of our



favorite events of the year, and we're so thankful to everyone that came out to volunteer or run.



We experienced one of our "valley" moments in March when one of our house parent couples left Children's Village. After spending a year and a half here caring for a total of 5 foster children, Mr. Tommy and Mrs. Ruby decided to take a break from fostering for a while. Fortunately, this couple has remained local, and they have been able to attend birthday parties and other events for some of the children they cared for that are still with us. While we miss seeing them daily, we are happy that they remain a part of our community.



In April Children's Village was selected to be the local recipient of funds from the Jersey Mike's Day of Giving. Proceeds from all sales for the Tyler, Longview, and Jacksonville stores for an entire day were donated. Every Jersey Mike's Subs location across the United States participates in this event to raise money for local charities each year. The stores also participate in a bit of friendly competition with each other to see which can raise the most money. Our northeast Texas community really showed up that day! The Broadway (Tyler), Beckham (Tyler), and Longview locations placed first, second, and third, respectively, in the Dallas/Northeast Texas region. The Beckham store was 31st in the entire nation! If you haven't had a chance to try Jersey Mike's Subs, we encourage you to do so. They truly are "a sub above". East Texas Giving Day also took place in April. This one-day online fundraising event that benefits East Texas non-profits is today's version of the old telethons. Children's Village was able to raise over \$12,000 to update our kids' bedrooms. Our goal is to repaint every bedroom and purchase new furniture and light fixtures for each room this year. We want our cottages to be as comfortable and welcoming as possible for the children we serve, whether they are with us for a week or a year.

May was a whirlwind of activity. The usual end-of-

school field trips and parties, trips to the waterpark, and an afternoon spent learning how candy is made at Lindale Candy Co. filled most of the month. One of our youngsters that has resided at Children's Village for almost two years "graduated" kindergarten after a year marked with outstanding grades, citizenship awards, and leadership recognition. His older sister finished second grade with similar accolades, and their oldest sister made a huge step by graduating Junior High. When they came to Children's Village, these siblings showed little to no interest in school and were behind their peers in many areas of their education. After spending two full school years in one place with the support and encouragement of their cottage parents and staff, each of them has shown great progress, and we are proud of their growth and development.

All our children's birthdays came in a three month stretch this Spring. As always, our amazing friends at The Genesis Group helped us with parties in March, April, May and June. They bring balloons, cake, presents, and an infectious amount of joy to each party that makes the children feel special and celebrated. We received an unexpected treat this year when Tyler Sweets Studio volunteered to provide cake pops and cookies for each child's birthday. Since we usually have big birthday parties on the weekend, the families have smaller celebrations on the child's actual birthday. They provided the cutest cookies and cake pops tailored to each child's chosen birthday theme. Little moments like this make a huge impact on these children.

Sadly, May brought another valley for our campus family as we lost our longest tenured assistant house parent, Ms. Addi. She left her position at Children's Village to begin a full-time job in her field of study. We all miss her, but we know she is using her education and experience to make a positive impact in our community. Since she is still in Tyler, Addi continues to participate in the children's lives by attending birthday parties and other events. As Ms. Addi was leaving, we were blessed to connect with a new team member, Ms. Aisha, who stepped in to fill the vacancy left by Addi's departure. Aisha brings with her some amazing childcare experience, and already fits in wonderfully with our children and other staff members. We are feeling blessed to have her on campus.



We were surprised with invitations to participate in two local fundraisers during the month. Studio Art Lounge hosted an art show and silent auction benefiting Children's Village. The art, food trucks, and free valet parking were all amazing. The works by local artists are definitely worth viewing if you're looking for something

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE . . .

Remember the People You Love...

IN MEMORY OF

-A-

Sue Armstrong
- Tracey Bedgood

-B-

Gary Boyd
- Dr. Thomas W. Cooper
Hank Bryant
- Mrs. Dolly Wolf

-C-

Mary Jane Cagle
- Bobbie Tate
Jack Compton
- Bob & Barbara McVicker
Patrick Cooper
- Martha Boyson

-D-

-E-

Doug & Tavia Ellis
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Lemmert

-F-

David Fender
- Mrs. Dolly Wolf

-G-

-H-

Karlyne Hall
- Linda Adams Ellis
Raymond Hedge
- Mrs. Dolly Wolf
- William G. Brelsford

-I-

-J-

Art & Mae Johnson
- Mark & Julie Nicholson

-K-

-L-

George & Ruthie Lemmert
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Lemmert
Marianne Long
- Mr. & Mrs. John C. and Marilyn Hardy

M-

Kim Maddox
- Bobbie Tate
Mary Manley
- Prothro, Wilhelmi & Company
Larry Mayo
- Dr. David & Susan Teegarden
Peggy Morrow
- Tracey Bedgood

-N-

Lucy, Annie & Will Nicholson
- Arthur & Mae Johnson
Susan Norvell
- Dr. Thomas W. Cooper

-O-

-P-

Margaret Parker
- William G. Brelsford

-Q-

-R-

Lauren Reed
- Carolyn Rubin
Carolyn & Bill Ross
- Mrs. Dolly Wolf

-S-

Warren Simmons
- Mrs. Dolly Wolf

-T-

Gene Thrash
- Mike & Becky Martin

-U-

-V-

-W-

Dr. Steve Wilson
- Mrs. Mrs. Charlotte Wilson
- Seekers Class, Marvin Methodist Church
- Mr. & Mrs. John C. and Marilyn Hardy
Stephen B. Wolf
- Matther & Mary Stephens

-X-

-Y-

-Z-

IN HONOR OF

Margo Adams
- Dr. Thomas W. Cooper
Sue Bancroft
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Dr. & Mrs. Joe Bates
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
- Mrs. Virginia E. Moore
- Louanne Green
The Tom Duffey Family
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fox
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Gilbert
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Ann Green
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Louise & Guy Griffith
- Mrs. Dolly Wolf
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Guggenbickler
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. John Hardy
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Harrison
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Brenda Herber
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. John Martin and Ruby
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mrs. Balance McCloskey
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Ms. Dee McCloskey
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
The Bryant Moore Family
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Virginia Moore
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Parker
- Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis
The Rob Robbins Family
- Mrs. Margaret Chalfant
Mr. & Mrs. George Rook
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. David Rozell
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Terry & Mike Sandusky
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
The Shearer Granddaughters
- Gary & Donnay Shearer
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Stewart
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Tom & Margaret Stewart
- Mrs. Mrs. Charlotte Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Damon Swan
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. George Tefeller
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Pat Watson
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Don & Stella Weeks
- Samantha & Brendan Weeks
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wilkinson
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis
Mrs. Mrs. Charlotte Wilson
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ellis

Thank you to our 2023 Tyler Azalea Run Sponsors



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GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

VeraBank

Origin Bank

Clements Fluids



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Crescent Built LLC



Caregivers for foster children generally only experience a brief period of a foster child's life. CPS Caseworkers, CASA workers, attorneys, volunteers, and foster parents rarely get to see the outcome of the days, weeks, or months they spend with a foster child. They spend years wondering what happened in the life of a child after they part ways. Sometimes those answers never come. Foster children pass through our lives, we share as much of our love and attention as we can during our time together, then we simply never know what happens afterward.

One of the many blessings of Children's Village is the number of times we have been able to follow the lives of our former foster children to see where they end up in life. In the case of one set of siblings who lived at Children's Village in the early 2000s, we have been able to watch them grow up, graduate from high school, and enter college. The older sibling, Sarah Pratt, asked to share part of her story and what Children's Village meant to her family. Here is what she shared.



A Former Foster Child's Perspective

By Sarah Pratt

I came to Children's Village when I was 2 years old, with my baby sister Bekka. We had lived with some foster parents prior, but nothing seemed to be a good fit for our situation. Until we went to Children's Village and met our foster parents Jeff & Catherine Pratt. They poured their heart into the ministry and the lives of foster children there. About a year and a half after arriving, Jeff & Catherine adopted my sister and I into their hearts and home forever. Children's Village gave us a redeemed look into what a family really can be.

Loving well, sharing often, and forgiving mistakes even when it is not easy. That is what a healthy family does, and a foster child needs. "It's more important how you leave foster care, then how you get there." Meaning the impressions you leave on a child will impact them for years to come as they mature into society. The Christian environment at Children's Village helped show me where I could find love, hope, and healing from the pain of my past situations. That way, I could foster new relationships, and create new memories.

I will always remember my positive experience with foster care and pray that future foster care agencies will partner with this origination to change lives, like it did mine. Children's Village gave us our first birthday party, Christmas gifts, and bicycles. Those memories will stay evergreen in my memory. It gave us a childhood and family while we were figuring out what it meant to be a kid and live our lives unafraid. Now, my sister and I have lived with our adoptive parents for 17 years, and we thank Children's Village for being a safe place for us until we found our forever home.

I am a college student now, and my sister is soon to be one as well. Our parents and Children's Village continue to be a helping hand whenever we need it. Children's Village is a haven for children and a ministry that keeps on giving long after a child leaves. They serve future generations and world changers, by giving them a family that fosters their health and happiness so they can grow up strong.

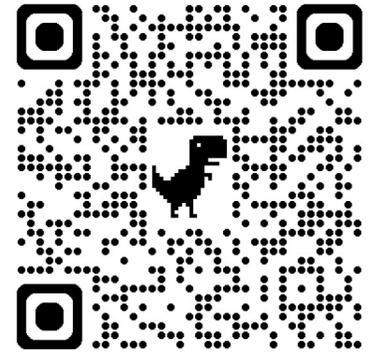


Looking Forward

Numbers and percentages can be burdensome and boring, but they are vital in maintaining a budget and knowing exactly what you can afford each year. As a privately funded organization, we depend on donations from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and churches; grant writing; and fundraising. Each year, we strive to raise at least 25% of our budget through fundraising. Most of this takes place in the Spring through the Azalea Run, Jersey Mike's Month/Day of Giving (when available), and East Texas Giving Day.

During the months of March and April this year, we received over 80% of the fundraising dollars we need to meet our 2024 goal. We are well on our way to meeting our fundraising goals this year. However, we strive to surpass our goals significantly to aid in our future growth. Due to the limitations placed on our existing General Residential Operation (GRO) license, we are moving forward this year with applying for an additional Child Placing Agency (CPA) license. This will add a new program for our agency and allow us to serve more children. New programs require more funding. So, the opportunity to exceed our fundraising goals is exciting as it shows the community supports our mission to provide hope and healing for abused and neglected children.

Our final big fundraiser of the year is our annual Benefit Golf Tournament in September. Sponsorship information has been posted on our website at <https://www.childrensvillageoftexas.org/2023benefitgolftournament> or through the QR code on this page. Every sponsorship level is available as of July 1, 2024, including our Title Sponsor. We look forward to having you join us.



2024

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 23 | Hollytree Country Club

12:00 Lunch, 1:00 Shotgun Start

4-person scramble

CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE
Hope and Healing for Children



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

PAR | \$800

- Recognition in tournament handout
- 4 person team entry
- Branded golf shirt for each player



BIRDIE | \$1,000

- Recognition in tournament handout
- 4 person team entry
- Branded golf shirt for each player
- Hole sign recognition
- Company sign on practice area



EAGLE | \$1,250 (10 available)

- Recognition in tournament handout
- 4 person team entry
- Branded golf shirt for each player
- Hole sign recognition
- Company sign on practice area
- Preferred logo placement on marketing and ads
- Recognition during tournament remarks and announcements



Presenting | \$7,500

- Recognition in tournament handout
- 4 person team entry
- Branded golf shirt for each player
- Hole sign recognition
- Company sign on practice area
- Preferred logo placement on marketing and ads
- Recognition during tournament remarks and announcements





P.O. Box 6564
Tyler, TX 75711-6564

Address Service Requested

Children's Village does not receive any state or federal funds, but relies solely upon contributions from individuals and organizations. If you would like to help us provide for the daily care and needs of our children please contact our business office at 903-531-0551. Your generosity and compassion can positively impact a child for a lifetime.

How can you support Children's Village?

Give Gifts That Keep On Giving

Do you have a friend or loved one you wish to honor in a special way? Children's Village can help honor that person through our Memorial Program or our Tribute and Remembrance Program. The funds you provide in this manner are used for food, clothing, shelter, and education for our boys and girls. At the same time, it is a thoughtful way to say to a friend, relative or bereaved family that you care.

Here's How It Works

Memorials: Donate in memory of a lost loved one as a thoughtful way to say to a friend, relative, or bereaved family that you care. No mention is made of the gift amount.

Honorariums: Donate in honor of a birth, birthday, anniversary, graduation, recovery from illness, or a special occasion such as Mother's Day or Father's Day. Honorary gifts are acknowledged, and the amount of the gift is not mentioned.

Donations: Children's Village is a charitable non-profit organization that is privately funded. We provide residential care for children in need of a safe home to recover

from abuse, neglect, and childhood trauma. We do not accept state funding and rely on the generosity of community support to provide for our children. Your donation will be used to provide food, clothing, shelter, and education for the boys and girls who reside at Children's Village

Giving through your will:

Children's Village will graciously accept support from individuals and families given through their will. Whether in the form of a specific amount, percentage of residue, or entire estate, please have legal forms prepared through your attorney for this type of donation.

Thank you for your gift! It will help make a difference in the life of a child.
Please submit physical donations in the envelope included with this newsletter.

Make checks payable and mail to:

Children's Village
P.O. Box 6564
Tyler, TX 75711-6564

Memorials



Honorariums



Donations



Donations may also be made online:
(Scan the codes below)