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# A NOTE FROM THE CEO

Fall is always the season of change. Leaves change from green to brilliant bursts of red, gold and yellow. To me, this time of year is symbolic to the work we do with our children. Our children come to us in one way, yet as they receive the love, guidance, and support from our staff, they grow and change. Their inner brilliance appears and we find that we have artists, scholars, athletes, and musicians among us.

As society continues to rebound from the pandemic, we are seeing more children needing a safe place to call home. Our residential program gives children the space to heal from their past while looking toward their future. The foster care program continues to work with dedicated individuals who want to open their homes. Our Moms in Training Program is coaching young moms on how to be good parents while working on their education. The Supervised Independent Living Program is growing! With the help of our Foundation, we now have an apartment building in the community for our young adults to transition into as they continue on their path to success. Our parent education program, SPARK, continues to empower, enlighten and encourage parents and caregivers to be the best parent they can be.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster parent, we would love to talk to you. Our foster care team is ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have. We want you to be a part of our family to provide a loving home to a child in need

The holidays are fast approaching. We are grateful to our community for their continued support to make the holidays merry and bright for our children. Our children are blessed with your gifts, of time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely,

Chief Executive Officer Boysville, Inc.

Founded in 1943, Boysville is a nationally accredited home for children based in Converse, Texas. Boysville is a 501 (C)(3), tax-exempt, charitable organization (Federal Tax ID #74-1207553).

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**BOYSVILLE TODAY** SPRING/SUMMER 2022

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 BOYSVILLE TODAY



# Finding her voice & becoming a leader

At age 16, Jareli arrived at our Emergency Shelter right before Christmas. With short hair, broken English, and low self-esteem, Jareli had little faith in adults. Despite her past pleas for help, many adults failed to answer until she met Jennifer and Tina, two strangers who worked with Jareli and brought her to Boysville.

Jareli, a respectful and quiet girl, immediately bonded with Ms. Norma in the shelter as she spoke Spanish.

Jareli rarely was allowed to attend school, and she knew she needed to put in extra work to learn English and get caught up in school. So she began going to the Boysville library for additional help in learning English.

Jareli loves to work with younger children. In the shelter, she quickly started helping to direct the younger children. She was nervous when it was time to move into the residential program.

family to me. I connected with Koral."

In high school, Jareli joined JROTC and found her voice. Her commander challenged Jareli to become a captain and lead PT.

Unbeknownst to Jareli, she has leadership skills, and the commander recognized this trait.

"When I had my uniform on, I felt like I was someone special," said Jareli. During her senior year, Jareli was part of the Queen's court for the military ball and was runner-up. At graduation, her Boysville family was there. She is the first in her family to graduate.

Today, Jareli's confidence is still building. Her goal is to join the military and become a nurse. She is studying to pass the ASVAB, but the English part is challenging. Jareli is now part of Boysville's Supervised Independent Living Program and has a job on campus.

"When I got here (to Boysville), I was scared. Scared I wouldn't graduate or make friends," said Jareli. "But I started believing in myself and kept on going. I have people that support and motivate me.

"Look at me now, I started in the shelter, and now I am here. I can be anything I want to be."



# **SUMMER FUN!**



# **CAMP WILDBEAST**

Camp Wildbeast continued strong this year with each child having a wonderful week of awesome activities. Junior League of San Antonio's (JSLA) yearly commitment to giving our younger children a day summer camp experience continues to be a huge hit, allowing them to enjoy arts and crafts, swimming, games, and outdoor activities. We finished off the wild week with a trip to the San Antonio Zoo, giving our kids the opportunity to tie together all the wild things they learned and experienced. A huge thank you to JSLA, The San Antonio Zoo, Whataburger, Jim Hollerbach, and Mike Yantis Jr. for making that amazing week possible!

# **CAMP INDEPENDENCE**

Our older kids kicked off the summer by being introduced to some of the life skills and lessons every kid needs when they start to grow up. Camp Independence teaches our young teens about life skills like budgeting, nutrition planning, healthy habits, job applications, and more. They also were able to hear from local businesses, leaders, and some Boysville Alumni about what it takes to be successful in today's world. Thank you to all the speakers and sponsors of this amazing program; SA Health, Whataburger, Jessica Massay, H-E-B, and many more!



Kids Across America (KAA) Camp gave some of our older kids the opportunity to travel out of state for the first time. Our recreational coordinator, Frank Buggs, reestablished a yearly trip for 8 kids to the KAA summer camp in Missouri. The camp's mission is to grow Christian leaders by encouraging, equipping, and empowering urban youth and their mentors through camping and education. Thank you to all our donors that allowed this life-changing opportunity!

While our kids are out of school for the summer, we want to make sure they continue to learn and grow with our Summer Enrichment. This program gives our children the ability to learn and explore cool topics like this year's theme, Wildlife! Keeping their brains well exercised is important not only for the upcoming school year but also for their development as they grow into capable teens and young adults. We had the opportunity to visit the Snake Farm, the SEALIFE Aquarium San Antonio, Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch, and the Landa Library. Our kids learned about local wildlife, marine animals, nature conservation, how to get a library card, and most importantly how to have fun while learning!





# **BIRTHDAY PARTIES**

Every month we throw a campus-wide birthday party for all the kids who were born that month, and this summer's parties were ones that our kids won't ever forget! Each party has a sponsor or multiple sponsors who help us bring the party to life with gifts and cakes for the birthday kids, entertainment, volunteers to help facilitate, and most of all a willingness to have fun with our campus family. A huge shout out to Generations Federal Credit Union, SA Fire Department, SA Police Department, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Last Chance Ministries, and Random Acts of Kindness for making this Summer's birthday parties unforgettable!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO LORENA MENDOZA

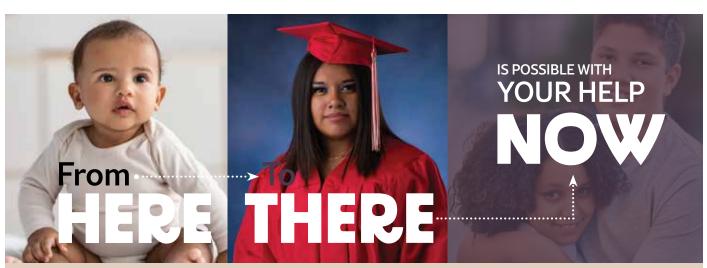
# AS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE JAMIE SIDES SCHOLARSHIP



Lorena came to Boysville in 2019 as a privately placed teen. She graduated from high school and is currently attending Our Lady of the Lake University on scholarship. She needed a little help this semester getting back on track as she recently had a baby.

My name is Lorena Mendoza. I have a passion for learning about trauma-informed care and helping sexual assault survivors. I am majoring in Social Work where I find it has been so interesting to learn more about and useful to me in my personal life. To be honest, being in college I have accepted many opportunities and have also made my share of mistakes. My grades have been a product of that. I still am maintaining my required GPA although, things could look better.

This financial assistance helps me by ensuring that I go back to school to complete my degree plan and get my bachelor's!! I am super grateful. I have so much to be thankful for especially for my daughter. I really do have a new outlook on what my responsibilities are not just for myself but for my daughter too. Thank You!



# **GOOD KIDS, UNFORTUNATE SITUATIONS**

The children at Boysville are a diverse group but have one thing in common—they are good kids who ended up in unfortunate situations. They have suffered abuse, endured neglect, homelessness and family crisis, including the opioid crisis. Boysville works with each child individually to craft a healing plan at their own pace.

## KIDS SHOULD BE KIDS

Boysville strongly believes that the children we serve should have every opportunity to

be part of their community. That means they play sports, explore the arts, play in the band and all pursue all types of extracurricular activities. They have fun at prom and homecoming and go after their first jobs!

# WE ARE FAMILY

Together, we form the strong and essential connections that break the cycle of abuse and neglect. Boysville is a loving community that gives our children a place to call home.

# boysvilletexas.org/hereandnow

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael H. Patterson

#### In Honor of the newborn Haley J. Hamptor

Mr. & Mrs. Jim L. Hollerbach **Happy Birthday to Letty Gonzales!** 

Ms. Rosa De la Cruz Ms. Kristina Lockridge

## Retirement of Jerome Hoog!

Mr & Mrs Fred Weibler

### Happy Birthday to John Kuntz!

Ms. Maria Elena Alcala Ms. Olga Enriquez Mr. and Mrs. David Green Mr & Mrs Paul Krause

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Villa

Ms. Rebecca Perez

#### In Honor of Mark M. Meador Mrs. Jo Lynne Meado

Happy Birthday John W. Robb!

#### Happy Birthday Victor A. York!

Ms. Mary Helen Garcia

## Wedding of Dale and Vicki Schuchart

Mr & Mrs Fred Weibler

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