

September 2020



“ THERE'S NOTHING SO KINGLY
AS KINDNESS, & NOTHING SO
ROYAL AS TRUTH. **”**
- Alice Cary

WE DO **SO MUCH MORE** THAN HOUSE KIDS.
Food, shelter and love are immediate needs that
are vital to meet, but we also work to change
our kids' views of themselves, their value, their
potential and their place in the world.

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

They know the honor of showing kindness & the truth of their own worth... because of you!
Together, we are  *(greater than).*

AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME began out of a single decisive moment.

In 1923, Dr. R. Thomsen, *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 speciality is kids who are difficult to find a home for, including 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.

STUFF WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

1 AMAZONSMILE: AN EASY WAY TO GIVE EVEN MORE

When you shop through Amazon-Smile, you get the exact same selection and prices as regular Amazon, *plus* AmazonSmile donates .5% of your eligible purchase to the charity of your choice (like Amarillo Children's Home!)? Select ACH as your charity and do even more good!

2 THANK YOU FOR YOUR FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

Did you know 70% of our funding comes from community donations? Those of you who have held Facebook fundraisers for your birthday have not only raised money for ACH, but you've also raised awareness about who we are and what we do. Thank you! Together, we are >!

3 WELCOME TO LINDY WAKEFIELD

We are happy to welcome Lindy Wakefield as our new Assistant Development Director. Lindy joins our staff having already been a part of the ACH family as a volunteer and donor. Her energy, enthusiasm, experience and heart for kids make her a great addition to Amarillo Children's Home.

AmarilloChildrensHome.org



Nickson family photos by Kristopher Todd Photography

A PROFILE OF GIVING.

The Nicksons: Sara, Sydney & Scott

One Amarillo family with a passion for blessing others. Investing in the mission. Investing in lives.

As much as we need a prosperous economy, we also need a prosperity of kindness and decency.

- Caroline Kennedy

Kindness boggles my mind. It's the only force in nature that increases simultaneously for the giver and the receiver.

- Daniel Lubetzky

FURTHERING *the* IMPACT

Scott and Sara Nickson and their daughter Sydney first learned about Amarillo Children's Home a few years ago when Scott was invited to a Roots & Wings event. Then, this summer they were invited as a family to serve a meal during a campus get-together. The experience made such an impression on them, they decided they wanted to financially invest in the mission at ACH.

The Nicksons love to be involved in the community, especially with ministries that bless and affect children. They also love to serve together as a family. This opportunity at ACH was an chance to do both.

Sara had this to say about their visit:

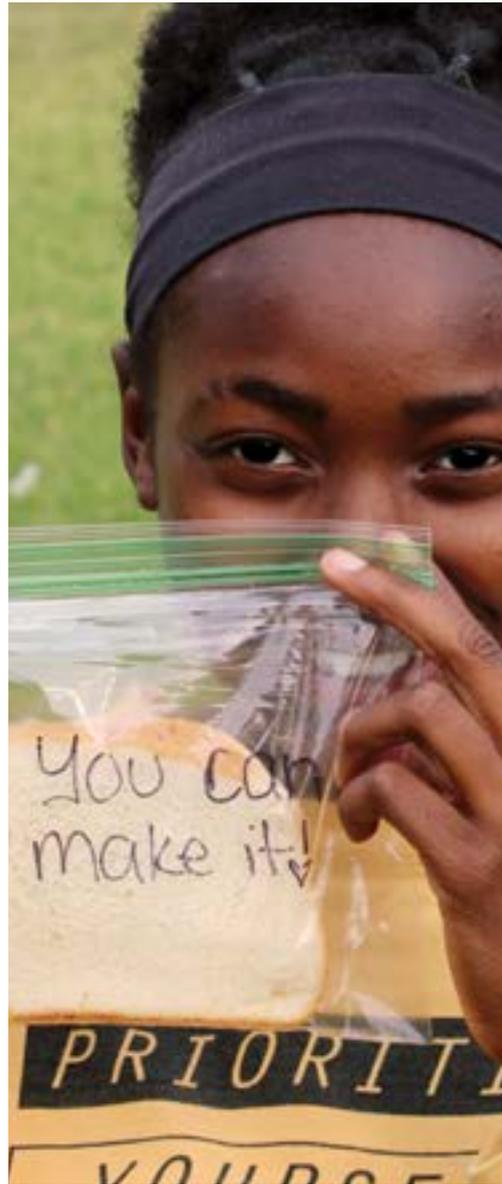
When you visit ACH, you can literally feel the love and positive energy from the house parents, staff and children. Everyone seems deeply happy to be there. When we were working in

the kitchen and interacting with the families, we decided we wanted to further the impact ACH is having on so many.

Our hearts are always open to organizations who serve our community well. Changing a child's life starts with just a single moment: a sense of belonging, a small impact, even a smile. ACH is changing the world, one child at a time! We are delighted to be a part.

Charitable organizations based right here in Amarillo are so important to our community. Without private donors, most couldn't continue with the services and programs that they offer.

We are so happy Amarillo has such a wonderful place for children who need a safe and loving home. ACH facilitates generational change through children, who are the future! May we always seek to show children they have worth through our love and actions.



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.

QUOTES FROM OUR KIDS *(about begin a blessing)*

I like serving because that's who I am. When I'm volunteering or helping people, it's like I'm being who I am meant to be.
- R

During Mission Week, I felt like we really came together as a family. We were working as a team giving back because others have given so much to us.
- J

It feels good being thoughtful and helping people. It's connections, hard work and sweat.
- L

PLANTING KINDNESS

Summers at ACH generally follow the same intentionally-planned schedule orchestrated to make the most of this intensive time with our kids - taking them through events and messages that guide them in discovering their great value and becoming a blessing to others.

This year, naturally, required some adapting and adjusting.

Mission week is the culmination of our summer, putting into practice the “being a blessing to others” part of our mission. Scheduling projects was more challenging than usual, but we made it work – coming alongside other local organizations to get a large amount of background work done in a short time, allowing the non-profits to focus on what they do best.

Our kids worked with *Hope & Healing Place*, cleaning and organizing; at *Square Mile Community Garden*, weeding and putting up a fence; at *Eastridge Baptist Church*, organizing food donations and working a food distribution; with *Habitat for Humanity* in one of the largest projects we have ever done - clearing seven tons of trash off a stretch of land.

One group of girls was eager to do MORE. Instead of resting after a hot, hard day, they hurried home to make sandwiches and put waters on ice – trading free time for feeding the homeless. While driving around town to deliver these treats, houseparent Chelsea noticed writing on the bags. Each sandwich had a sweet message - inspired by her.

One girl said, “Ms. Chelsea writes things on our calendar and she always writes something positive on the side - encouraging words. I always walk down the hall and read it and it makes my day. I thought - we should do that with these bags!”

She continued, “It was so fun to see the happiness we could give someone with something so simple. I used to think I had to do something really big to have a purpose and make a change, but there's always a chance to make a difference in someone's life. I made a difference.”

We watched magic happen in the midst of the craziness. Kids who have been treated as worthless had their value restored all week long as they learned the purpose-giving joy of acts of kindness while they faced challenges side-by-side with each other. They gave and received encouragement and were taught Christ-driven truths that will be with them always. They were given first-hand-proof that an act of kindness changes the giver as it changes the world.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY WHICH ALLOWS US TO PLANT KINDNESS.

**WE
DO.**

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.

DEAR LISA*,

A note from Lisa...

Thank you so much for everything y'all did while I was ACH. One day I was walking around the campus with Ms. Cindy and the rest of the girls and I saw that y'all's motto is "restoring the identity of children" and I feel like you guys really try y'all's best to do that."

- Lisa

When you came to Amarillo Children's Home a short nine months ago, we didn't know how long we would get to be a part of your life or exactly what lay before us to face together.

We watched you arrive and could read some of the struggles of your fourteen years in the way you held yourself, the way you looked down instead of into our eyes, the way you hid behind your ever-present hat, uncomfortable in your own skin. We learned more during the first days you lived with us through how you responded to the other kids. You threw stones at someone who didn't want to play the same game as you. You hissed and spit at another who looked at you. You looked for creative ways to enact vengeance for any perceived slight.

You believed yourself worthy only of being discarded and cast aside, so you rejected others in hopes of avoiding rejection.

We listened as you said horrible things about yourself when you could not accomplish that which you felt you should be able to achieve, what your peers could achieve. We were there when you gave up quickly – you were certain you would fail anyway.

We were not surprised or shocked, horrified or put off. **You, precious girl, desperately needed your identity and value restored.** We poured positive statements of love, acceptance and encouragement over you, and we celebrated you as you are. We told you of your importance and treated you as valuable, and you began to believe it. We taught you to encourage yourself, to replace negative statements with positive ones, to see the beauty of who you are as a creation of God apart from your accomplishments or capabilities, to silence your inner bully.

We fed you scripture and truth, and you ate it up, hungry for more of a God who loves you.

We broke down challenges and helped you to figure out how to persevere, to overcome, to grow. You learned to keep trying, and you accomplished more than you ever imagined. You were excited to discover what you could do if you didn't give up.

Our time together was short, but it was wide and full. We pray and trust you will remember these things – that the seeds which were planted and grew will produce more and more fruit.

We love you, always.

**name has been changed*

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

- L. R. Knost

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING MONTHLY TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT MISSION?

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

A WORD *from* OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.”

– Denis Waitley

This season has been a time of reflection and searching for me. It seems the world is more in need of love, grace and gratitude than ever before. I am continually blessed by the abundant joy present at Amarillo Children’s Home and thankful for a campus culture which faithfully brings our focus back to that which is worth celebrating.

Many times this summer I witnessed joy, hope and laughter during our campus get-togethers, and this atmosphere was at its finest during our recent Back-to-School Bash for the children living here. Games, water fun, dancing and snow cones were on the agenda, and we lived it up as we closed out this eternal summer. Watching and listening to our kids always reminds me there is so much love, compassion and sheer joy in this world regardless of what is going on around us.

A wise man once said those without gratitude will never find true happiness. I have seen this in action with the children we serve. The Bash was one of those times, along with Mission Week. Our kids gave back to the community through hard work and sweat, excited to show their concern and thankfulness by working for others. As we intentionally transfer this value of gratefulness to our kids, we see value restored and joy bloom. Gratitude and happiness do go hand in hand.

We want you to know how grateful we are for you. Because of your constant commitment to our mission, we are able provide opportunities for our children to be restored. Thank you for believing in our mission and loving our kids. Together we will get through this season and be stronger, wiser and more faithful because of it.

Again, thank you and God bless,

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

BE A VOICE! Tell others about us – friend us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram – learn all you can and share what you learn.

SOUL THE



COUNSELING & THERAPIES

Campus per year: \$13,034
1 home per year: \$1,862
1 child per year: \$266



PRESENTS - help kids feel valued (Christmas and Birthday)

Campus for 1 year: \$7,497
1 home for 1 year: \$1,071
1 child for 1 year: \$153

We are committed to the restoration of the whole child –
body, mind, soul, family & community.

*These are just a few ways your investment can be used
to feed the souls of kids at Amarillo Children’s Home:*



FAMILY CONNECTION

1 week of a loving & equipped
houseparent couple: \$950