

celebrating *divine* **PROVIDENCE**
at **GIRLS' HAVEN**

September 2019 - Vol. 3



**WE
FIGHT.**

We make maintaining sibling connections a reality at Girls' Haven. Research suggests that siblings placed together experience lower risk of failed placements, fewer moves, and many emotional benefits. Siblings placed together often feel more secure and are able to help each other adjust to their environment. A purpose that is **➤** (*greater than*) as a result.

ONE child...**ONE** life...
a **WORLD** of **OPPORTUNITY** at **GIRLS' HAVEN**



{ brought to you through the generous contribution of **ubeo** BUSINESS SERVICES }

Learn about **UBE**O, at ubeo.com or call 409.240.2203

www.girlshaveninc.org

Since 1994, we have been comprised of an amazing community of people who do. **People like you**, who see the need and give their resources so this vital work can be accomplished.



03 who we are and the impact of volunteers



04 information and announcements



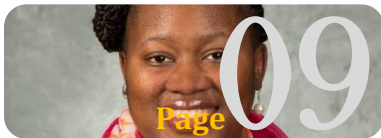
05 a supporting role



06 girls' haven and 1st responders field day



08 a promise kept



09 q and a: with Amber Clark



10 a word from the executive director



11 friendly new faces



12 upcoming 25th annual gumbo festival

BOARD of DIRECTORS

John Ceravolo
PRESIDENT

Margueritte Humphrey
VICE PRESIDENT

Cary Coffin
TREASURER

Lanell Wilson
SECRETARY

Richard Malone
OFFICER AT LARGE

Matt Gilby
BOARD DIRECTOR

Katherine Ramsey
BOARD DIRECTOR

Marcelo Molfino
BOARD DIRECTOR

Rozanne Blount
BOARD DIRECTOR

Clay Thomas
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EHRHART CHARTER SCHOOL

Mike Sims
SUPERINTENDENT

Corina Long
PRINCIPAL

OUR MISSION

Girls' Haven seeks to provide a safe, nurturing environment for girls affected by physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment or severe family dysfunction

ONE child...**ONE** life...a **WORLD**
of **OPPORTUNITY** at **GH**
www.girlshaveninc.org

WHO WE ARE

Trained professionals that show consistent love and compassion for our residents at Girls' Haven. We invest in the lives of our residents, helping them find a sense of belonging that will support maximizing their full potential.

- **We Serve** primarily children referred by the foster care & juvenile justice systems, private parties, counseling networks, churches & schools
- **Ages 6 through 17** for basic care services
- **Ages 18 through 22** for Independent Living
- **Our Community** is at the heart of Girls' Haven. From the beginning a product of this community, through our 25 years: you have poured in your time, heart, gifts and funds
- **Our Funding** comes primarily through community donations and grants: Only 33% of our funding come from the state
- **Your Gifts Allow Us to Fight for Our Kids**, giving them much more than food and shelter
- **Our Success** shows itself over time:
 - ***In the Short Term** as our kids realize their own worth and the value of others, they become leaders in their areas of influence and a blessing to the world around them
 - ***In the Long Term** as they form their own families and carry the values and truths they've learned at Girls' Haven into adulthood, creating generational change
- **We Are Grateful** as we look to the future knowing we can continue to trust you, our community, to include us in your story



THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS

Thank You Molina Healthcare

“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.” Spoken by Greek philosopher Aristotle over 2300 years ago, one of the most ancient quotes about volunteering offers proof that giving back to the community is hardly a new concept. At Girls' Haven, we want motivated, not mandatory volunteers. We want willing, not "paid" volunteers. Add up the hours if you must but do not be blinded by the numbers. The value of volunteering is much deeper, much more fulfilling and much more important in contributing to a healthy and vibrant community than money can ever measure.

An example of this great deed are the volunteers from Molina Healthcare who came to the campus the day before the school season began, to provide a full day clinic consisting of hair & nail manicures for our entire campus of girls. Volunteering at Girls' Haven brings together a diverse range of people from all walks of life. It helps us gain perspective on life as there is no better way to understand your blessings than to help people in need. There is a volunteer opportunity for every kind of person. It is incredible to think that one person's or a group of people's efforts can change the life of someone else somewhere in the world. However, the best part, and often overlooked is that volunteering is just plain fun. Thank you, Molina Healthcare for this awesome experience that supports our efforts to bring life changing experiences to children at Girls' Haven.

ONE child...**ONE** life...a **WORLD**
of **OPPORTUNITY** at **GH**
www.girlshaveninc.org



information and announcements

page 04

Turn to page 12 and learn more about our upcoming 25th annual Gumbo Festival.

GH wish^{list}

In-kind contributions allow you to participate in the ministry of Girls' Haven by providing goods, skills, or services. And they are tax deductible contributions.

ITEMS

- Comforter Sets (twin size for all ages)
- BBQ Pit (Large)
- Tablets (for school projects & homework)
- Lawn Furniture (for our playground courtyard)
- Campus Storage Building (for tools, bikes & sports equipment)
- Lawn Mowers (zero turn preferred)



Celebrating 25 years
of services provided for
children.



Thank you, Praise Church of Beaumont as one of our residents was baptized this summer. There is no other feeling than seeing the peace that washes over them. At Girls' Haven, we believe deeply in the redemption of every child that comes to us.

"But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:25-27



Thank you, Signature Group for coming to our campus monthly to celebrate and present gifts to our residents for their birthdays. The Signature Group has been offering this volunteer activity for Girls' Haven since 2014.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 | NIV



WESLEY UMC SUMMER GARAGE SALE

This past summer, GH residents participated in an annual garage sale that is held by Wesley United Methodist Church. For participating, the girls earned proceeds that were used to take the entire campus of girls to a Cirque Du Soleil event in San Antonio, Texas.

Thank you, Wesley United Methodist Church for your generous contribution that allowed Girls' Haven to bring a never-before activity experience to our residents. And a special thank you, to all of the GH staff who worked so hard to make this past summer a safe and fun time for the campus.



GIRLS' HAVEN MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentoring creates and leaves an impact in our girls' lives. Foster care children find more self-confidence, self-esteem, and are able to create big goals for themselves. Additionally, studies show that behavior, attitudes, and relationships improve when a youth has a mentor. Through our mentorship program, our residents witness, possibly for the first time, what it means to be an influential, nurturing, and giving person.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for one of our residents, contact us Natasha Slack at (409) 832-6223 or via email at natashia.slack@girlshaveninc.org www.girlshaveninc.org

WE
BELIEVE.

In generational change through children: that by restoring a child's identity, we can make a positive difference both in how that child engages the world and in their posterity.

page

05

Girls' Haven is a place where lives are nurtured, dreams are formed, and futures are shaped. This was true at our earliest beginnings and continues to be true today. As world circumstances have changed, so have the needs of children in foster care. Girls' Haven has proven over time a readiness to adjust to meet those evolving needs. As one of the many avenues used to address the needs of our residents, Girls' Haven is supported through annual fundraising events that includes a spring golf tournament benefiting Girls' Haven. The four-man scramble golf tournament; held at the Beaumont Country Club has been an annual event and part of Girl's Haven's history for several years and this is because of the generosity of Mr. Joe Penland and The Penland Foundation. Since 2006, The Penland Foundation has been a major contributor; ensuring that this event occurs every year for Girls' Haven. But the supporting role by Mr. Penland stretches far beyond hosting the annual golf tournament, and it began more than 20 years ago.

In 1994, Girls' Haven was incorporated and by 1996, a small group of girls were placed in a small house less than 3,000 square feet that was located close to Mr. Penland's business. He recalls passing by the house several times, noticing that 3 or 4 girls were outside playing, and he became curious about the small operation and contacted the home. Upon gathering information, he learned that this was a non-profit organization charged with taking care of foster kids. He also learned that a house less than 3,000 square feet would not be enough to serve the much-needed population of foster children and he made it his goal to help expand the program. Working with Community Bank, a larger building consisting of over 30,000 square feet was purchased and renovated, and by the year 2000, Girls' Haven moved to our current location; 3380 Fannin St. Our current facility is able to house up to 32 residents, has a courtyard, conference room, cafeteria with a dining hall, two-large day areas, racquetball court and has two floors. Mr. Penland's sheer will and commitment has provided residents at Girls' Haven with much more than a place to stay. This unlikely gift is being used with intention and purpose to put children on the path to become healthy adults, to provide safety nets that all teens and youth adults need, to spiritually sow into lives in a way that prepares them to love on others in need. Criss Jami said, "Good works is giving to the poor and the helpless, but DIVINE works is showing them their worth to the ONE who matters." This speaks to the passion that Mr. Penland and many of our other supporters have. Thank you for being an "all in" community. The generational change that takes place on this campus could not happen without you. Your support has fueled the process for 25 years, impacting kids who have broken the cycles they grew up in.

At Girls' Haven, a World of Opportunity is perpetuated each day as our donor's **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, IN-KIND GIVING**, and support for our **ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS WORK TOGETHER** to fill the gap between the 33% of funding provided by the state and our annual operating budget. That *we are able to* serve each child that comes to us with excellence is a **direct result** of Mr. Penland's and our other donor's **GENEROSITY**.

a supporting role



Joe Penland, Sr.



ONE child...ONE life...a WORLD
of **OPPORTUNITY** at GH
www.girlshaveninc.org

2019 Girls' Haven & 1st Responders 1st Annual Field Day



At the heart of what we do at Girls' Haven is engaging the **community**. Building positive relationships with children that come from neglectful environments need to engage positive role-models, so that they can begin on a path that is encouraging. The introduction of our end of the summer 1st annual Field Day alongside the 1st Responders of southeast Texas represents the creativeness that we bring to every child that comes to us. Sometimes, we need to allow the kids to simply be kids! Thank you, 1st Responders and congratulations to **Chief Rod Carroll & the Vidor Police Department; *1st place.**



EVENT SPONSORS

Urban Air
UBEO
Southeast Texas Water
Texas Roadhouse
Market Basket
Zummos
Acadian Ambulance

TEAMS - 1st RESPONDERS

*Vidor Police Dept.
Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Port Arthur Police Dept.
Beaumont Police Dept.
Acadian Ambulance Service
Orange Fire Dept.
U.S. Coast Guard



VOLUNTEERS

Cary & Frank Coffin
Katrina & Shane Dickens
Rose Thomas
Jade Thomas
Kevin Henry
Marcelo Molfino
Keffer's Photography
Tim Sudela (drone photography)
Kyle Byrnes; A.K.A. DJ. Local


FIELD DAY EVENTS

Obstacle Course
Sack Race
3-legged Race
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Tug-A-War

GH STAFF

Nikki Bell
Mary Brown
Leslie Valentine
Mandy Jay
Ken McDuff
Kaylee Dickens
Clay Thomas
Brittany Otey
Bethany Keeling
Natashia Slack
Lorrie Tobey
Jackie Shello
Amber Clark



We know **community** is  (greater than) **going at it alone**. Thank you, to all 1st responders of southeast Texas, volunteers and staff for making this special event possible for the residents at Girls' Haven.



a **promise** kept

Growing in a spirit of thankfulness

Majority of the time, accepting a child into our program is one of the most gratifying moments experienced at GH. Because we believe that the tools needed to restore hope and to heal a resident, happens here. However, other times, can be a reality to us that many of these children come from poor situations that have not allowed them to simply be kids. During the interview and intake process with our new resident *Katrina, it was discovered that this 13-year old had never had the privilege of shopping for clothes. Removed from her family and home over five years ago, two unsuccessful foster-to-adopt homes, and in addition to a twelve month stay in a residential treatment center, this young kiddo has never had the experience of going to a community mall. As staff, we are trained to expect the unexpected circumstances of kids who come to us; however, learning of this was disappointing to staff. As part of explaining GH's program to *Katrina, she was promised that the shopping experience would become a reality for her. Within days, she was taken by one of our Youth Care Specialist to the Parkdale Mall to enjoy the atmosphere smell of new clothing...and she purchased clothing as well!



*name has been changed

The most common thinking error made by those that do not work inside of the foster care arena is that a placement facility is designed to "save" kids...that we are here to ensure that these children will be successful and have no additional difficulties. However, the reality is that they will continue having struggles, but as time passes, it's our prayer that they will benefit from our program. The work at GH calls for us to provide first time experiences for children...to develop a specific road map for children...to come alongside of children during their struggles...to provide healing for children...to keep *promises* to children...and they will eventually "save" themselves. We are honored as changed agents to serve *Katrina and our other residents.



High School Graduate



College Student



Independent Living Teen

Meet 18-year old Precious, a High School graduate, a Lamar Institute Technical student and recently transitioned into our Supervised Independent Living Program for young adult teenagers.

WE | **Independent Living**
DO. | A divine commitment. A step further into ensuring our kids succeed.
A mission that is **>** (*greater than*) as a result.

ONE child...**ONE** life...a **WORLD**
of **OPPORTUNITY** at **GH**
www.girlshaveninc.org

q and a:

with Amber Clark
Program Director



Amber Clark is the Program Director at Girls' Haven and responsible for overseeing activities, supervision and safety for our residents. A Master's degree graduate from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas and a Beaumont native, she is passionate about directing the development part of our program for residents.

Q: How did you develop such a passion for working with children?

a: As the Program Director of residential services, I have opportunities to work with a variety of kids, families, passionate GH staff and other professional agencies. On a daily-basis, I lead a group of wonderful direct care staff; participating in solving complex problems, and situations that keeps my brain moving at a pace enabling me to continue learning and growing each day.

Q: Every child that comes to Girls' Haven needs to be healed. How do we accomplish this with our kids?

a: The most powerful tool in our arsenal is developing meaningful, powerful and sincere relationships with each child that comes to us. There are over 400,000 kids in the foster care system. Most of these children are not criminals or bad kids. They are in foster care at absolutely no fault of their own. Their biological parents just can't care for them right now. These kids have experienced horrible trauma, abuse, neglect and drug addiction. As a result, they were removed from their home, which from an adult perspective is a good thing...but it's a horrible loss for the child no matter what. Slowly, but most certainly, Girls' Haven is helping to facilitate not only healing for children, but a positive change.

Q: What are some of the life-changing experiences that we bring to our kids that live here?

a: We invite more love into their life. We know these children need our love, attention, affection, and encouragement. It's up to us here at Girls' Haven; we are changing the course of a child's life. We are not able to be heroes for all children in the world; however, we are heroes to the kids at GH; one child at a time.

Q: Why is it important that we establish and maintain positive relationships with our kids at Girls' Haven?

a: Trust is extremely important to children, especially children that are in the foster care system. You will make a difference in the life of each child you interact with each day. This may not be quite the way we expected in our roles as staff at Girls' Haven.

ONE LIFE.

Hurting people **hurt** people. We see the proof of this daily in the lives of so many of our kids affected by deeply wounded parents whose own pain resulted from being raised by **similarly broken** souls. It is a progression that extends back and back and back...We purpose to break those cycles of **drug use**, of **abuse**, of **poverty** and of living from a place of woundedness so that our kids can live the fullest, so that they can **DANCE THROUGH LIFE** without the past dictating their steps.

“We aren’t just *thrown* on this earth *like dice across a table*. We are **lovingly** placed here for a purpose.”

- Charles Swindoll

page

10



Our position in the heart of the community of Beaumont has made you present in our lives and you have had a formidable influence on the success of our kids. You have been donors, employers, advocates and encouragers to our kids for 25 years. We are powerful because of your presence in our lives. Thank you for walking through life with Girls' Haven and our kids.

a word from **the** Executive Director

One afternoon, several of my staff and I were approached by a few of our residents for an unusual request. They asked if T-shirts with the “Girls’ Haven” name be made for the residents to wear. Initially, we thought this was a joke as we know kids say just about anything for attention. However, through continuing conversation with them, it was apparent that they were serious and want to show how proud they are to be in the GH program and that they are not ashamed that the community know where they live and who is responsible for their care. For many people who do not understand the impact of being in foster care, this revelation by the residents is huge! They were advised that we would look into the request.

A few minutes later as I returned to my office and began to think about the conversation with the residents and realized that in my nearly 20 years of experience working with foster care and juvenile justice kids where I have worked in other successful programs and facilities, I do not recall kids expressing how proud they were to be in a particular foster care program. And I am certain that residents from other programs and facilities I have worked for did not make this type of request. As the thought of the conversation began to soak in, I was reminded that Girls’ Haven is a special place where kids believe in the relationship opportunities that we provide...they believe this is a safe place where adults can be trusted with their care. And that residents of Girls’ Haven...one child at a time...are learning how to cope with past failures that have tormented many of their short lives.

It has been said that success is defined as the ability to move from failure to failure with no lost enthusiasm. We know the moment that kids arrive at our facility, that they have lost so much...that they have experienced so much failure. Our residents expressing “no shame” of where they live speaks to what we do here and who we have staffed at Girls’ Haven. When you choose to work with foster care children, the most important thing a person can take into this job is a reason why! Each day, we witness that reason! Thank you and Blessing to all GH staff and those who support our efforts!

Thanks for loving kids,

Clay

Clay Thomas, M.S., LCCA
Executive Director of Girls’ Haven, Inc.

donors

FINANCIAL DONATIONS and GRANTS are the lifeblood of Girls’ Haven. Providing roughly 67% of our budget, the remaining 33% from the state contract, private donations and grants are truly what allow us to exist. We are so blessed by all of you who have lovingly and generously given of yourselves for the benefit of the children at Girls’ Haven.

DONORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018: September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019

100 + Donors

ONE child...**ONE** life...a **WORLD**
of **OPPORTUNITY** at **GH**
www.girlshaveninc.org

friendly new faces

Back Row, Left to Right

Valerie Thomas
Swing Shift Supervisor

LaJolla Fontenot
Youth Care Specialist

Ken McDuff
Campus Maintenance Manager



Front Row, Left to Right

Courtlyn Hale
Case Manager

Kelly Smith
Youth Care Specialist

Girls' Haven welcomes Natasha Slack, M.A.; LPC as the Clinical Director. Natasha comes to us from Land Manor, Inc. where she served as Associate Executive Director.

Natasha is a native of Louisiana that grew up in a pastor's home where she learned that God cares about the needs of others; therefore, she believes her mission is to seek out opportunities to be a vessel for healing. She has a combined education that includes a Bachelor of Art in Public Relations from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in Monroe, Louisiana and a Master of Art in Community Counseling from Our Lady Cross College in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a Licensed Professional Counselor with 17 years of experience, she believes that good mental health is the beginning of a holistic wellness. As a therapist trained to work with children who have experience severe trauma, she has implemented weekly groups for our residents and a primary goal for our program is to educate children and provide the skills they need to handle crisis that they encounter. In addition, she has designed specific crisis management training for our staff that is equipping them with the tools they need to work successfully with our residents.

Natasha believes that personal experiences prepare each of us for the adult role that we have been chosen for. Growing up in a blended family posed many difficulties for her; however, with the help of her faith, she developed the passion to heal young children. As the Clinical Director at Girls' Haven, she leads a team of committed specialists that strive each day to bring hope and a sense of belonging to our residents. She has been successful developing positive relationships with our residents; a strategy that is instrumental in helping the residents improve their behaviors. Girls' Haven welcomes her to our team!



ONE child...**ONE** life...a **WORLD**
of **OPPORTUNITY** at **GH**
www.girlshaveninc.org



CALLING ON ALL COOKS!!

DON'T miss *the* 25TH ANNUAL



Do you make the **BEST GUMBO** in SETX?
Then, it's time to start preparing your team for
the 2019 Girls' Haven Gumbo Cook-Off!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH: 11AM-5PM AT PARKDALE MALL PARKING LOT

Register Your Team Today!!

\$100 – 10' x 10' Space & 1 Gumbo Entry

\$150 – 10' x 20' Space & 1 Gumbo Entry

\$200 – 10' x 20' Space & 2 Gumbo Entries

To register a team or to become a sponsor, call (409) 832-6223 or email via kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org



{printing brought to you by
Learn about Kirksey's at kirkseys.com or call 409.899.1771}



GIRLS' HAVEN
3380 FANNIN ST
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77701
A publication of Girls' Haven, Inc.

