

Letter from the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

My son Joshua just turned fifteen and my wife and I just can't believe it. Fifteen years ago, we were holding this tiny little baby in our arms and now we're talking about driving, how to keep enough groceries in the house and if basketball shoes can really smell that bad! Fifteen years is a good amount of time to reflect and remember. Arms of Hope is doing just that as we celebrate fifteen amazing years of ministry. The Board of Directors of Boles Children's Home (est. 1924) and Medina Children's Home (est. 1958) chose to do

what's best for God's Kingdom by merging together to form Arms of Hope (est. 2009). This merger meant that two outstanding ministries with similar programs would now combine their experience, expertise and resources to walk in faith and find those in desperate need of help throughout the great state of Texas and beyond. With the addition of Family Outreach Centers in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, Denton and Fort Worth, the dream and vision of those leaders in 2009 continue to expand and truly change the lives of children and single mothers. Through the blessing of our Lord, a dedicated staff and the extreme generosity of our donors, I am honored to report that over the last fifteen years, we have served thousands on our Medina and Boles Campuses and in our Family Outreach Centers and have seen countless lives changed through therapy provided by our Licensed Professional Christian Counselors. We've celebrated as 82 residents graduated high school, 200 received GEDs/Educational Certificates, 98 earned Associate Degrees, 57 completed their Bachelor Degrees and 4 secured their Master Degrees. Of course, the celebration that exceeds them all came as 375 individuals became new followers of Jesus Christ! Thank you so much for your prayers and participation in God's ministry to his children. I'm excited to include our Annual Report in this magazine to show even more of our residents' current accomplishments over the past year. Come see us on one of our campuses. We would love for you to meet the lives you've changed with your generous investment in supporting Arms of Hope as we continue touching lives and reaching generations!

Sincerely,

Troy Robertson President & CEO

Arms of Hope is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Christian organization that was formed by the consolidation of Medina Children's Home (est. 1958) and Boles Children's Home (est. 1924). In addition to Arms of Hope's residential facilities, Family Outreach Centers in San Antonio, Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth and Houston assist individuals and families in need throughout Texas. Arms of Hope offers residential and outreach programs for children and single-mother families who are fleeing poverty, homelessness, abuse, neglect and human trafficking.





Nathalie McDonald Chief Development Officer Editor & Graphic Designer

Troy RobertsonPresident & CEO
Content Manager
& Assistant Editor

Contributing Photographers Arms of Hope Staff Bella Photography

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View our Arms of Hope Video



Join us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram





Help AOH by donating today!

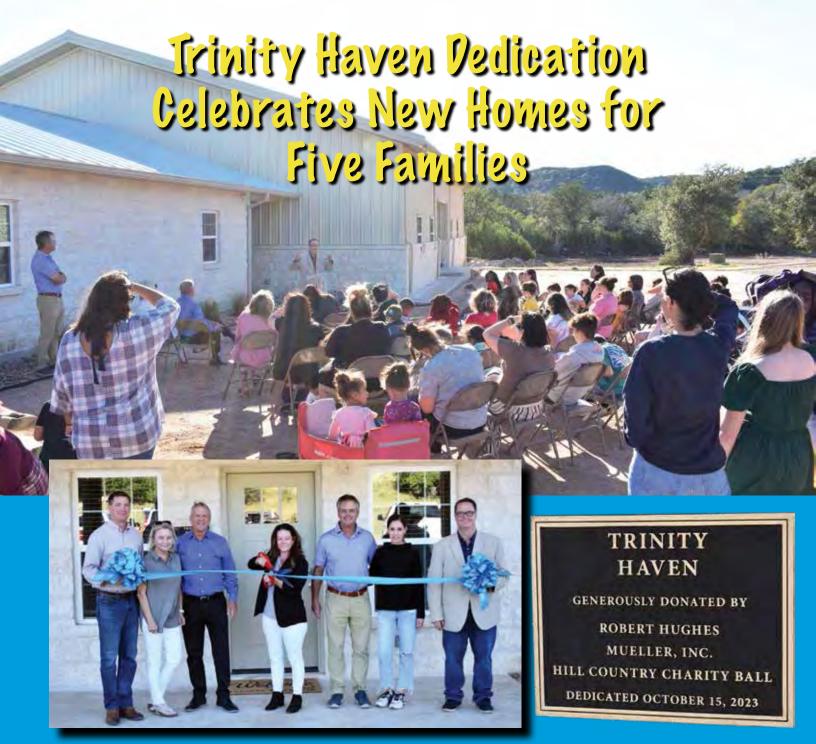


How can you help?

General Donations - All general donations support the programs of care provided by Arms of Hope and can be one time gifts or can be scheduled to automatically recur monthly, quarterly or annually. Honors & Memorials - Donations can be contributed as a memorial or to honor a friend or relative. The donor and the recipient or family will receive an acknowledgement. Gift-In-Kind Donations - Your gifts of gently used clothing and household items are either used in our programs or sold, dependent on current needs. Proceeds from the sale of donated items help fund Arms of Hope programs. To schedule a pick-up or identify drop-off locations, please visit RecycleForChildren.org. Stock/Equity Gifts - Make a gift of stocks or equities and learn how you can gain even greater tax advantages with these gifts. *Matching Gifts* - Ask your employer to determine if matching funds are available. This is a great way to make your gift go even further with no additional personal cost. **Planned Giving** - Discover new ways to make a gift that also takes into consideration your personal circumstances and the needs of your heirs including Wills, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Lead Trusts, etc. Explore the value of charitable gifts that require a little thought, but pay off in big benefits to you, your family and Arms of Hope. Scholarships - Many of the children and single-mother families we care for have the desire, ability and need to further their education. You can help Arms of Hope make certain no one in Arms of Hope's care is ever deprived of quality education by providing funding for scholarships for our residents. Sponsor a Child or Family in Our Care - Sponsorships may include Christmas gifts, a birthday surprise or simply taking care of essential needs like clothing, food, school supplies and household items. Arms of Hope children and families benefit immensely when you show you care by financially supporting the procurement of essential items. Sponsorship programs are available for all giving levels. *Livestock Donations* - Livestock may be processed for food or converted to cash. Vehicle Gifts - Donate a running vehicle that is in good condition. We can use everything from cars and minivans for the transportation of the children and families in our care to trucks and trailers for use in the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities and operations.

Wish List - Check out our wish list at ArmsofHope.org for gift ideas based on our current needs including food, personal care items, household furnishings and other essential items necessary for providing for the children and

families we serve.



Arms of Hope's "Making a House into a Home" capital project was started years ago to meet the increasing campus demands to minister to single mothers in our Together Program. In 2022, a generous donor pledged to support construction of a new living facility on the Medina Campus. Arms of Hope was then blessed with two awards. The first was the Helping Hands Project from Mueller Inc. Since 2009, Mueller has teamed up with the popular television show Texas Country Reporter to find a deserving nonprofit organization in Texas to receive a free Mueller building. The second was

from the Hill Country Charity Ball, an annual charity event in the Texas Hill Country that has raised over \$1.7M for Hill Country nonprofits since 1986. All three of these combined meant five fully furnished homes for single mother families fleeing abuse and trafficking. Each of the homes has new appliances, kitchenware, furniture, bedding, linens and home décor.

In the fall of 2023, Arms of Hope residents, staff and guests celebrated the official opening of "Trinity Haven", aptly named to celebrate the number one goal of evangelism of the Christian

faith at Arms of Hope as well as symbolic of a generous individual, business and charity event coming together to change lives. The homes are already full with five families working hard in case management, counseling, education and spiritual healing to change their futures. Besides the three major donors to this project, other support was raised from several individuals and businesses. This large collaboration is a beautiful testimony of a community putting in the love and work to fight the atrocities of brokenness and hopelessness.



















Congratulations to



Jennifer is a mom in the Together Program on the Medina Campus, who completed her GED and is now attending Christian Women's Job Corps.



Kelly completed her Associates Degree in Applied Science from Texas State Technical College. She is now attending UT-Tyler working on a Bachelor's Degree.



Maria graduated from the Christian Women's Job Corps, where she learned computer training, interview skills, money management and how to use all of these skills to glorify God.

Educational Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2023

7 High School Graduates 24 GEDs & Educational Cert. 2,117 completed college hours 12 Associate's Degrees 6 Bachelor's Degrees



Cameron graduated from Boles High School and is working towards a career in cosmetology.



Brittany is a hard working single mother of five precious children. She graduated with her Associate Degree from North Central Texas College and is now beginning work on her Bachelor's Degree.



"Through God and a wonderful support system at AOH, my dreams of a beautiful future turn more into reality each day. I received my certificate and I've now started my new journey as a Real Estate Agent with Century 21." - Shannon



Wendy is a first generation high school graduate and this Medina Campus single mother received her Associate Degree with a 4.0 GPA! She is currently attending UT-Permian Basin and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree.

Graduates ope's



Leigha graduated from Boles High School, is in the College & Career Program and is attending Texas A&M-Commerce.



Zion graduated from Boles High School. She is now in the College & Career Program attending Paris Junior College.



Emily graduated from Boles High School and is working towards a career in cosmetology.



attending Schreiner University.



To contact us about supporting our educational programs, please e-mail: Scholarship@ArmsofHope.org



Julie is a wonderful single mother in Houston, who worked very hard and achieved her Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Houston-Downtown.



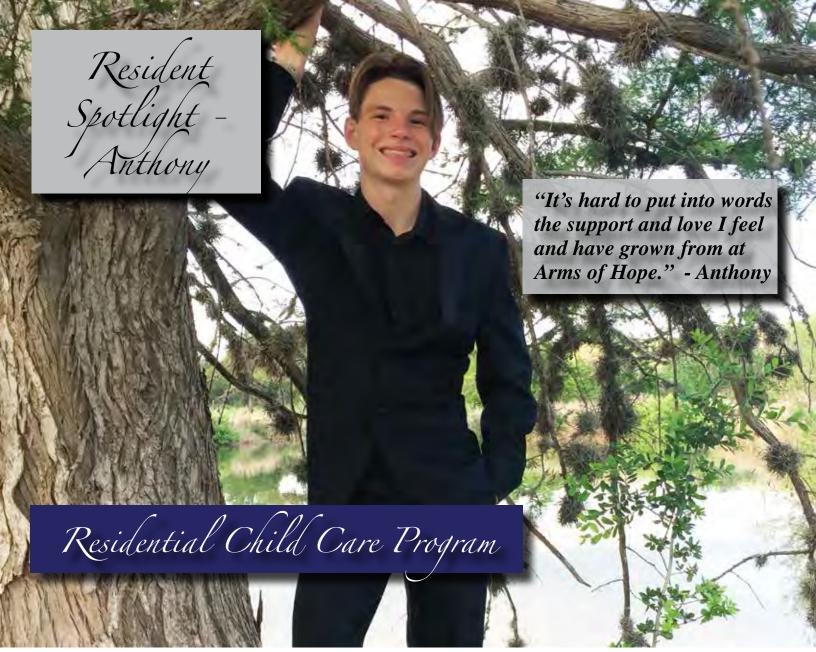
Arms of Hope has been honored to help Jueltz and his mother April at our Family Outreach Center in San Antonio. We truly celebrate his high school graduation!



Davis graduated from Medina High School and is currently attending Texas State University.

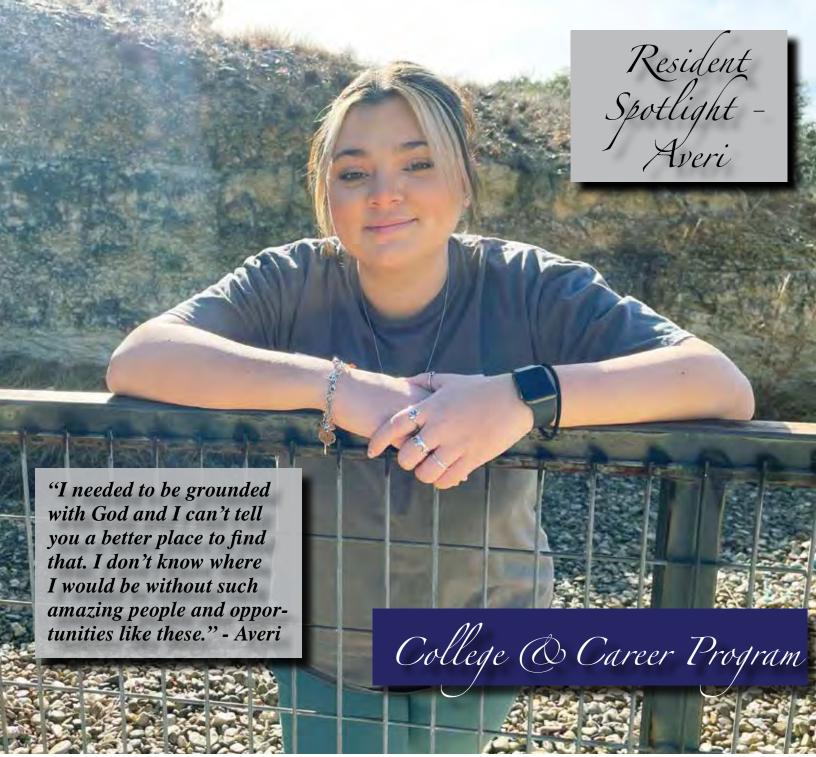


Congratulations to Lauren in the College & Career Program on the Boles Campus. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Texas A&M-Commerce.



My name is Anthony and I am a 17 year-old senior at Medina High School. I was raised by my mom in Howe, Texas with my younger brother. Mom struggled with her own personal extreme trauma and I was not raised the right way. By 8 years old, my brother and I had been tossed from home to home. I was usually the one taking care of him and trying to do the best I could for both of us. I wish I could say I was rescued later on by my father but that environment turned out to be emotionally abusive. God, however, had a plan for me. I came to live at Arms of Hope-Medina Campus in 2019. I can't say I was trusting or hopeful at first, but Arms of Hope was the caring and loving environment I needed. My house parents brought me closer to God than I had ever been before. Showing true and compassionate love and kindness we would sit on the front

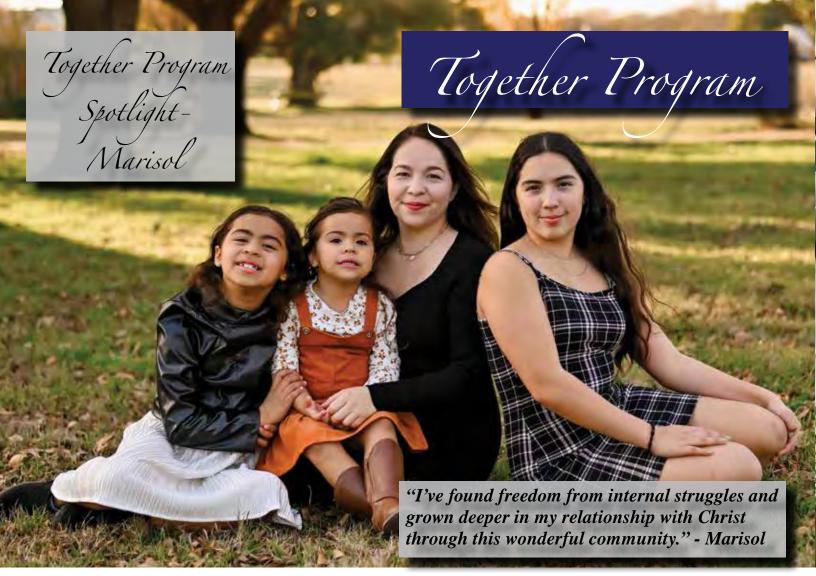
porch and they would teach me about the Bible and how it related to my life. Since I've been at Arms of Hope, I have had the opportunity to have many different experiences. I am involved in sports and love Theatre Arts. I have excelled more than I thought I could in One Act Play and last year we won our district! I have had many impactful and spiritual experiences that have helped me grow. My relationship with our campus minister has been very important to me. I received the blessing of going to Colorado on Wilderness Trek. Being out in nature was inspiring and allowed me to unplug from everything, helping me to see that there is so much to experience in life and in the depth of relationships that I could have outside of my day-to-day routine. I also have gone on multiple Mission Trips in McAllen, Texas. Through them, I have enjoyed helping others and have become more grateful and appreciative of what I've been given. The best experience is camp in the summer. It is my happy place and it was after our annual week there that I decided I would be baptized. I accepted Jesus on September 12, 2023, at 5:41 pm and was baptized on the Medina Campus. As a result of all these experiences, I have become more patient and have a stronger desire to do better. My relationships with others have improved. It's hard to put into words the support and love I feel and have grown from at Arms of Hope. I still have many goals to accomplish in my life and I know in my heart that Arms of Hope will help me achieve them. I'm looking forward to graduating high school this year. I have been accepted at Schreiner University and will enter the College and Career Program on the Medina Campus.



My name is Averi and I have been blessed to call Arms of Hope home for many years. When I was younger, my mom went through addiction but we were accepted in the Together Program on the Arms of Hope-Medina Campus. We left the program when I was a teenager but the same cycle repeated itself and we found ourselves at Arms of Hope a second time. This time was different! My mom did great and I graduated high school and thought that I was done with Arms of Hope. However, living elsewhere never brought me the same fulfillment and feelings of home that living at Arms of Hope did. I was

nervous to go back into the College & Career Program as an adult and learn how to be truly independent, but now I am so glad I had the courage to come back. I have been able to get my anxiety under control by learning how to give it to God. I am a full-time college student and I work part-time at the Learning Center on campus. I enjoy helping each child grow with their unique situations and give back what was given to me. I also recently was able to buy a car. This is something I was only able to do because of the help I receive through this amazing ministry. Living at Arms of Hope has taught me many things.

One of the things I've learned is how to give my worries to God. Another lesson I've learned is that I can do hard things and persevere through darkness and difficult times. I thank God everyday for bringing me back to a place like this where I am able to heal physically and mentally. I needed to be grounded with God and I can't tell you a better place to find that. I don't know where I would be without such amazing people and opportunities like these. I believe that if anyone out there is in need of a program such as this one, they too should take a leap of faith and lean on Arms of Hope! ■



My name is Marisol and I have been in the Together Program at Arms of Hope – Boles Campus for almost four years. I want to share my educational, emotional and spiritual journey.

From a young age, I wanted to pursue a college degree, but I became pregnant at seventeen and those around me told me it would be too difficult and I wouldn't succeed. I had two children by my early twenties, was in and out of homeless shelters, and wasn't making the best decisions for me and my children. I still had a deep desire to continue school and knew I had to start, even if it would be hard. I started walking from the shelter we were staying at to the local library with my two daughters, preparing to begin college. I was pregnant and feeling hopeless and alone. I didn't have a computer, a car, a support system, or people who believed in me. I worked hard and tried to do all my assignments but found myself struggling with C's and D's and even failing some classes. What I remember the most is feeling so hopeless and alone.

During the midst of the pandemic I was living at the Salvation Army in Fort Worth with my three girls. My youngest was three months old and we slept on three cots next to each other in a room filled with men, women, and families. Our belongings were often stolen and I didn't feel safe at night or even during the day. It was in this desperate spot that I cried out to God, asking Him to provide a way out for my daughters and me. A friend told me about Arms of Hope and encouraged me to apply. I applied that same day and soon after my intake interview, I was accepted.

I remember the day we went to Arms of Hope because my oldest daughter was crying tears of joy in the back seat of the car. She was so excited and relieved that we would have a safe place to sleep that night. In that moment, my whole situation hit me and I was extremely thankful to God that I had a chance to start over. During our first year at Arms of Hope, I was able to reinstate my driver's license, make progress with counseling, and graduate with my bach-

elor's degree. Arms of Hope cultivated the support I needed to gain the confidence and opportunity to achieve my educational vision. I have been able to make A's and B's, bringing my GPA up from 2.5 at a bachelor level to 3.9 in my Master's courses, and I have completed my Master's in Social Work from Texas A&M Commerce.

I've found freedom from internal struggles and grown deeper in my relationship with Christ through this wonderful community. My children have seen the love of Christ working within the employees of the Boles Campus and have learned about God.

God opened the door for me to walk alongside others and I have made lifelong friendships. I now know that I never have to do life alone. I can say that through the help I've gotten here, my life and the lives of my children have forever been changed for the better. I now stand on the solid foundation of Christ, and have found my strength and hope again!



My name is Valerie and I was working at a bakery that I really loved and had financial stability. I was enjoying time with my daughter and my grandchildren. I lived alone and was self-sufficient then tragedy happened. My daughter suddenly passed away in the hospital from complications of Covid-19. Even worse, the babies' father was facing criminal charges and my grandchildren were without both of their parents.

My daughter's death changed my life completely. I was grieving and trying to figure out how to manage this new life. My main goal was to take care of my grandbabies and provide a safe home and I needed help in many ways. Their father was completely out of the picture, so I needed to be there for them. My one person apartment now became a home for six. I had so many physical needs but I also needed help organizing my thoughts and figuring out which task to take care of first. I was glad to learn about Arms of Hope because they helped me with every-

thing I needed. I loved my job and hated to quit, but I knew I needed to become a full-time grandmother and keep those babies safe. I had to do my best to make a real life for them.

While in the Arms of Hope program I have been heard, supported, and helped. Early on in the program, I was nervous because I had to take my 1 year old granddaughter to an appointment. I was relieved when my case manager made us feel comfortable by providing my granddaughter with a snack, water, a coloring book and a smile.

Over the course of my time with Arms of Hope I have persevered through the grief of losing my daughter so that I could be there for my grandbabies. I overcame financial struggles, attended appointments, obtained SNAP benefits, utilized food pantries, found legal aid for obtaining guardianship, attained rental assistance and searched for childcare for my three youngest grandchildren. I have been following up with resources and referrals that my case manager

has provided. My case manager has also supported and advocated for me by calling my medical insurance and other medical practitioners to help my 4 year old grandson who has been struggling with grief and trauma. I can share things that my grandchildren are facing because my case manager cares and has compassion. I am reminded that I have a hope and have a resilient and hardworking spirit when I meet with my case manager and see what I have accomplished. Arms of Hope will continue to be a place that helps me set goals for self-sufficiency to be able to support my grandchildren through this horrific time.

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him." - Psalm 40:1-3



organizational G03 S

Life is full of bananas.
You slip, you carry on.

Daphne Guinness

With your support, Arms of Hope has helped many who have slipped get back on their feet and carry on. We are excited to share the figures of positive transformation in this report.

Arms of Hope exists to serve those who are fleeing poverty, homelessness, abuse, neglect, and human trafficking. Formed by the consolidation of Medina Children's Home (est. 1958) and Boles Children's Home (est. 1924) in 2009, both of which were created to serve as homes for orphans, this partnership now combines over 165 years of experience. Arms of Hope expanded the original purpose of these institutions to care for the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of children and single-mother families through residential and outreach programs.

As a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit Christian organization, Arms of Hope depends almost entirely on private monetary and clothing donations from generous individuals, corporations, foundations and churches to fund an 8.5 million annual budget. Blessed with a Board of Directors who are committed to providing strong leadership, guidance, and finances, Arms of Hope's leadership team seeks to expand our ministry to meet the increasing needs of children in poverty and of single-mother families throughout the state of Texas and beyond. We are committed to continual improvement in program quality and all employees seek to limit administrative expenses by following a detailed budget to ensure the donations of our donors are wisely spent to bring maturity of life, action, and spirit to our residents.

Our residents in Arms of Hope's programs are mainly from Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio and their sur-

MISSION STATEMENT

To transform the lives of disadvantaged children, youth and families by providing hope and support in a nurturing, Christian environment.

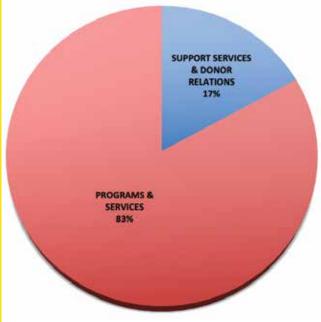
VISION STATEMENT

Reaching generations by helping children and families find a future with hope and promise.

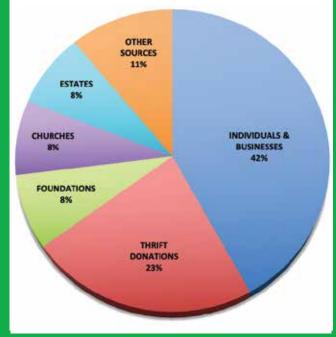
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Cox, Chairman - Houston
Mike Calvert, Exec. Com. - Houston
Scot Foith, Exec. Com. - Flower Mound
Beth Walker, Exec. Com. - Houston
Bruce Barnard - Universal City
Jerry Browder - Denton
Dale Harbison - Edmond, Oklahoma
Kevin McDonald - Houston
Randa Upp - Abilene
Tom Winkler - Garland
Jana Woelfel - Houston



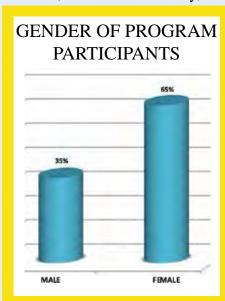


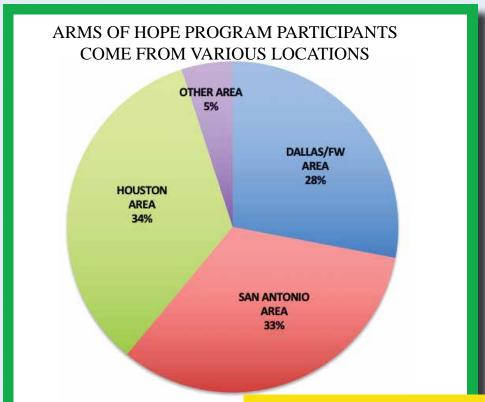
INCOME SOURCES



rounding counties. These residents come from all ethnic backgrounds and are comprised of children from birth to early twenties and singlemother families. The largest population of children in Arms of Hope's care are under the age of 12 with the majority age between 6-12. Our residents come to us with many challenges. Less than 3% come from two-parent homes. have experienced heart-aching situations such as poverty, failed adoptions, family members unable to continue providing needed care, abuse, neglect and placements by a Juvenile Probation Office. Most of the single mothers and their children who come to Arms of Hope are considered to be homeless and all are poverty-stricken.

As we minister to those in need, we seek to follow the heart of Jesus, encouraging His children to come to Him. Arms of Hope saw 27 program participants become followers of Christ this year. To meet the needs of residents in our care we create a comprehensive "plan of service" that helps them succeed by measuring and examining various areas of life such as health and wellness, emotional stability, so-

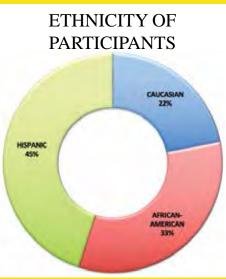




cial skills, and education. Improvements have followed with 85% receiving better grades in school than when they first entered our care and 36% now on the Honor Roll. Extracurricular activities are attended by 90% of school-aged children thanks to the support of our staff and resources provided by our programs.

Through our Christ-centered environment, 65% of all Arms of Hope residents have either experienced positive reunification with their families or graduated from one of our programs. Arms of Hope is truly making a difference for those impacted by adversity and loss of hope by providing programs offering physical, emotional, and spiritual transformation.

27 Arms of Hope program participants became new followers of Christ this year.

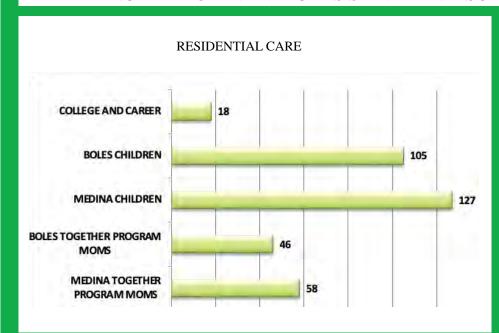


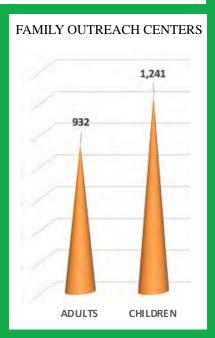


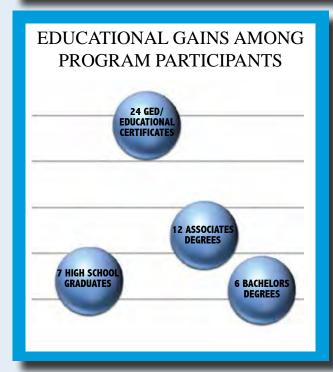


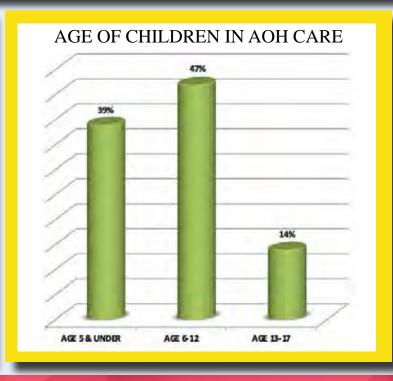
All campus residents receive professional therapy.
In Fiscal Year 2023,
5, 384 hours of professional therapy were utilized by Arms of Hope residents.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2023









Programs Offered on Arms of Hope's Two Residential Campuses and in its Urban Family Outreach Centers Include:

RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE **PROGRAM**

The Residential Child Care Program meets disadvantaged children's physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs in a family-like atmosphere, where house parents function as mother and father figures. Residents range in age from 5 to 18 and live in cottages with eight to ten children. Arms of Hope provides for children's basic daily needs including shelter, food, clothing, counseling, supervision and education.



TOGETHER PROGRAM

The Together Program helps motivated single mothers and their children transition into successful, independent futures by providing counseling, accountability, parenting skills, career training and a home in a peaceful and safe environment. These mothers are fleeing homelessness, domestic violence, human trafficking, abuse or have lost sustainable support when a death, incarceration or divorce have occurred and there are no other means of provision.

COLLEGE & CAREER PROGRAM

The College and Career Program provides assistance for Arms of Hope high school graduates with support through college, trade school or into their first job and often includes accommodations for graduates, who have not yet found a place to call home.

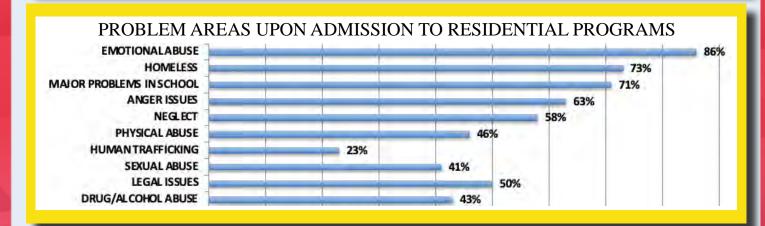
RIGHT START PROGRAM

The Right Start Program helps expectant single mothers prepare for motherhood, while providing shelter, necessities and skills needed to care for their newborn babies. It serves as an entry point for women coming into the Together Program, who desire to be a parent and learn how to establish a healthy family environment for their children.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

Family Outreach Centers provide physical, emotional and spiritual assistance to underprivileged children and families in their own neighborhoods, which are some of the most financially distressed urban areas in Texas including Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. Arms of Hope provides short-term immediate assistance to prevent homelessness, hunger and disconnected utilities. Invaluable long-term resources are also offered to help change a person's future, such as in-depth case management, needs assessments, counseling and family workshops. All clients receive prayer, Bible study and church referrals. For those suffering from extreme abuse, Arms of Hope residential campuses become their new home.

Arms of Hope strongly believes in evangelism and discipleship. Through spiritual opportunities including regular church services, campus devotionals and Christian camps, 27 participants in our Residential Child Care, Together and Family Outreach Center programs became new followers of Christ in Fiscal Year 2023. All residents are given daily opportunities to grow in their faith by encountering house parents, case managers and counselors that show unconditional love and respect. Each campus has a dedicated minister specifically for residents' spiritual needs and the ministry team oversees all spiritual activities and devotional curriculum.



How You Can Help

Volunteer - Arms of Hope welcomes over 60 groups per year for week long mission trips and weekend retreats. To bring your group to Arms of Hope, please inquire online at *ArmsofHope.org*.

Monetary Donations - All general donations support the programs of care provided by Arms of Hope and can be one time gifts or can be scheduled as recurring gifts. Donate online at ArmsofHope.org.

Planned Giving - Discover new ways to make a gift that also takes into consideration your personal circumstances and the needs of your heirs including Wills, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Lead Trusts, etc. Explore the value of charitable gifts that require a little thought, but pay off in big benefits to you, your family and Arms of Hope. Send inquiries to *PlannedGiving@Armsof-*Hope.org.

Scholarships - Many of the children and single-mother families that we care for have the desire, ability and need to further their education. Sometimes the only missing ingredient is the necessary resources. You can help Arms of Hope make certain no one in our care is ever deprived of a quality education by providing funding for scholarships for our residents.

Sponsor a Child or Family in Our Care - Taking care of needs like clothing, food, school supplies and household items is essential. The children and families in our care benefit immensely when you show you care by financially supporting the procurement of items essential to them. Sponsorship programs are available for all giving levels.

Learn more about how you can help at ArmsofHope.org

In Fiscal Year 2023, Arms of Hope hosted 51 different volunteer groups, 1,119 volunteers and 21,354 volunteer hours! Volunteers are an invaluable asset to Arms of Hope whose manual labor and ministry truly make a difference in the lives of our children and single mothers.

Do You Want to Make A Difference by Volunteering?

To bring a group of your friends to Arms of Hope, please inquire online at ArmsofHope.org

Please consider remembering your family and friends by sending memorials and honors to Arms of Hope.





Organizational Goals for 2024

- Complete construction of a four-plex on the Boles Campus for four additional single-mother families.
- ❖ Complete renovation of the hospitality center on the Medina Campus to expand the capacity for housing volunteers.
- Expand the College & Career Program on both campuses to increase opportunities for young adults in poverty-stricken urban areas.





Arms of Hope friends and supporters had a fabulous time at the Reaching Generations Houston breakfast featuring Jeff Bagwell. Jeff spent his entire 15-year career with the Houston Astros, while winning the Rookie of the Year in 1991 and National League Most Valuable Player in 1994. He helped lead the Astros to six playoff appearances and one World Series. Jeff hit 449 homeruns, the most in club history, as well as winning three Silver Slugger awards and one Gold Glove. He was elected to the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and to

the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2017. The crowd loved hearing about Jeff's baseball stories and his love for the great city of Houston, but they were truly inspired by his honesty and transparency in battling addiction. That battle was also shared by the real star of the night, former Arms of Hope resident and current dedicated staff member, Ashley. This amazing single mother courageously shared her background of abuse, addiction and darkness and how God, through Arms of Hope, brought her into the light. "In October of 2009, I

was a hopeless, homeless meth addict that was knocking at death's door. In December, I moved to the Arms of Hope-Medina Campus with my two children and they showed me a love that I never knew existed. I received case management, counseling and spiritual support that shaped my new foundation with God. I now serve the women at Arms of Hope with my full heart and soul as the Director of the Together Program. Arms of Hope did not just change my life, but also the lives of my family for generations to come."



My name is Krystal and I am a sister, a twin, a former resident and current employee of Arms of Hope, a college graduate, a wife, and most importantly a child of God. Growing up, it wasn't always easy to see the path to meeting many of these goals. When I was five, my siblings and I were regularly passed around between family members who often were not the healthiest of people. My twin and I were six and my brother was eight when we were placed at Medina Children's Home. We were introduced to our house parents, the Lacy's. One of the best parts of the six years that we spent in the Lacy's house was that my siblings and I truly got to be kids. I remember arriving the first day at Medina with a Walmart bag full

of clothes and one toy. Before the end of the first day, I was showered with clothes, toys and other goodies that made me feel welcomed. That movement from just surviving to enjoying being a child was truly a life-changing moment. Mrs. Lacy would hug me when I was sick and she would feed me healthy meals so I could grow. The Christian example that the Lacy's showed me and especially the Christian marriage they lived was starkly different than what I had seen, and I knew that it was what I wanted in my future.

After six years at Medina, our leaving was unexpected. While on a home visit, our aunt decided she would watch over us from then on. We didn't

have an opportunity to say goodbye to what had become our home, and more importantly, those who had become our home. Through high school, I lived with my aunt and uncle in Abilene. After high school I was on my own, working three jobs and trying to make ends meet while attending college. It had been ten years since I had been to the Medina Campus and my sister and I had the opportunity to return with the Aggies for Christ from Texas A&M University. The best part of the trip was that the Lacy's didn't know we were coming and we were able to surprise them!

While we were on campus and serving for the week, I was informed















...in the good, the bad and everything in between.

that Medina was looking for summer interns. After meeting with the campus leadership, I was offered the internship and was so excited that I would once again be returning to Medina. Now not to receive care, but to give care to others!

Life between that fantastic week of volunteering and my summer internship was not what I expected at all. I ended up in a sexually abusive relationship and with that trauma, my spirit and faith struggled. When I returned for the summer I felt that God was at work, and my faith was restored. God's grace and strength were found once again on the Medina Campus. I remember that summer thinking that I didn't want

to leave and God heard that prayer as well. At the end of the summer, I was approached about caring for the Arms of Hope children full-time. It was truly an answer to prayer! That fall I was no longer a resident or an intern, but a healthy adult who could love kids, care for them, and point them to the love of Jesus. I was so blessed to serve.

In 2018, God opened another door for me to move to Arms of Hope – Boles Campus. I was offered the job of case manager for the College and Career Program. The love that I have for both campuses is real and is truly a gift from God. While working for Arms of Hope I finished my Bachelor's and Master's degrees. I often tell people that I may

be the first in my family to graduate college but I will not be the last.

One of the biggest blessings of my life came from meeting my husband, Travis. We met through church and were married in April 2021. Travis and I live on the Boles Campus, where we are plugged in and enjoy being a part of all that God is doing. I am thankful for all the ways that Arms of Hope has cared about my family and faith, and for all the encouragement and accountability I have been given. Looking back on my life, it is easy to see how God has always been with me in the good, the bad and everything in between.



Arms of Hope-Boles Campus, along with the Harbison Family, joyfully praised God for the opening of the Harbison Education Center. This beautiful building was originally built in 1936 and served as the Beverly Woodward Nursery that ministered to thousands of children through many decades. With twenty-one individual study cubicles, a library/tutoring room and working kitchen/life skills

training room, this extensive remodel generously donated by Dale and Amy Harbison will be a wonderful "education destination" for our residents to pursue higher education and career training.

Two amazing single mothers in the Together Program shared at the ribbon cutting how important education is to their future success. Marisol

graduated in December with her master's degree from Texas A&M-Commerce and Leanet is working towards her bachelor's degree from the same wonderful university. Both ladies shared with the crowd their education journeys and how thankful they are to Arms of Hope and the Harbisons for this wonderful building that will enhance the residents' educational success.

























Dale Harbison, Arms of Hope Board member and avid supporter of the Together Program, then shared: "Amy and I are very excited about the opening of the Harbison Education Center. This is another milestone in the exciting things happening throughout Arms of Hope. The Together Program fills a dire need in the lives of these mothers and children by providing them with housing, food, clothing and counseling in a nurturing and safe Christian environment. Listening to the testimonies of these families and their gratitude for this program will make you shout for joy, praise the Lord and want to do more to help them. The Harbison Education Center will give the moms the privacy of individual rooms where they can study without being interrupted. This has proven to be a great benefit for

the moms on the Medina Campus in the Barnard Education Center."

Thank you, Dale and Amy, for your incredible generosity and using God's blessings to help those in desperate need at Arms of Hope! ■

Summer Ministry







Thank you Arms of Hope donors for making the summer of 2023 one to remember! The children served on mission trips, participated in multiple VBSs, explored the outdoors, experienced field trips and became closer to Jesus at summer camp. Camp is an unforgettable time of year for our children to make new friends and many give their life to Jesus and are baptized at camp! Every year 125 of our residents get the blessing of attending and we can't wait to see what God has in store for the summer of 2024.









Christmas Blessings







A huge thank you to the visiting groups and churches that make our children so happy at Christmas! Your heart-felt generosity of donating toys, hosting a Christmas party or organizing a Giving Tree at your congregation truly made a difference in the lives of our residents. To change a child's life for Christmas of 2024, please email givingtree@armsofhope.org.











In Fiscal Year 2023,
Arms of Hope was
ministered to by
51 different groups
containing a total
of 1,119 supporters
who provided
22,158 volunteer
hours!































To contact us about volunteer opportunities, please e-mail: Volunteer@ArmsofHope.org











Arms of Hope Happenings



Natalie and River, sisters in our Boles Together Program, enjoyed making Thanksgiving brownies!



Thank you to the Shawnee Trail Church of Christ for the amazing donation of tickets to a professional soccer game in Dallas! The moms and children on the Boles Campus had an awesome time.



Arms of Hope Fort Worth Family Outreach Center is honored to help Rebecca and her beautiful family! She is such an amazing mother and hard worker. We are excited about walking with Rebecca in achieving her goal of becoming an assistant teacher in Fort Worth ISD.



The young adults on the Boles & Medina Campuses had a wonderful time of learning at the College & Career retreat. The theme was "Who am I?" All weekend that theme focused on remembering that they are God's beloved children!



The Houston Family Outreach Center was honored to work with Wiqueda and her beautiful 12 year old daughter. We were blessed to help this family with rent, which kept Wiqueda enrolled in school. We invited them to our partner church and, most importantly, had the privilege of praying for their future!



Thank you, Ty Squiers Construction, for once again blessing the Medina Campus with snow cones from Kona Ice for a back to school treat!



Five residents from the Medina Campus were honored to bless a needy family in McAllen, while on a mission trip with the Kerrville Church of Christ. Emma worked hard getting the sheet rock ready to go! It's important for AOH residents to have opportunities like this to serve others.



Thank you, Kerrville Church of Christ, for another amazing Trunk or Treat given for the children on the Medina Campus!



Houston Family Outreach Center workers loved teaching the 4th grade reading class at Impact Church of Christ's Vacation Bible School!



Way to go, Garrett, on the Boles Campus! This amazing senior was accepted into Texas A&M and Katie, an A&M graduate herself and the Boles Education Coordinator, couldn't be prouder.



Way to go Amanda on the Boles Campus! This amazing mom was awarded a scholarship to attend Texas A&M-Commerce from the Lions Club of Greenville.



So proud of Zion in the Boles Campus College & Career Program! She has officially started at Texas A&M-Commerce.



Andrew on the Medina Campus did a great job placing 2nd in his class at the Bandera County Livestock Show!



Thank you to the Lakepointe Church from Rockwall for putting together a playground at the Boles Campus! Our children love it.



Boles children did an AWESOME job showing rabbits at the Hunt County Fair and Livestock Show!



Emma and Sahira look beautiful for the Medina Homecoming Dance!



The Houston Family Outreach Center was honored to support Lenelle through some unforeseen expenses and provide Christmas blessings for her children. We love walking alongside and praying with families.



Thank you to the Children's Ministry of Saturn Road Church of Christ for your amazing VBS donation of over \$10,000 to Arms of Hope! We are so honored to receive this generous gift.



Thank you to the Vaughan and Calvert families for their amazing gift of two vans for the Medina Campus! These vans are so important, as the campus opened a new five-plex for single mother families.



We are blessed to love on our youngest residents like Salix and provide them a safe home!



A great tradition at Boles High School is the Senior/Kinder graduation walk. Emily, one of our amazing seniors, did a great job!

Kerrville Golf Tournament





























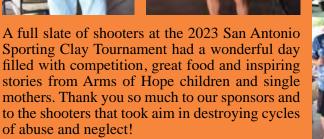
Arms of Hope



of abuse and neglect!





























Adams, Lowell Betty Adams Adams, Lynn Maurya E. Hill Adkins, Leonard & LaRue Traci Adkins Bailey Buckley John Buckley Adorno, George "Rico" Betty Newman Albers, Lynette Kyle & Lynn Albers Amason, Charles & Elvira Mark & Sandra Mattick Cindy Rakowitz Ammons, Dr. Jack Denny Laura Colgan Beth Mikeska Sandra Twyman Anderson, Frank Nelson & Karla Anderson Anderson, Marlene Nelson & Karla Anderson Anderson, Victoria Fowler Royce & Kathleen Mason Atkins Betty Troy Brazell Jr. Benny & Trudy Cullon Decatur CoC Autry, Jake & Wanda Robert H. Davis Autry, Wanda Mickey & Joyce Flowers Jeremiah & Heather Holland Robert & Jean Kelso Kelley Pounds Janice Thurman Autry, Wanda Lafaye Marvin Payne Wendy Sigler Bailey, Christene Joyce Brown Duane & Suzanne Mock Ballow, Bedford Kelley Beanblossom Ken & Jeanne Brandes Deborah Deas Rick & Doris Knox Michael Neill Ballow, Bedford "Bruce" Charolette Phillips Ballow, Bruce Joe & Anlene Odom Barnard, George & Bonnie Mary Vick Barnes, Cecilia L. Scott Barnes Barringer, Polly Dan & Marsha Bailey Bearden, Hershel Ken & Barbara Parker Smithville CoC Becerra, Viki Rudy Becerra Belton, Johnny Rita L. Alderson Berry, James Louis & Carole Nance Berry, Thomas Jerry D. Griffin Bertagnolli, Frances "Fran" Bernard Col. Frank Q. Bertagnolli, Ret.

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Shane & Cheryl Calvin

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Carman, Katherine Elizabeth

Farid Faathi-Govashin

Cannon, James Allen

Lila Rochelle

Marina Bonilla

Elliott Johnson

Armando Loredo

Bipassana Shrestha

Cause, Amanda & Geneva

Wes Bowen

Vidal Perez

Vicky Stagner

Juanita Beck

Linda Cause

Carmical, Charles

Chadwick, Joree Claudia Hall Church, Jeri Leonard & Myra Kent Cipriani, Dan Rex & Malissa Baugh Claycomb, Jack Rider Rex & Malissa Baugh Connally, Pat Mickey & Paula Ray Cox, Beatrice "Bea" Steven & LaDonna Mack Cox. Dovle David & Kathy Warren Cox, Everet & Bea Bernie Kay Brown Gary R. Cox Craft, Ethan Leonard & Myra Kent Crain, Bruce Karla McGowan Dalton, Carolyn Lisa Flores Dalton, Carolyn Britten Barbara Hejl James & Tammy McIntyre Marinell Yates Davis, Betty Leonard L. Kent Davis, Joe Gerald & Linda Burrow Day, Tommy David & Ann Quinn Dean, James Reagan Sharon M. Erikson Mike & Lisa Pipkin Preston Road CoC Dean, Reagan Dallas & Darla Dill Houston & Anita Goodspeed Kenneth & Ginny Hogg Dennis Sr., Don Sharon L. Sharpe Denson, Tom & Nell Greg N. Latson Denton, Douglas Southside CoC Derrough, John William Tim Vermillion DeWoody, Marie PFG Advisors Dickens, Lloyd Michael & Elizabeth Miller Diffell, Christopher J. Roger W. Abraham Dorothy, Aunt Donald & Sue Burke Duncan, Amy

Frances Briscoe (1929-2023)



Frances Briscoe passed away into the loving arms of Jesus in July of 2023 at the age of 93 years young. Frances was a longtime supporter of the children at Arms of Hope and will truly be missed. She was born in 1929 in Lannius, Texas to Clyde and Anna Bankston. Frances married Ishmael Briscoe in 1949 in Bonham, Texas. She loved gardening, cooking for her loved ones and cheering for her beloved Dallas Mavericks. Frances was a member of the Durant Church of Christ in Oklahoma and was cherished by the congregation. Frances is survived by her sons and daughters: Tim Briscoe (and wife Terri) and Dean Briscoe (and wife Louise), Pam Worsham (and husband Jack) and Patsy Litke (and husband Gary). Her amazing legacy lives on with thirteen wonderful grandchildren, twenty eight great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Kurtis Carlson Jeffrey D. Duncan Bradley & Dawn Stinson Duncan, Dale Jeffrey D. Duncan Duncan, Roy Dale Gregory Marshall Duncan Dunks, John Duane & Suzanne Mock Dickie & Ann Robertson Dyer, Theresa Carolyn Fultz Rebecca Minster Duane & Suzanne Mock Dickie & Ann Robertson Ebarb, Billy Roe Era Buck Office of Educational Development Tameka Jackson Edge, Marth Leonard & Myra Kent Edmiston, Frances Leonard & Myra Kent Edmondson, Chris Carolyn Edmondson Ehlig, Margaret Charles & Brenda Paulk

Ellenburg, Elizabeth Nell

Jim & Dee Ann Cummings

Kerry & Patty Dykes Fendley, Mr. & Mrs. Grover M/M Charles Fendley Ferguson, Sr., Robert E. Charlene McElhaney Festervand, James Karla McGowan Fine, Tyler Diane Naylor Finley, Era Jean Simmons Fluth, John Duane & Suzanne Mock Fox. Jim L. Judy C. Fox Grimes Truck & Auto Parts LLC Nancy Olson Fox, Jimmie Lynn M. Gallimore Freeman, James Keith Mike & Sherrye Richardson Fridge, Cliff Donald & Sue Burke Frv. Nelda Barry & Karen Alexander Jeff & Debra Bailey Walter & Judy Burnham Robert & Julia Crider Jr. Carolyn E. Fox

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Jimmy & Kathryn Helm Hal & Cyndy Miller Linda Pimentel Jefferson & Malena Rampy Sidney & Susan Robin Jerry & Teri Weathers Fry, Teddy Wayne & Nelda Fry Gafford, Frances Birchfield Mike Collard Scott & Sarah Collard Gardner, Cathleen Deborah Hanna Frank James Gates, Collis Southside CoC Gerstenberg, Sherry Dickie & Ann Robertson Goodwin, Roy & Bonnie Mike & Gwen Treat Graham, Troy Curtis & Lillian Bingham Graves, Fina Dallas & Darla Dill George & Diane Dishman Ken & Linda Henry Sidney Jacobs Royce, Jr. & Ruth Ann Prude Ken & Judy Teague Carol Wallace Graves, Joan Glenn & Rita Murphy Greene, Ashley Stephen Bailey Gregory, James Michael Decatur CoC Grisham, William M. Jim & Carol Boykin Guion, Christy Mickey & Paula Ray Gustafson, Mark Leonard & Myra Kent Hair, Mary David & Susan Wilkinson Hale, Willie Mae Kyle & Pat Hale Jann C. McGuire Hall, Clarence "Corky" Lisa C. Skinner H. Kent Tyler Haller, Elmer & Patsy Michael Ingram Hamilton, Rovana Stephenson Family Harris, Leah F. Edward La Fuente Col./Mrs. Richard C. Porter Cynthia Stewart Harris, Reba & Ima Liz Simas Hartin, Roland & Lola Karen Kyles Hartman, Maxene Billy & Sylvia McClendon Harvey, Linda Gerald & Linda Burrow Haskell, James Judy C. Fox Hatch, Don & Joann Sherri Hatch Hathcock, Barbara Andrews CoC Hawk, John Nolan & Patricia Graham Hawkins, Katherine

James D. Hawkins Hawkins, O.S. & Susie Mickey & Paula Ray Henry, Burt Gordon & Carolyn Gesell Henry, Jim **B&R Field Services LLC** Jay Ray Hester, Sr., Lonnie Charles Chuck & Shannon Boyer Hines, Cvnthia C. Chuck & Shannon Boyer Hoker, Katherine Denise Haynes Holland, Karen Lynn Harold & Billie Curtis Hollon, Brandon & Thelma Jerry & Randy Hollon Honeycutt, Ronnie Kenneth Sewell Hood, Marc Donald & Sue Burke Hood, Marshall Duane & Suzanne Mock Hooten, Mary Kemp Carolyn E. Fox Horton, Pete & Fayrene Steven R. Horton Houston, James John & Billie Davis Howard, Royce J. Marlene Bowman Bill & Karen McKay Mary Steed Hudson, Barbara Duane & Suzanne Mock Hudson, Lorna Richard & Sue Sample Hughes, Dorothy Memorial CoC Hughes, Sandra Mickey & Paula Ray Ingram, David Leonard & Myra Kent Ingram, Thelma Janette Leonard & Myra Kent Ipson, Marshal Andrews CoC Irby, Barbara Dickie & Ann Robertson Jaskson, Rhonda Lorenza Jackson Jones, Kell R. James Y. Brown Jones, Lois Jeannie Kysar Genelle Patton Max & Debra Redgate Steven & Connie Redgate Robert & Marla Woods Kellam, Chanda Stephen & Rene Bailey Duane & Suzanne Mock Dickie & Ann Robertson Kellum, Laura Bernie Kay Brown Kelly, Vera Chuck & Shannon Boyer Kemp, Karon Wayne & Nelda Fry Kensing, Caroline Dennis & Christine Cavner

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Justin Cliffe (1997-2023)



Arms of Hope mourns with our former Board member, Lori Massey, in the passing of her son Justin Rand Cliffe. Justin was twenty six years old and died in San Antonio. He was born and raised in the same great city and attended Brandeis High School and the University of Texas. Justin then gave his heart to the mental health field, helping those in need in Utah and San Antonio, most recently as an employee of Laurel Ridge Treatment Center. He is preceded in death by his father, Jason Cliffe, his grandfathers, Jim Cliffe and C. Raymond Massey Jr., his grandmother, Cathy Massey, his great grandparents, AnitaBelle and C. Raymond Massey Sr, and his great grandfather, Harry Cliffe. Justin is survived by his mother and stepfather, Roger Brissette, his siblings, Taylor and Jaimie Brissette, Parker Brissette, Tyler Cliffe, his grandmother, Sherry Cliffe, his great grandmother, Mary Cliffe, in addition to aunts and uncles Sheri and Wayne Harbour, C. Raymond Massey, III and Jami Massey, Amy and Doug Mayfield, and Peggy Cliffe, as well as numerous other great aunts and uncles and cousins. In addition, Justin was supported by many close friends, who he considered to be family.

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Pope, Wayne

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Chuck Jennings

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Mike F. Pipkin
Rusty & Regina Prim
Robert Shaffstall
Ian Stotts
Pitch Thompson
Gerald & Carol Jean Virden
Alfred & Elizabeth Williams
Young, Bonnie
Southside CoC
Young, Louise
Sharon Mitchell
Zant, H.N. & Zona
Lyneil Beck

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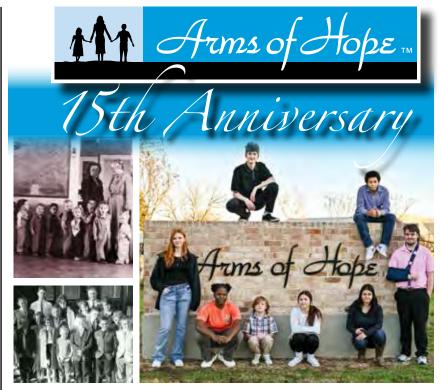
Edwina Ramey

Walsh, Fred & Merri Mickey & Paula Ray Wilhite, Bailey Bill & Darlene Wilhite Wilks, Wayne & Pat Keith Bickham Jr. Zolno, James Elizabeth Castellano

Don Dennis (1932-2023)



Arms of Hope mourns the passing of our dear friend, Donald (Don) Eugene Dennis, Sr. Don was born in Birmingham, AL on August 19, 1932, to Turner and Mae Dennis. He passed away on August 9, 2023, at the age of 90 in Mesquite, TX. He married the love of his life, Patricia M. Dennis (Pat), on December 27, 1953. They were married for 62 years until her death in 2016. Don received his chemical engineering degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) in 1954 and started his career with the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant. After completing his service for the Army, he worked for several chemical companies before taking a position with Mobil Oil Corporation. He and his family moved a number of times early in his career from Aberdeen, MD to Pensacola, FL, Doylestown, OH, Lakeland, FL, Richmond, VA and Dallas, TX. He retired from Mobil Oil Corporation in 1993, after 28 years of service. He and Pat moved to Magnolia, TX and lived there until moving to Christian Care Center in Mesquite. He formerly attended church at Highland Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas, served as deacon at the Church of Christ in Magnolia, TX and most recently as elder at the Christian Care Communities & Services Church of Christ. Don is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his sister (Elizabeth Betchtel). He is survived by his sister (Linda Hearst), sons Steve, Don, Jr. (Deni), and Dave (Traci), granddaughters Kelly Dennis Shearer (Andrew), Angela Dennis Allen (Ben), and Stacy Dennis, along with greatgrandsons Easton, Shade and Cannon Allen, and many other loving nieces, nephews and cousins. Don will be remembered most for his kind and gentle spirit along with his steadfast love for God, his wife, his family, and the body of Christ. We rejoice knowing that he is at peace with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Arms of Hope is excited to celebrate its 15th Anniversary since the consolidation of Boles Children's Home and Medina Children's Home. The Boles Campus (est. 1924) and Medina Campus (est. 1958) began as Christian homes for orphans, but grew with innovative programs to serve at-risk children and single-mother families. The 2009 consolidation occurred to achieve efficiency, geographic diversity, increased capacity, and additional program offerings. The consolidation has been extremely successful because of Arms of Hope's priority to recognize the history and traditions of the original organizations, while expanding on its efforts to meet new societal needs and maximizing the numbers served.

Summer 2023 Campus Interns

Arms of Hope interns led devotionals and Bible studies, organized activities, helped chaperone children, and showed the love of Jesus!



"I was so excited to love on AOH moms and kids and see God move!" - Linda



AOH Birth & New Births in Christ



Brittany is in the Boles Together Program and we were honored to walk alongside her as she gave birth to precious Kariselle. We are so proud of moms who make the decision to protect unborn life and Arms of Hope will always be there to help! Arms of Hope is honored to provide a safe and loving home for our youngest residents and help mothers through the labor journey. Children are a blessing from our Lord and we rejoice that mothers choose to come to this ministry to begin their future with their child.

RIGHT START PROGRAM

The Right Start Program helps expectant single mothers prepare for motherhood, while providing shelter, necessities and skills needed to care for their newborn babies. It serves as an entry point for women coming into the Together Program, who desire to be a parent and learn how to establish a healthy family environment for their children.

During the past 15 years, AOH has been blessed to celebrate the births of 50 babies.















Sharing the Gospel and love of Jesus with all of our residents is the number one priority at Arms of Hope. In Fiscal Year 2023, we celebrated 27 new brothers and sisters in Christ! Your donation to Arms of Hope truly makes the greatest return on your investment. Eternal differences!





















Fund-A-Need

Daily Needs for Arms of Hope Residents

Includes food, clothing, shelter, school activities, loving house parents, medical/dental care and other necessities. 150 Children per year on the Boles and Medina Campuses \$75 per day per resident, \$2,000 per month, \$25,000 per year

Counseling for All Program Participants

Christian Licensed Professional Counselors \$70 per session (reduced rate), \$280 per month / \$2,700 per year

Daycare

Arms of Hope's Boles & Medina Campuses have 125 children in both state licensed daycares each day, which allows our single mothers to attend college or technical training. The 20 full-time staff members follow a Christian Curriculum and each child participates in devotionals. They receive meals and snacks each day. \$500,000 Per Year Total Operational Cost

Cost Per Year Per Child - \$4,000 Cost Per Month Per Child - \$350 Cost Per Week Per Child- \$80

Family Outreach Center

Support a family's physical needs in one of Arms of Hope Family Outreach Centers in Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Houston or San Antonio. Needs range from rental assistance, food, utilities, school supplies, etc. - \$1,500 a year / \$125 a month Counseling and Case Management - \$500 per family per year

Summer Camp

Over 125 Arms of Hope children participate in week-long, quality Christian Summer Camps each year. Activities include rock climbing, rappelling, zip-lines, Christian devotionals, etc. Arms of Hope residents attend with nine churches (300 children) from across Texas. Each year, many Arms of Hope children are baptized at camp. Lifelong memories, friends and connections are made and camp is truly an experience of a lifetime.

Cost - \$450 Per High School/Junior High Cost - \$150 Per Elementary School Child

CHURCH & CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY......10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE......11:00 Leaving asting

The refurbished red brick church building in the small West Texas town of Ira sits silent today. Throughout the years, while big questions of theology and evangelism were discussed inside, other questions were pondered in the parking lot of the Ira Church of Christ following services. Will we have rain this year? How will the cotton crop turn out? What about the future of cattle, the price of oil, and the rumors of a new wind farm? And as always, how will the six-man football team do this year?

The Ira Church of Christ, established in the early 1900s, has seen some great seasons of ministry. Stories of gospel meetings are woven into the historical fabric of the church. Brusharbor camp meetings, congregational Christmas parties, 4th of July cookouts, volleyball nights, swim parties, and even Sunday night ropings and rodeos are part of the nostalgic tapestry. Memories of Wednesday evening

showings of Jule Miller film strips rest alongside those of visiting choral groups from Abilene Christian College and Lubbock Christian College.

Interestingly, the Ira church rarely had a local preacher. A decision was made years ago to select graduate students from what is now ACU and occasionally LCU. Over the years, the Ira church served as a valuable training ground for countless young ministers. These ministers and countless families partnered in a vibrant ministry to the local community and beyond. Time has taken its toll, and like many rural churches, changing demographics and family mobility have brought that season of ministry to a close. Several members of the Ira church gathered in April to pray and share communion one final time. Stories were shared of God's provision and care over the years. The old building was once again alive with joy. There was a very real sense of closure that day.

However, this was not the final chapter of the Ira Church of Christ. Earlier, the decision had been made by the leadership and longtime members to lean forward into God's mission of care. The building was deeded to the Ira School District to be used as a place for struggling students to meet for counseling, guidance, and instruction. The remainder of the church assets were then given to Arms of Hope to assist in caring for single moms and children. The Ira Church has long sought to impact the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their final move as a church was to continue that faithful mission of compassion. To the members of the Ira Church of Christ, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. And thank you for your vision beyond today to leave a lasting legacy to those in need. Because of your gift, the Kingdom continues to grow, and the Good News will reach new lives.

You already make a difference for our mission. What if you could continue to make that difference every year forever?

A Legacy that lasts Forever



Charitable Tax Deduction

A tax benefit you receive when making a charitable gift. The deduction reduces your tax liability in the year that the gift is given to charity. The amount of the deduction is typically equal to the fair market value of the charitable gift.

Endowment

A charity's investment of certain gifts that earns a financial return for the charity to support its mission. The charity typically spends only the earnings of the endowment and continues to invest the principal so that the endowment continues to support the charity in perpetuity.

Estate Tax Deduction

The potential tax benefit your estate and family will receive if you leave a charitable gift to an organization such as ours in your will, trust or other documents that are part of your estate plan.

May We Help You? We welcome the opportunity to answer further questions and work with you and your advisors. To learn more about how an endowment can help you achieve your goals, please contact us: (830) 522.2203 or plannedgiving@armsofhope.org.



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COMANCHE TRACE"

Comanche Trace is proud to support Arms of Hope, working hand in hand to make a positive impact in the lives of those in need in the Kerrville community.







