

**“Life** *is all about* **RELATIONSHIPS**...*the rest is just details”*

March 2019

-Gary Smalley



**THANK  
YOU.**

**BECAUSE YOU GIVE,** their lives are being redeemed.

Our kids will grow up to be loving moms, diligent workers, compassionate employers and engaged members of the community.

Vol. 02

Turning Tragedy **TRIUMPH**

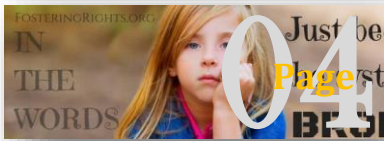


[www.girlshaveninc.org](http://www.girlshaveninc.org)

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 our services



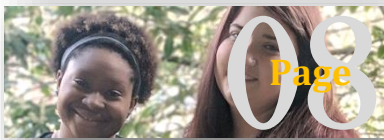
## 04 information and announcements



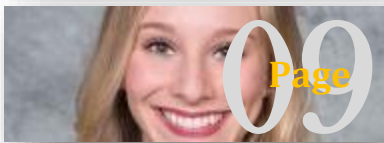
## 05 stepping into the light of humility



## 06 an evening amid the stars - GALA



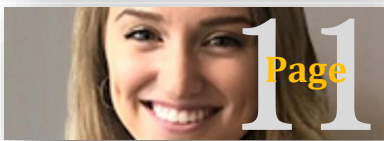
## 08 adulting with a safety net



## 09 q and a: *with Bethany Cherry*



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## 11 friendly *new* faces

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

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*and ABOVE ALL, WATCH with glittering eyes the whole world around you* because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. **Those who don't believe in magic** will never find it.

-Roald Dahl

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# 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 nearly 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 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



# OUR SERVICES

- 32-bed non-secure basic care general residential operation
- 10-bed Independent Living Program for young adults
- Programs & services licensed by the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services
- Homelike environment with only 1 girl per bedroom *or close friends*
- Length of stay varies; 30 days to several years
- On-site licensed professional counseling; weekly individual & group therapy
- Trauma informed care; Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)©
- On-site facilities for recreational activities; gym, playground, courtyard, soccer field & racquetball court
- On-site cafeteria for food services
- 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization designated by the IRS
- On-site Ehrhart Charter School for grades Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> including Volleyball, Basketball & Softball



# 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

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**IMPORTANT STUFF** *we want you to know*

# information and announcements

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## A WORTHY CAUSE FUNDRAISER

- Turn to page 10 for more information about the Mother's & Daughter's fundraising opportunity.

## INFORMATION & AWARENESS LUNCHEON

- Girls' Haven has begun hosting monthly I & A Luncheons. Tours of GH's facility and the Ehrhart Charter School, Q & A, and lunch with key staff is included. For more information, call us at 409.832.6223 or contact via email [kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org](mailto:kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org)

## ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

- Our annual four-man scramble benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, April 29th at the Beaumont Country Club (5355 Pine St.) with lunch to be served at 11:30a.m. and tee time at 1:00p.m. If you are interested in entering a team or to participate as a sponsor for the event, call us at 409.832.6223 or contact via email at [kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org](mailto:kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CLAY SHOOT

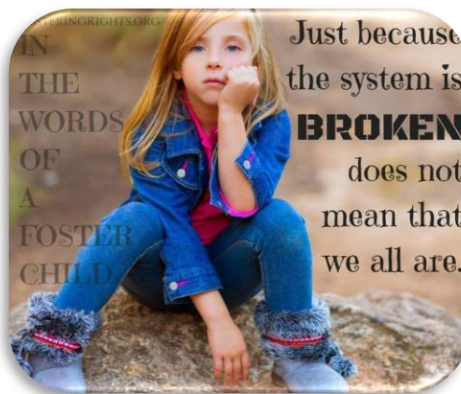
- Girls' Haven is introducing an additional annual fundraiser for this fall. The Clay Shoot is scheduled for August 2019. If you are interested in entering a team or to participate as a sponsor for the event, call us at 409.832.6223 or contact via email at [kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org](mailto:kaylee.dickens@girlshaveninc.org)

## RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



After 20 years of services with Girls Haven as Maintenance Supervisor, Rob Turner has announced his retirement.

Prior to working at Girl's Haven, Mr. Rob worked for the Business & Professional Men's (BPM) Club for 10 years. The GH family congratulates him for his past service and commitment to the girls, staff and our organization.



***We are not afraid  
to grieve.  
We are afraid of  
what would happen  
to these children if  
no one took the risk  
to love them.***



This year we are **celebrating 25 years** of services provided to children from around the state.

In 1994, Girls' Haven began out of a single **DECISIVE MOMENT**. A need was seen, and a decision was made. There was work to be done. The "why" was understood; to care for girls in need. The "how"...well, the "how" has, at times been uncertain. But His hand of providence has always been at work.

## GH wish<sup>list</sup>

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

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

### TIME

- Volunteer Activities Coordinator (*10 hrs per wk*)
- 10 Mentor Coaches

(If you are interested in volunteering or to get involved at Girls' Haven, please contact us)

Thank you to everyone who had a part in fulfilling so many of the items on our previous list!

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# STEPPING INTO THE LIGHT OF HUMILITY

Proverbs 22:6 tells us that we are to “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This verse well represents what Girls’ Haven is all about and what our staff does on a-daily-basis. We are responsible for ensuring that our kids are enrolled in school, taken to medical appointments, properly fed and to remind them they are an intrinsic value no matter where they have come from. We are responsible for developing meaningful relationships with them on any occasion that presents itself. Sometimes it is in the day of small things such as teaching bicycle lessons for the first time. Imagine, growing up as a child and not having the opportunity to enjoy such a simple activity. On a cold freezing and rainy afternoon, our Treatment Director discovered that 14-year-old \*Rebecca didn’t know how to ride the bicycle that was generously donated to her this past Christmas. Mr. Alan, who has a habit of demonstrating humility at the highest level decided to put his usual duties aside and began the instructions. As usual, such a new event was challenging for Rebecca; however, she put her feet on the peddles and gripped the handlebars while Mr. Alan repeatedly guided her on the campus parking lot...successfully!



As we continue developing relationships and teaching skills to our kids, we know from the words of Winston Churchill, “success is not final, failure is not not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” Our kids are courageous, and they should be congratulated...daily! Rebecca has led us into exploration – to see what is behind her struggles, to discover what works and what doesn’t. She is a prime example of how we must mold our program to fit each child’s needs rather than the other way around. The fight for Rebecca has kept us conditioned and ready for battle for our other kids. We have grappled with the desire to give in – the perception that the battle is *too* long and *too* hard. We must be determined to be “in it” for the long haul, willing to advocate for Rebecca, and all of our kids, to the end. We have realized that we must keep in mind who she is, who she is becoming and who the battle belongs to, or the fight becomes overwhelming.



Mr. Alan Apperson is the Treatment Director and a licensed professional counselor at Girls’ Haven. He is responsible for overseeing all treatment services provided to our residents. He is experienced in treating “at-risk” children with mental health disorders as well as anxiety, depression, and anger. He is a veteran counselor with over 15 years of experience. He is very instrumental in the operations at Girls’ Haven. Alan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Texas A & M University and a M. Ed from Lamar University.

\*name has been changed

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# GALA

## An Evening Amid the Stars

This year's annual event was held on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Beaumont Event Centre. The Bella Notte theme event included a four-course gourmet Italian dinner with wine pairings, live & silent auctions benefitting Girls' Haven. This year's Honorary Star recipient was Exxpress Mart for their work that raised an incredible \$40,000.00 for Girls' Haven's first ever Point of Sale Campaign. This year's Media Star recipient was the Roy West Radio Show for his instrumental work in making it possible for Girls' Haven to be heard by his large audience.



2019 Honorary Star  
Exxpress Mart



2019 Media Star  
The Roy West Radio Show

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE COMMITTEE

Candace Carver-Brooks  
Louise Colletti  
Brooksie East  
Sherlon Jones  
Katie Shepley  
Roni Stephenson  
Jodie Wood

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                            |  |                                  |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| John Ceravolo<br>President | Margueritte Humphrey<br>Vice President | Cary Coffin<br>Treasurer         |
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### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Regina Rogers  | Cary & Frank Coffin          |
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| Carol Cash   | Beaumont Emergency Center    |
| Kate & Rod Carroll                                   | Andra & Richard Malone       |
| Provost Umphrey                                      | The Ehrhart Charter School   |
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| Harbor Healthcare System                             | Beaumont Bone & Joint        |
| Valero   | Gentile Construction         |
| The Garth Family                                     | Sherry Ritter                |
| Exxpress Mart  | Lanell Wilson & James Byerly |
| TSO; Dr. Blount, Dr. Kimball, Dr. Patel & Dr. Rhodes |                              |

### AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE LIVE AUCTION DONORS



\*Menu and wines selected by Kate and Rod Carroll and friends; Thank You!



Because what is gained is **>** (greater than) the cost. Through your support we provide intentional, purposeful experiences and building blocks to shape well-rounded and healthy individuals. Thank **YOU** for making the GALA a special night!



{ Photography brought to you through the generous contribution of Keffer's Photography }  
 Vidor, Texas (409) 769-9799



**ABOVE &  
BEYOND.**

**BECAUSE** doing what is effective is **>** (*greater than*) doing what is easy.

The Independent Living Program is just one example of how we continue to grow as a ministry.

**THANK YOU** for your continued commitment to residents like Clarissa & Skylar.

# ADULTING WITH A SAFETY NET

**Y**ears ago, nationwide, a foster child upon graduating from high school was abruptly dropped into adulthood. With no family support, frequently no place to live and few marketable job skills, the result was often understandably tragic. Girls' Haven began the Supervised Independent Living program in 2017, taking an initial step into combating this problem. The SIL program trains our residents for adulthood and allows them to take gradual steps towards independence within close boundaries. Behind the scenes, we have been researching and planning. Rather than extend the time which our residents are dependent and under tight boundaries, we want to prepare kids for the future by offering independence with support and the opportunity to fail so they can learn and grow with a safety net.

Meet Clarissa (19) & Skylar (18) who are roommates in the SIL program. Each come with their own unique journey of being in foster care; however, together they are learning that their past doesn't have to be their future. Clarissa arrived at Girls' Haven in 2014 and progressed through our basic care program until she was old enough to transfer to the SIL program. She currently has a job at Goodwill and has a goal to become a Veterinarian. She is happy she chose to do this because she realizes she will be able to grow into who she is because of this opportunity. She feels honored that GH put her in the SIL program. She went from a year ago not thinking she'd graduate high school to living on her own, but with people around to help her if she needs them.

Skylar has been in the Girls' Haven program since May of 2017. In August of 2018, she was afforded the SIL program opportunity. She is employed at Sally's Beauty Supply and recently applied at Lamar University and Texas State University and wants to major in Construction Management. She plans to take advantage of this opportunity she's been given to have a positive effect on the younger kids.

For these young ladies, this is a big step into adulthood. It's getting to grow into adulthood rather than being shoved into it. Most foster kids don't know what to do after graduating from high school – they're just thrust into full-on-adulthood, but Girls' Haven is allowing these young ladies to grow up at a more normal rate. It's adulting with a safety net. Girls' Haven is saying "We care about you, and we're not going to let you fall on your face...and if you do, we're going to pick you up and help you figure out what you need to do and what we need to do to help you succeed."



When they were children, they talked like children, they thought like children, they reasoned like children. Now that they have become **women**, they are learning to put their ways of **childhood** behind them.

-modified

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# q and a:

with Bethany Cherry  
GH Case Manager



Bethany is a Case Manager of Residential Services and part of our treatment team at Girls' Haven. She is responsible for ensuring that our residents' medical, educational, behavioral, emotional and legal needs are met. She is passionate about the work that she does with the residents and is a positive influence for them. She is a graduate from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies and Minor in Social Work. In addition, she is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Family Studies.

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

A: I had always wanted to work with children but was unsure in what setting. During my last semester of undergrad, I spoke with an administrator with Girls' Haven and instantly wanted to be part of the mission. Within a short amount of time during my internship with Girls' Haven, I knew it was a place I would always want to be involved with. It is humbling to have the privilege of being a small stepping stone in a child's journey through life.

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

A: We help to heal our girls by offering them a healthy home-like setting with positive encouragement daily. Many of our girls come from very dysfunctional households that lack love and guidance. Our top priority is to nurture girls and let them heal from the inside out. It is truly beautiful to see the girls overcome their trauma and step-by-step begin living a healthy life just as every child should.

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

A: We often take for granted the small luxuries we do for ourselves or for our own children. While here at Girls' Haven, going to Schlitterbahn Water Park, the zoo, or simply getting the girl's nails done can be a first-time experience for many of them. Seeing a young girl attend her first birthday party or friend's sleepover is truly heartwarming. It is touching to see the excitement in our girls when such a small activity can bring so much joy.

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

A: Some of our girls have never developed healthy relationships due to their past trauma. They are often stand-offish, not trusting of others, and afraid to make attachments. By providing positive relationships, we help them learn to have trust in people. It is our goal to have a bond with each of our girls and ensure they know they are special by building them up each and every day.

WE  
BELIEVE.

One of our **greatest JOYS** is **REDEEMING CHILDHOOD**. So many who come to us have never experienced the innocence, freedom and joy that should be present in the early years of life. Instead, they have known pain, turmoil and adult responsibility. **We seek to be the vessel through which RESTORATION is pour out.**

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# Girls' Haven

together with

## Keffer's Photography

p. 10  
presents "Mothers and Daughters"

An opportunity to create and share a portrait of a cherished relationship and a chance to give to a very worthy cause.

### A WORTHY CAUSE FUNDRAISER

Beginning March 1 - May 31, 2019, Keffer's Photography will donate a percentage of every portrait session of "Mothers & Daughters" to Girls' Haven. This is to help our ongoing efforts to serve girls of Southeast Texas.

This would make a fantastic Mother's Day gift and you would be donating to an amazing cause!

For more information call Keffer's Photography at 409.769.9799 or visit their facebook page.



Donate \$5



*Brenda & Danny Keffer*

With 25 years in photography and marketing, Danny and Brenda Keffer have been able to do what they love. With 7 children and 27 grandchildren, family has always played a big part in everything they do. And of course, their life experiences give them a great perspective as they work with couples, families, seniors, children, and pets to create the portraits that capture emotions while creating memories. They stay involved in our community with projects like: Girls' Haven, Children's Miracle Network, the Gift of Life Program, and the American Cancer Society. One of their favorite projects was the creation of "Portraits of Courage," an exhibit featuring cancer survivors ranging from 2 - 70 years of age. The exhibit received coverage from radio, television, and newspaper. This exhibit really touched their lives. They also received the American Cancer Society - Texas State Media Award for their work.

### Keffer's Photography

Phone: 409.769.9799

Address: 265 East Courtland, Vidor, Texas 77662

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**WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE** *the newest members* of our team.

We're not in it for the income...we're in it for the outcome!

## friendly <sup>new</sup> faces

We are excited to present our five new team members; Alicia Permenter, Mary Brown, Virgie Hafford, Lorrie Tobey & Kaylee Dickens.



**ALICIA PERMENTER**  
Shift Lead



**MARY BROWN**  
Youth Care Specialist



**VIRGIE HAFFORD**  
Youth Care Specialist



**LORRIE TOBEY**  
Receptionist

**Girls' Haven** welcomes Kaylee Dickens as the **Development & Public Relations Coordinator**. Kaylee comes to us from the Samaritan Counseling Center in Port Arthur, Texas.

Kaylee is a native of Longview, Texas; however, at the age of 9, she and her family moved to Southeast Texas where she has resided since. She graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Corporate Communication. She also obtained an Associate of Arts degree from Lamar State College in Port Arthur. While at the Samaritan Counseling Center, she was part of a team that specialized in strategic marketing and event coordinating; implementing marketing strategies, including social media analytics. Prior to the Samaritan Counseling Center, she was an intern at the Southeast Texas Art Museum where she developed a marketing campaign for the "Rock On" exhibit that included creating press releases, marketing graphics and promoted local artists via social and local media. Kaylee also has experience as a Photographer and Videographer while she was at Ternion Athletics in Nederland, TX. During her time there, she organized marketing strategies; successfully using creative media to promote events.

Kaylee enjoys spending time with family, friends and worshipping at Encounter Church in Groves, Texas. She has a desire to have a career that revolves around serving others. She joins Girls' Haven because she wants to be part of ministry that is greater than herself. As a member of the team, she is responsible for overseeing the development and marketing strategies that enables Girls' Haven to remain connected with the Beaumont and Southeast Texas community.



### **WHEN YOU GIVE TO GIRLS' HAVEN OF BEAUMONT, TEXAS,**

you give so much more than food & shelter; you provide children with a home and family where they:

- are nurtured physically, spiritually and educationally
- learn their identity and explore their talents
- learn what healthy relationships are and what they do
- learn to value others and the joy of serving others
- are a valued part of a larger community

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Thanks to your help, Girls' Haven can provide kids with a safe and comfortable environment to live in each day and sleep in each night.

- Clay Thomas  
Executive Director



GIRLS' HAVEN

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

## a word from the Executive Director

As we continue into this young 2019 year, we are looking forward to the many great things that will happen at Girls' Haven. At the top of that list includes celebrating our **25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary** of services provided to children. Since **1994**, our staff, mentors and volunteers have met kids in the darkness of loneliness, and we have asked them to be courageous enough to trust us with their care. On a few occasions, we have not had the ability to light the room for every child, but majority of the time, we carry a spark and it speaks Hope. For the past 25 years, Girls' Haven has touched the lives of thousands of children that have grown up in environments of abuse, neglect and exploitation. We know that today's foster care children need structure, discipline, routine and organization coupled with effective therapeutic treatment services to heal each of them.

Thanks to your help, our kids no longer have to wonder how they will make it through another night of sleeping in their parent's car because they are homeless or how they will make it to school since mom never made it home last night. We can give them the safety, security and consistency that they have lacked.

Thanks to your help, Girls' Haven can make sure our kids are given three healthy meals a day. Fending for themselves and their siblings because a parent has an addiction problem or because an absentee father or mother didn't buy groceries this month is no longer a reality for these kids. They do not have to go to sleep hungry anymore, and they don't have to be the "parent" in their families. **They simply get to be kids!**

Thanks to your help, Girls' Haven can be a family to a child who desperately needs a family to love them, care for them, and support them. When we are able to do these things for every child who comes through our doors each year, something amazing happens. We experience God at work in this place as He transforms what was once lost and broken and makes it new. It is an honor to do this work, and Girls' Haven is grateful to **YOU**, our faithful supporters and friends, for the mission we have been given in this community to serve these little ones.

Always Grateful,

*Clay*

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

## LIVES **YOU** HAVE TOUCHED

I had the recent pleasure of visiting with the husband of a woman who used to live here at Girls' Haven - she was one of *our kids*. He said to me, "She's a better mother because of her time there."

Soak that in. **SHE'S A BETTER MOTHER BECAUSE OF YOU.**

**THAT'S WHY YOU GIVE TO GIRLS' HAVEN.** Of course, you care about children, *now*, about kids having a better life, *now*. But you also want them to have a better future - to **BE** a better future. You want to be a part of developing better wives and mothers, business owners and employees, neighbors and friends. **SHE'S A BETTER MOTHER BECAUSE OF YOU**, and so are many, many more. **THANK YOU!**

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