WE BELIEVE in GENERATIONAL CHANGE through children.

September 2021

AMARILLO CHILDREN’S HOME

* Sibling groups, along with older teens, are the most difficult to place in a loving home, but we are uniquely suited to provide these kids with the home they need and deserve.

Currently, over half of our kids have a sibling on campus.

OUR MISSION: To restore the identity of children so they can realize their great value and be a blessing to others.

These brothers know the joy of intentional time together... because of you!

Together, we are (greater than).

AmarilloChildrensHome.org
AMARILLO CHILDREN’S HOME began out of a single decisive moment. In 1923, Dr. R. Thomson, minister for today’s First Presbyterian Church, and some friends were meeting for coffee. They saw 3 children crying outside, orphaned and hungry. At this critical point, these men chose to act: to feed and clothe the little ones and find them proper care. As a result of that event, Amarillo Children’s Home officially opened in March 1924.

OUR MISSION
TO RESTORE THE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN SO THEY CAN REALIZE THEIR GREAT VALUE AND BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS.

WHO WE SERVE
- primarily children removed from their homes by the foster care and judicial systems, ages 5 - 18+
- young people from difficult, traumatic, often impoverished situations with a history of abuse and neglect
- our specialty is kids who are more challenging to find a home for, such as sibling groups and older teens
- the length of stay is based on a child’s needs: a few months to many years

HOW WE SERVE
- we intentionally seek out each child’s needs; gifts and passions to provide opportunities for growth and a new identity to cling to
- we are highly adaptable: quick to respond and swift to implement new methods to best serve each young person who comes to us
- our unique after-care program gives guidance and assistance to post-high school kids as they grow into adulthood

WE HOPE YOU’LL PARTNER WITH US.

CREATIVE CONNECTION

In 2018, Emma Rohrs journeyed to the country of Jordan for a mission trip with a small team of women. She roomed with Dr. Joy Berry, a long-time Amarillo Children’s Home donor and former board member. Their hearts quickly connected, and Emma expressed a desire to continue ministering in Amarillo, her hometown. Joy introduced Emma, her husband Bryan, and Emma’s sister, Sara Walsh to ACH.

They attended a Roots & Wings event together, and began giving financially. Emma and Sara got even deeper into the restoration happening within the children in our care when they came on campus for the Roots & Wings experience last year.

Through their own non-profit ministry, “We Find In Love,” the sisters have offered ACH kids unique art experiences designed to facilitate healing through individual expression. Last summer, they offered our girls art supplies and journals—a safe and creative space to express their hearts while focusing on God’s redemptive love. They included tips and tools for managing emotions for good mental health. Most importantly, Emma shared, “It just gave us a chance to love on the girls.”

They recently gifted each child in every ACH cottage with a pillowcase and tie dye kit so they could have a little end-of-the-summer fun through art, and, in this case, messy, self-expression. Sara shared how much joy she gets from seeing all the creativity flowing from each child as he or she makes something new. Emma added, “We know that they’ve all been through a lot... but these kids are so joyful and happy!”

These sweet sisters have offered generous support and heartfelt outreach, and they feel a deep connection to our mission. Emma and Sara embrace God’s unwavering love for each child at ACH. We are thankful they continue to be a part of this community who invests generously in His restorative work.

A profile of giving.
Sara Walsh & Emma Rohrs
Two Amarillo sisters with a heart for our mission. Invested in every way.

STUFF WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

1 SCHEDULE A TOUR FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR GROUP
When you come on campus at Amarillo Children’s Home, you can’t help but feel more deeply connected to our mission. If you’re interested in a tour for yourself or your group, please call our office at 806-352-5771. We’d love to share our heart and story with you in the unique way a campus tour allows.

2 EXPAND YOUR INFLUENCE: BE A PACESETTER
Did you know 70% of our funding comes from community donations? Pacesetters help lead the way in supporting our mission in advance of our annual Roots & Wings fundraisers. Call Emily Bell at 806-352-5771 by October 3 for more information.

3 PRAYER IS A POWERFUL TOOL! PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our kids - that they will make and be good friends and will learn well at school and at home.
Our houseparents - that they will be strengthened and encouraged.
Our staff - that they will tirelessly serve with wisdom and dedication.

AmarilloChildrensHome.org

Good works is giving to the poor and the helpless, but divine works is showing them their worth to the One who matters.

-Criss Jami
WE EXPLORE.

Because doing what is effective is greater than doing what is easy. It is your support which frees us to act with purpose and to focus on fulfilling our shared mission of restoring kids.

A JOURNEY TOWARD COURAGE

There's not much in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. For most people, it's just a dreary exit off the highway between Amarillo and Albuquerque... We aren't most people. One of the first things we do each June is a campus is pile into vans at 8:30 on a weekday morning and drive 2.5 hours to a tiny swimming hole in a tiny town. This adventure sets up the framework of summer at Amarillo Children's Home - an intentional trek through our mission statement: to restore the identity of children so they can realize their great value and be a blessing to others.

Why on earth do we wake up early on a summer morning, pack a picnic lunch and drive to the middle of nowhere? Our kids' frame of reference is often as small as a screen - we want to remind them to lift their heads and see the world, encourage them to experience new things, challenge them to try something they aren't 100% confident in.

Our ultimate destination in Santa Rosa is the Blue Hole - a crystal clear, 60-foot-wide oasis backed by a cliff and surrounded by rocky viewing areas for people to hang out and watch, shout encouragement to the brave souls in the water or gather the courage to jump in themselves. I am hanging out on this rock "deck," watching and chatting, and I ask one young man, James* - a kid who tends to live life a bit louder than he has to because he's not quite confident in who he is - if he's going to jump in.

"Nah, man, I'm good."
"Aw, you ought to try it?"
"Nah.

A moment passes. He abruptly stands and saunters to the steps down to the water. "What are you doing?"
"I'm getting in."
"You might want to take your shoes off?"
"Oh! Oh, yeah?"

He makes his way down the steps, halts about ankle deep, backs out, "Oh! This mud is cold!" then turns and scurries back to where he had been sitting... propped up against the wall, just observing the other kids.

I join him there, but not two minutes later, he's heading with determination back toward those same stone steps and that same cold water. "James, whatcha doing?"
"I'm gonna put my head in!"

He wades in shin deep, stoops over to dunk the top of his head in the water, climbs out and resumes his position on the wall.

The next thing I know, up hops James. He strides toward the steps, I don't even ask this time - I just follow with my camera. He plunges all the way under before hurtling right back to his spot. I get a towel on him, but only just before he resolutely shrugs it off and proclaims, "I'm jumping in." He marches over to the low ledge on the side of the pool... He leaps.

I love that moment - the jump and the journey to it - a snap shot frozen in time is exactly why we spend a summer morning at the Blue Hole. In James' pilgrimage we see in comic microcosm what we call the progression of confidence in four stages.

We test. We try. We trust. We leap.

Our entire summer is intentionally structured for such moments, carefully crafted to grow our kids: in courage, in the knowledge of their value, in their identity in Christ, in their relationships with others, in their view of their own place in this community and this world. Our opportunities to cultivate our kids are limited. Sometimes one summer is all we get, so we are very much a race against time - and the starting line is an early summer adventure in Santa Rosa, New Mexico.

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CREATE INTENTIONAL MOMENTS TO INSPIRE OUR KIDS

*A name has been changed
Since 1924, we have been comprised of an amazing community of people who do, People like you, who see the need and give of their resources so this vital work can be accomplished.

WHAT YOU SOW...

Abandoned. Undesirable. Unlovely. It was “just” a barren lot – full of weeds and rocks and lost potential.

That’s all anyone saw, until a group of like-minded people came together who recognized the value laying buried beneath the rubble of abuse and neglect. “It could be such a blessing to the community around it!” Imagine what love and effort could reap!” So, they removed what didn’t belong and replaced it with fertile soil. They watered. They planted. They pulled weeds. They added structure. As it bloomed, the transformation was evidence of the project’s worthiness.

Still, it was a small effort, as a garden is. At times, the vision seemed too hard; the labor, too mental; the day-to-day, too routine. Thankfully, partnerships are life-giving energy to endeavors such as this. When others come alongside to support and lend a hand, everything (and everyone!) is revitalized, and the mission can continue.

The work isn’t so different, when you think about it – that of the 6th Street garden of Square Mile Community Development and that of Amarillo Children’s Home. Cooperation between the two strengthens both and makes the journey more meaningful.

For the past six years, the kids and adults of ACH have worked on the 6th Street lot-turned-garden during our summer Mission Week. We began in the very beginning – when, to all appearances, it was just a useless lot – removing chunks of concrete and bringing in dirt one wheelbarrow at a time. We have shoveled and dug until our backs ached and sweat stung our eyes. We have moved fences, built fences, built planting boxes and planted flowers. We have pulled up weeds and laid down mulch. Our kids have learned the fulfilling satisfaction of a hard day’s work and felt the happy exhaustion of a day spent outside in grueling effort for someone else’s benefit.

We have seen our efforts flourish – in the garden, in our mutual organizations and in the hearts and lives of our kids and adults. We’ve watched kids act with purpose and discover their identity, revealing in God’s goodness as they reflect kindness back to the community of Amarillo.

We are blessed by a similar story of cultivation and cooperation within our own little community. When companies and individual donors like you come alongside us in this great adventure to ask what needs to be planted, we, too, are rejuvenated. From sunscreen drives to gas money, from providing back-to-school supplies to supplying the funds to pay our electric bill – YOU, our partners, consistently respond with open hearts for these children.

It is a double-blessing for us when partners support our mission, because we know the return for each donor is a harvest of joy.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING MONTHLY TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT MISSION?

Give online at amarillochildresnhome.give, or use the enclosed envelope to help provide a safe place for kids to call home.

AmarilloChildrensHome.org
A WORD from OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This summer has been an adventure! Along with lots of fun in the sun which all kids need, we drove to Blue Hole, took a trip to Family Camp in Colorado, came together Wednesday nights in fellowship and worship and gave back to the Amarillo community during Mission Week.

All these events are much more than just keeping busy. Our theme for the summer was Made With Purpose for a Purpose, and there is mission-minded intention underlying everything we do.

We can all play a part in helping kids come to believe they can move past hurt, heartbreak and trauma to become flourishing individuals with a gift to give this world. This is the restoration we talk about in our mission. It’s accomplished through the investment of a multitude of loving, dedicated adults who strive to do all it takes to create generational change.

Amarillo Children's Home is needed now more than ever. There is a capacity crisis in Texas foster care – many children have no place to go. Older teens and sibling groups are the most difficult to place in a loving home, but we are uniquely suited to provide these young people with the home they need and deserve. We are meeting a tremendous need in our community and continue to be part of the solution.

This is only possible because of you! It is truly a partnership. We are thankful for the investment, commitment and care you give. Thank you for coming alongside us in the work. Know that you are part of the solution as you help fulfill the mission of ACH and effect generational change.

Thank you and God bless you,

Belinda Crelia-Palacios,
Executive Director, Amarillo Children’s Home