Paying it forward
Meet one of our board members who shares an incredible story about how a mentor changed the course of his life, and how he’s repaying the favor on page 4.

Top 5 myths about foster care
Have common myths kept you from taking the first step to becoming a foster parent? Let us help to set the record straight on page 12.

Achieving his dreams
Through the LIFE Project, Michael’s been able to start a path to a bright future. Read more about his story on page 14.

Finding a forever family: the Moffatt’s story
Michael, who was abandoned at 13 years old, finds a forever family two years later. Read about their amazing journey to each other on page 16.
From Our CEO | Dr. Wayne Carson

One of the joys of my job is getting to know incredible children, young adults and parents who refuse to let trauma or crisis prevent them from having a fulfilling life. Many of the children and families we serve have experienced significant life challenges that are difficult for the rest of us to understand. But their courage and resilience can lead to a hopeful future. Their stories are powerful examples of what can happen when the determination of someone in need is met with the support and guidance of a caring adult.

ACH has been able to successfully sustain for 100 years because of the dedication of many caring adults. Foster parents, volunteers, donors, board members, staff, and so many others have been there when children needed someone to help. Because they care so deeply, they make an impact and allow healing to happen.

The stories in this issue of reACH focus on those who selflessly give their time and skill to help our children and families.

Joe Greenslade, one of our board members, shares his story about a pivotal time in his life when a mentor stepped in and changed his future.

Michael, a young adult who spent most of his childhood in foster care, is a client in our supervised independent living program. His story of overcoming a rough start to life with the goal to mentor children in foster care is inspiring.

Our foster parents are truly heroes. In the Top 5 Myths about Foster Care, you will learn more about the realities of this important role.

The Moffatt family followed their hearts to adopt a 15-year-old boy looking for a forever home.

This is the world the ACH staff and I witness every day. Amazing acts of courage, love, and desire to help others. These individual stories have created a 100 year tale of safety, hope and love. This is how we, as a community, protect children and preserve families every day.
On April 21, ACH staff hosted a reception to appreciate the volunteers who we rely on so much throughout the year. In 2015, 153 different volunteer projects were completed with over 873 volunteers serving 3,089 volunteer hours. These hours saved ACH over $76,000 last year!

To be a volunteer, it takes generosity with a willingness to give your time to others. Understanding because the lives you touch might be very different from your own. Empathy with the ability to put yourself in someone else’s shoes and feel what they must feel. Compassion to truly care about making someone else’s life better. Patience because the process doesn’t always go as smoothly as you hoped. And dedication to stick with it and see it through.”

~ Lynn Newman, ACH Board of Directors

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your selflessness and your support. We couldn’t do all of this incredible work for children and families without you.
Joe Greenslade, at one time, was a boy who loved playing high school football and never intended to go to college. He was raised by his grandmother without parental involvement and worked part-time through high school to help with family expenses. None of his family had attended college, so it didn’t occur to him that higher education may be an option in his future.

Through football, he was noticed by the dad of another student who attended high school with Greenslade.

“He happened to be an avid football fan and a rabid Aggie,” Greenslade said. “He had done some checking on me and told me he thought I was eligible for the Opportunity Award Scholarship at A&M.”

Greenslade said he was so out-of-the-loop when it came to college that he had to ask what A&M was. Through his mentor’s help, Greenslade attended Texas A&M University on a scholarship and completed his degree in business management.

“After graduation, I asked how I could ever pay him back,” Greenslade said. “And he said, ‘Just do something for someone else along the way.’ That was a pivotal point for my life and it impacted everything that has followed since. I’ve really dedicated myself to paying it forward.”

While leading a successful business, Greenslade has mentored hundreds of teens and young adults along the way. His commitment to paying it forward started in the 1980s and continues today.

A program he initiated at Paschal High School in Fort Worth with two other colleagues is one he takes pride in having developed. It’s a mentoring program that helps students prepare for and earn acceptance to college.

“One of the things I’ve learned with my experience at Paschal is that most people choose their majors in a very hap-hazard, unscientific way,” Greenslade said. “Many of
these youth have very little support or encouragement from home. If they believe in themselves enough to even register for college and they choose an inappropriate major, and it’s more difficult than expected, they feel like they aren’t meant for college.”

Greenslade researched and helped to implement an assessment program that identifies the participants’ strengths and matches them with a list of potential career paths. “Finding out there are careers in which you can love doing what you do every day is a total revelation to most of these youth who come from laboring families,” Greenslade said. “And telling them they can have success when no one has ever told them that, telling them that someone believes in them, it turns a light on in them. Nothing has ever been as satisfying as helping people believe in themselves and seeing the changes in their attitudes.”

While being involved with Paschal High School, Greenslade is also serving on ACH’s board of directors. When he learned about our Connections for LIFE mentoring initiative, he was more than willing to volunteer his time mentoring young adults who have aged out of foster care.

The Connections for LIFE mentoring program kicked off its first volunteer training session in January. Volunteer mentors involved in the program commit a minimum of one year to build a relationship with a young adult in ACH’s LIFE Project, which is a supervised independent living program for youth who aged out of foster care without a community support system in place.

It’s a perfect fit for Greenslade. “My story isn’t a whole lot different from many of these young adults,” Greenslade said. “I didn’t have any family to fall back on. When I share my experience, my hope is that it encourages kids and they realize they can be successful too.”

All Greenslade asks in return is for his mentees to pay it forward to someone else one day.

“Mentoring is an opportunity to give back and it gives me the greatest feelings of worth and accomplishment over any professional success I’ve experienced,” Greenslade said.

For more information on ACH’s Connections for LIFE volunteer mentor program, visit www.achservices.org/volunteer-individual or contact Kate Faggella-Luby, volunteer mentor coordinator, at Kate.Faggella-Luby@ACHservices.org

Take action today to help end child abuse and neglect! Watch our video at www.achservices.org/lah-watch-video to see how you can be an advocate for our children in the future.

Pledge to Be Their Voice today.
With 6,213 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in 2015, Tarrant County ranks second in the state for total number of confirmed victims by county. Just behind Harris County at 6,360 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect, the difference in child population makes Tarrant County’s number much higher by percentage. Harris County has a child population of 1,198,257 while Tarrant County’s child population is 529,252.

The numbers are staggering. Every day in Tarrant County, 17 children are abused. Behind each number is a child. And each child is counting on us. They need all of us to be their voices as their advocates.

To raise awareness about child abuse and neglect in our local communities, ACH hosted its sixth annual Lend A Hand event on March 29 at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel. This year’s continuing education session and luncheon speaker was Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg, a pediatrician specializing in Adolescent Medicine at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

“Honor the intelligence of children and guide them through processes that allow them to make their own decisions.” ~ Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg
Dr. Ginsburg spoke about reaching teens, including how to build appropriate boundaries; how to connect with vulnerable and grieving teens to help them reach beyond perceived and self-imposed limitations; and why they need adults to believe in them and eliminate words that defeat their spirits.

“Our kids [who have suffered trauma, were abused or neglected] are the kids who want to change the world,” said Dr. Ginsburg. “They’re caring and compassionate.”

Accompanying the event this year, ACH launched a digital campaign to encourage the community to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. The Be Their Voice campaign was designed to bring awareness to the community about Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and included an online tool kit to engage supporters and give options for how each person can get involved to make a difference in the lives of our children.

To be part of the solution, visit www.ACHservices.org/be-their-voice.
ACH Child and Family Services celebrated 100 years of excellence in working to protect children and preserve families in the North Texas community in 2015. We directly served 2,541 unduplicated clients within a continuum of 14 programs on three campuses in the greater Fort Worth area. Approximately 23% of clients participate in two or more of ACH’s programs in a calendar year. All program services are evidence and strength-based toward treating children and their families. Our services are grouped into three areas providing preservation, healing and safe homes.
Assessment, Intervention & Referral Services (AIRS) serves as a portal to ACH programs and services, offering 24-hour crisis call response, centralized assessment and admission to ACH programs and referrals to other services in the community.

Individuals Served

- AIRS referrals to ACH programs ....................... 5,288
- AIRS referrals to other community programs ............. 2,310

Preservation Services allow us to engage with a family at risk for child abuse and/or neglect and to provide assistance where needed, often preventing abuse and/or neglect in the hope of helping vulnerable families remain intact.

Individuals Served

- Community Resource Coordination Group ............ 109
- Outreach & Education .................................. 14,679
- Families Together .................................... 19
- STAR/Skill Builders Classes and Youth & Family Counseling ........................................... 1,615

Treatment Services provide a caring, stable and safe environment for youth who have been abused, neglected and/or have experienced a family crisis to begin to heal and thrive.

- Behavioral Care ........................................ 20
- Foster Care ........................................... 371
- Foster Respite Care .................................... 167
- Turning Point ........................................... 70
- Wedgwood Residential Care ......................... 33

Safety & Stability Services identify and provide safe and loving permanent or temporary out-of-home placements for youth and children who may have been abused or neglected.

- Adoption ............................................... 72
- LIFE Project ......................................... 86
- Foster Parent (Active Homes) .......................... 107
- Foster Parent Trainings ................................. 109
  (357 individuals)
- Youth Emergency Shelter ......................... 205
- Safe Place ........................................... 41
WHO WE SERVED

County of Origin
- 75% Tarrant County
- 15% All Other
- 8% Johnson County
- 2% Dallas County

Age Groups
- 56% 13-18
- 30% 6-12
- 10% 0-5
- 4% 19 & up

Race / Ethnicity
- 25% African American
- 33% White, Non-Hispanic
- 21% Hispanic or Latino
- 18% Unknown
- 2% Multi-Racial, Multi-Ethnic
- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenues $44,601,371
- 7% Public Grants/Contracts - ACH Programs
- 3% Fees for Services/Other
- 9% Endowment
- 76% State Contract - Network Management

Expenses $48,902,603
- 88.5% Programs
- 1.5% Fund Raising
- 10% General & Administrative
- 7% Fund Raising
Foster Care Redesign attacks the primary problem of the foster care system in Texas: its sheer size.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) is a division of ACH Child and Family Services which operates and manages the Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC) for Region 3b known as Foster Care Redesign. The contract with the Texas Department of Family Protective Services is performance-based, with clear outcomes on keeping children safe, close to their home communities and with their siblings. In 2015, OCOK had its first full year of operation and has shown encouraging results.

OCOK works with a network of child placing agencies and service providers to meet the care needs of children in foster care in Region 3b.

Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) in Our Community Our Kids’ network.......................... 43

Service providers in the OCOK network ..................... 109

Children served.......................... 2,395

Volunteer Support

Volunteer Hours: 3,089
Projects: 153
Volunteers: 873

Value of Volunteer Hours
$76,175 ($26.44 per hour)

Public Grants & Contracts

- MHMR of Tarrant County
- Tarrant County Community Development/ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Prevention and Early Intervention
- U.S. DHHS Administration for Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Foster parents are our heroes, providing care for children who need it the most. They provide love and guidance to children who are unable to live with their biological families. They partner with a child’s community to secure the best life for him or her and help to make positive changes in the lives of children and families daily.

If the decision to become a foster parent has tugged at your heart, but common misconceptions have kept you from taking the first step in the journey, let us help to dispel those myths and provide insight into the reality of fostering.

Our foster care specialists have identified the top-ranked 5 myths of foster care based on their experience working with families.

**MYTH 1:** The only way to get involved is to provide full-time foster care or to adopt.

An incredibly valued way to be involved in fostering is to become a part-time caregiver or respite provider. Full-time foster parents need breaks occasionally for various reasons and may need additional help. Respite providers play an important role in caring for our children and our full-time foster parents!

Respite caregivers go through a similar licensing process as full-time foster parents, and they are also reimbursed at the same rate as foster parents for the days a child is in the home. The maximum number of days a respite provider can care for children at one time is 14.

**MYTH 2:** Foster care is only for young couples.

Fostering is perfect for the empty-nesters or baby boomers who love kids and know they can continue to have a positive impact on children and families in our community. Several of our foster parents are couples who have raised their own children and still long for the joy of having children in their homes.

**MYTH 3:** Abused and neglected children are damaged for life.

Not true! If kids get the right help at the right time, they can grow up to be amazing people. Our children in foster care need caring adults to show them love, support and guidance.

Our foster parents receive ongoing, specialized training to care for children who have experienced crisis and trauma. Each of our foster families are also assigned a full-time foster and adopt specialist to provide continuous support. You can change a life by showing love through fostering.

*Statistical data referenced was provided by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services 2015 Data Book.
MYTH 4: I can’t foster if I have a full-time job outside of the home.

You do not have to be a stay-at-home parent to foster. If both parents in the household work full-time, you may be responsible for covering the daycare expense until reimbursement is approved. This is generally 2-4 weeks. It’s beneficial if one or both of the parents in the household have flexibility in their work schedules. Biological parental visits and court dates will not work around the foster parents’ schedules.

MYTH 5: As a foster parent, I will receive little to no support. Once I’m licensed, I’ll be on my own.

Absolutely not! ACH provides continued services to our foster parents, including training, respite care, available staff, and family events. ACH foster parents are assigned a foster care and adoption specialist who is on call for support 24 hours a day. ACH’s specialists have lower than average caseloads in order to provide quality support to our foster parents.

There’s no doubt that serving as a foster parent is a difficult role at times, but what parenting role doesn’t have its challenges? Foster parents make an incredible difference every day through strength-based guidance, love and compassion for the children they take into their care. They are truly heroes.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Read our full, top ten list at www.achservices.org/read-our-stories

For more information about becoming a foster parent, visit www.experiencefostercare.com.

This is my first Mother’s Day with kids in our house! We will be adopting three kids this month and I couldn’t be more excited. These kids have changed our lives, and hopefully we will be able to have an imprint on theirs.”

~ Katy Johnson
Foster Parent

Getting Started as a Foster Parent

You can help change a child’s life by opening your heart and your home.

Each year, individuals just like you step up to provide love, care, and shelter to the thousands of abused and neglected children who are no longer able to live with their own parents or families.

Children in need of families willing to provide a place for them to thrive come from many backgrounds and experiences. They are children of all ages, sibling groups, and teens who require patience, skills, and love from their foster parents in order to survive and flourish.

If you think becoming a foster parent or respite provider might be right for you, let’s get started!

1. Reach out to our recruitment team at 817.886.7140.

2. You’ll receive a schedule of our Meet and Greet sessions.

3. Attend a session to learn about ACH, the requirements to become licensed, and what to expect during the process and after licensure.

4. Complete a packet of initial paperwork which includes an application and background check forms.

5. Our foster care specialists will continue to guide you through the licensure process once your background check is completed.
At five years old, Michael was removed from his home for the first time. He and his sister were taken into Child Protective Services (CPS) custody “in the middle of the night” from his recollection.

He and his sister lived in foster care for several years and were reunited with their birth mother when Michael was in elementary school. They were taken back into CPS custody when he was in junior high.

“We had an unstable life and at that point I was old enough to remember everything,” Michael said.

Once in high school, one particular story stands out vividly in Michael’s memory.

“I was picked up from high school one day and told we were going to a counseling session,” Michael said. “Two hours later, I walked out of the room and they were gone.”

His caretakers left him at the location. Michael slept on the floor of the office for a few nights before he was placed at an emergency shelter and later into another foster home.

After spending most of his childhood in foster care, in the home of a relative or in children’s homes, Michael was

“I’d like to think I’ll be a mentor to kids who go through what I did.”
ready to live independently when he turned 18 years old. His CPS caseworker knew about the LIFE (Learning Independence from Experience) Project at ACH Child and Family Services and thought it would be a good fit for Michael.

LIFE Project is a supervised independent living program for young adults who age out of foster care. The program also serves homeless youth from ages 18 to 21. Carla Storey, ACH Senior Director of Residential Services, has been involved since the development of the LIFE Project and said it’s a crucial program.

“When I went to college, I had a good support network so I knew if things went sideways, I could call my family or friends,” Storey said. “A lot of these youth don’t have that. At ACH we wanted to make sure youth who age out of foster care or who are homeless are prepared to live independently. And this program helps provide a safety net during the first years of adulthood.”

Despite experiencing a rough start to his life, Michael’s LIFE Project case manager Pamela Taylor said he’s going to be successful.

“He hasn’t missed a beat since being in LIFE Project,” Taylor said. “Michael works at a gym. Within 90 days of being on staff he became the number one salesperson in Texas and earned a promotion.”

Michael is attending college and working full-time. Being in the LIFE Project allows him to focus on school and he’s learning to live on his own.

“Without the LIFE Project, I would probably still be in a foster home,” Michael said.

Youth who age out of foster care have the option to stay in extended foster care or live independently. With the decision to live on their own, many cannot afford to support themselves.

Taylor said Michael is taking full advantage of the program and she thinks very highly of him. He made a difficult decision to leave a football scholarship from a school out of ACH’s region on the table in order to continue being involved in the LIFE Project.

“He’s accomplished a lot and done really well,” Taylor said. “He manages his money well, he’s resourceful and he’s focused on his goals.”

Michael said he wants to be a teacher and coach once he finishes school.

“I’ve always thought I could have an impact on people’s lives, those who came from a similar situation as me,” Michael said. “I’d like to think I’ll be a mentor to kids who go through what I did.”

Being a voice for children is important to Michael. Growing up in foster care, Michael said the best thing someone can do for children in foster care is provide an open and caring home to make kids feel welcome.

“The background of these kids doesn’t matter,” Michael said. “What matters is when someone intervenes to change their future and break the cycle.”

In the next ten years, Michael said he’d like to be graduated from college, established in a career and hopefully starting a family. There’s no doubt in his case manager’s mind he’ll make it there.

“He’s very self-sufficient and goal-oriented,” Taylor said. “This is what he’s had to do his whole life. I can’t see one reason why Michael wouldn’t be successful.”
It was almost summer break and Michael was in middle school. His dad showed up at school with Michael’s bags packed. Wondering why, Michael asked where they were headed. His dad told him they were going to Michael’s grandparents’ house.

“An hour into our trip, my dad told me I was going to a hospital,” Michael said. “He told me he had been planning this for a while.”

Michael was understandably upset.

“I was lied to and I wasn’t ok with it,” Michael said.

He stayed at the hospital for several months. But the most devastating news came toward the end of his stay – he was told he was not going back to his family and he was taken into Child Protective Services’ (CPS) custody. He was 13 years old.

With uncertainty in his future and no family to turn to, Michael felt hopeless. At that point, he had no motivation to control his behavior.

“I didn’t really care about getting a new family because I thought it was never going to happen,” Michael said. “I had already been [in CPS custody] for months. I was disobedient to teachers and cussed at them. I didn’t have many friends.”

But Michael’s behaviors were not a true indication of how he felt.

“I’d been praying a lot and asking God for a family because I had been there for too long,” Michael said.

Michael and his sister spoke over the phone often, and each time during their conversations his sister would ask if he had found a family.

“I told my sister that I couldn’t wait until the day she asked me if I found a family and I could finally say yes,” Michael said.

After that phone call, Michael decided to start working on his behaviors. He wanted a forever family.

He was featured on WFJA Channel 8, an ABC affiliate in the Dallas Fort Worth area, during a segment titled "Finding a Forever Family."
Wednesday’s Child.

Jennifer Moffatt, who lived just a few hours away from Michael, saw his Wednesday’s Child story on the news. She’s a first grade teacher and mother of three children who didn’t have plans to adopt a child.

“I’ve seen Wednesday’s Child probably 100 times,” Jennifer said. “And every time I stopped and prayed for the kids that they would find a good family, and I would move on.”

This time was different.

“Michael said in the interview, ‘I just want a family that will love and support me,’” Jennifer said. “And I literally looked at the TV and said, ‘We can be that family.’”

This time she couldn’t move on.

“Michael said in the interview, ‘I just want a family that will love and support me,’” Jennifer said. “And I literally looked at the TV and said, ‘We can be that family.’”

This time she couldn’t move on. Jennifer said she worried about Michael, wondered if he felt ok about himself and if someone was taking good care of him.

“I just felt like I was his mom, like we were his family,” Jennifer said.

Because Jennifer and her husband Derek Moffatt had not been planning to adopt, she was hesitant to bring the idea up to him. Derek’s also a financial planner, so Jennifer guessed he would say they couldn’t afford another child. Surprisingly to Jennifer, there was no hesitation on Derek’s part.

“Why not?” Derek said.

With Derek on-board with the idea, Jennifer wanted to get her kids’ feelings on the topic.

“We have a senior who has been mad at us ever since we had the other kids, so I thought he would say something rude if we suggested adopting another child,” Jennifer said jokingly. “I said to him, ‘Hey, I almost adopted a kid off TV today,’ and he said, ‘why not?’”

Jennifer said her daughter, Hope, was with her when she first saw the Wednesday’s Child episode and she knew Jennifer’s heart wouldn’t let Michael go.

“Hope couldn’t let him go either,” Jennifer said. “We were leaving the next day or two for vacation, so we agreed to just table the subject.”

During their vacation, all three of Jennifer and Derek’s children pointed out ways Michael would have fit in with the family. From open seats in the car, to enough space in the condo, to sharing the amount of food ordered for dinner. At the end of the vacation, the family was all in and ready to adopt Michael.

Jennifer and Derek attended an informational meeting hosted by the State CPS office and were given a packet with a listing of child placement agencies in the North Texas region. Feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility to research which agency to choose, they almost backed out.

“This was in August. I’m a teacher, so I was getting ready to go back to school,” Jennifer said. “And we had our house on the market – we were in the middle of selling and buying. We didn’t have time to thoroughly research which agency to choose.”

At that point, Derek noticed on the front page of the packet a name he recognized, Dr. Wayne Carson, CEO of ACH Child Family Services.

“I know Wayne,” Derek said. “We attend Rotary together. I’ll give him a call tomorrow.”

By the end of the following day, the Moffatt family had an ACH caseworker connected with them who had researched Michael’s case and was in contact with them.

“It was like an army of ACH people lined up to make this thing happen for us and Michael,” Derek said. “He wasn’t even an ACH kid, he was at another place in Tyler. It was amazing. I was just so impressed with the resources and how quickly ACH mobilized. Everybody there had such a heart and passion to make it happen.”

On the road to become licensed foster-to-adopt parents for Michael, the Moffatts worked hard to get the process complete as soon as possible. Unknown to them, Michael had been praying that he would have a forever family before his birthday, which is in November.

Michael didn’t know a family was interested in adopting him at this point, but he did know he would need to change some of his behaviors to be ready for adoption if the opportunity arose.

“I started going around and asking staff how to get to basic level,”
Michael said, “I started working toward changing my behaviors and so after that I started doing better in school too.”

The Moffatts and Michael progressed parallel to one another, all the while making their way to each other.

It came to the end of the Moffatts licensure journey, and they were called to make a decision. They hadn’t met Michael yet, but the case-working staff wanted to know if they were ready to commit to Michael.

“One of the CPS managers asked us, ‘Are you 110 percent sure you want to adopt Michael? Because we’re not going to tell him there’s a family or let you meet him unless you are sure,’” Jennifer said. “And we said we were completely sure.”

While the Moffatts had known for months they were planning to adopt Michael, he found out two days before he was scheduled to meet their family.

“I swore driving for the first time to see Michael I wasn’t going to clobber the kid or cry,” Jennifer said. “And as soon as we got there, I said ‘Michael!’ and ran to him.”

“She clobbered me, she cried,” Michael said.

“I cried, I hugged him, just short of stuffing him in a baby sling and carrying him around with me!” Jennifer said. “I mean really, it was like seeing one of my kids.”

Michael and the Moffatts hit it off during their visits and he was able to make that important phone call to his sister.

“That very day I called my sister and said, ‘Guess what? I got a family,’” Michael said. “I told her all about mom [Jennifer] and dad [Derek] and she said she was happy for me.”

A few weeks later, Michael was at home with his new family, the Moffatts. The transition hasn’t been without its challenges, but Derek and Jennifer said they were prepared for the change.

“It was very much about Michael becoming part of our family,” Derek said. “Like when a new baby disrupts your rhythm. We were bringing him and bringing us into this new family together.”

“You kind of learn a new pattern for everyone,” Jennifer said. “It’s a commitment and a heart attitude. Michael is not our project, he’s our son. It’s changed our family forever, and for us, it was definitely the right thing.”

Michael knew he belonged with the Moffatt family, but still worried about the transition to living in their home. But the worry didn’t last long.

“The second day I was at home, I
called my mom ‘mom’,” Michael said. “She looked at me and she smiled and I was like, ‘Yep, that’s my momma.’”

Michael celebrated coming home to his forever family on October 23, 2015, three weeks before his birthday.

WEDNESDAY’S CHILD LINK AND STORY ONLINE:

Since 2002, through the Hoot ‘n Holler event, over $2 million have been raised to help children and youth who have suffered abuse or neglect and are being treated in residential programs at ACH Child and Family Services. These programs are the most expensive to operate and serve over 700 children annually.

The children who live at ACH come from a variety of different circumstances, but they have one thing in common: they all experienced trauma. The dollars given to ACH from people like you through Hoot ‘n Holler go directly to providing these critical services for children in our community who need a safe place to live and heal. Gifts from donors like you truly change the lives of these children who have been given a rough start to life.

Our 2016 event will take place on November 2 at GRACE restaurant in downtown Fort Worth. Event co-chairs, Anne Green Wistrand and Leanne Huff, are working diligently to build a committee and raise over $260,000 through table sponsorships and donations. Committee members are invited to parties throughout the year, including a fall fashion preview at Neiman Marcus in September, and commit financially to support the event.

Hoot ‘n Holler has always been a fun event for our supporters, so we work hard to raise all funds before the night of the event allowing it to be a celebration of the dollars raised for children and families living in ACH residential programs.

Be part of this celebration by purchasing a table sponsorship. Contact Hillary Bessinger, Donor Relations Manager, for more information at Hillary.Bessinger@ACHservices.org.
Belltower Chapel & Garden is conveniently located just minutes from downtown Fort Worth on a serene, private 19.5-acre campus. After opening its doors to the public in 2010, Belltower Chapel & Garden has quickly become one of Fort Worth’s most popular wedding and reception venues. The historic cast-stone chapel is nestled amongst 1920s Neo-Tudor style architecture. The chapel features spectacular floor-to-ceiling stained glass windows, a beautiful indoor reception hall, a picturesque garden area offering an outdoor alternative, and a fully-restored bell tower.

Belltower offers brides flexible options for their wedding day at reasonable prices. Tours are available by appointment—call today 682.432.1140 or visit our website at www.BelltowerFortWorth.com for more information.

Belltower Chapel & Garden is wholly owned and operated by ACH Child and Family Services. All of our proceeds go to the mission of ACH to advocate, bring care to, and provide hope for abused, neglected and foster children and youth.

For 80 years, ACH’s Summit Campus has been home to thousands of children. Of the first move to the Summit Campus, Mrs. Winnie Estes, Matron at All Church Home for Children from July 1933 to 1939, wrote, “In 1936 the Board purchased the Home on Summit Avenue and we moved. Oh, what a task, what a move! Hot breakfast served at 213 Pecan for more than sixty persons. Then at 6 p.m. the same people were served a hot dinner by the same help at 1424 Summit and every child had his place, dishes, etc., as if we had been there weeks instead of hours.”

In April 2016, ACH sold and vacated the Summit property. The Youth Emergency Shelter and Development Department relocated to the Wichita Street Campus and Behavioral Care moved to the Wedgwood Campus. If you were to ask any of today’s ACH staff involved in these latest relocations, we’re sure they would agree, “Oh, what a task, what a move!”

This venue is beautiful and a great value. The chapel is stunning on its own with stain glass windows, so little decor is needed. The Garden is beautiful at night with lights hung overhead, perfect ambiance. I highly recommend this venue.” ~ Michelle LaMar-Sinclair, Bride
Thank You to our Generous Donors

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If an error has occurred, please accept our sincerest apologies and let us know of our mistake by contacting Tina Casey at Tina.Casey@ACHservices.org or 682.432.1120.

Corporations, Organizations and Foundations

- Accel Imaging Systems, Inc.
- Albertsons Safeway Good Neighbor Program
- AmazonSmile
- America’s Charities
- Amon Carter Museum of American Art
- Ann and Charles Florsheim Family Foundation
- Anonymous
- Ascension Group Architects, LLP
- AT&T Employee Giving
- Ballmann’s Inc
- Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign
- Bank of Texas
- BB&T
- BBVA Compass Bank
- BBVA Compass Foundation
- Beaux Arts Club
- Bell Helicopter Textron
- BHTI Employees’ Humanity Fund Inc.
- Bick’s Construction, Inc.
- Gregory A. and Laura E. Bird Foundation
- Brenda and Chad Cline Disciples Donor Advised Fund
- Brooks Family Charitable Trust
- Ken and Martha Bruner Foundation
- Chalk Mountain Services of Texas, LLC
- Christian Disciples Fellowship
- Colonial Charities
- The Everett B. and Edith P. Comer Charitable Trust
- Communities Foundation of Texas
- Cook Children’s Health Care System
- CRASH
- Creative Impact
- Crossroads Youth Ministries of Parker County, Inc.
- Delta Steel, Inc.
- James and Dorothy Doss Foundation, Inc.
- The Dubose Family Foundation
- Emmanuel Catholic Church - Youth Group
- Epsilon Lambda of Delta Kappa Gamma
- Fatboy USA
- Robert A. & Jane W. Ferguson Charitable Fund in the North Texas Community Foundation
- First Christian Church
- First United Methodist Church - Loyalty Class
- Fort Construction
- Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc
- Fort Worth Founder Lions Club
- M. Gale and Associates, LLC
- Gaudin Family Foundation
- Gladney Center for Adoption
- Greater Love Mission Church
- Hormone Therapy of Weatherford, PA
- In-N-Out Burger Foundation
- JPMorgan Chase Employee Giving Campaign
- The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc
- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation
- Kiwanis Services Foundation
- KPMG Community Giving Campaign
- Kubes Jewelry, Ltd
- Lamar High School
- Mary Pashman Lard Trust
- Larry and Carolyn Health Charitable Fund
- Live Oak Foundation
- LMPAC Charity Program
- Lockheed Martin AERO Club
- MCH Family Outreach-Dallas
- MHMR of Tarrant County
- Sally P. and Scott W. Mooring, III Charitable Fund in the North Texas Community Foundation
- Morgan Development and Supply LTD
- The Morris Foundation
- Network for Good
- Paris Coffee Shop
- The Pate Foundation
- The Gary Patterson Foundation
- PayPal Giving Fund
- PepsiCo Foundation Matching Gifts Program
- QuikTrip Corporation
- RA Foundation
- The Rees-Jones Foundation
- Ridgela Christian Church
- Roach Howard Smith & Barton
- Roma’s Italian Bistro
- The Ryan Family Foundation
- Rylander, Clay & Opitz, LLP
- Sendera Title
- Sherwin B. Rubin Fund
- Nancy and John Snyder Fund in the North Texas Community Foundation
- Southwest Bank
- Lung and Sleep Specialist of North Texas
- The Sara and Peter Sterling Family Fund
- Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyer Association
- Texas Baptist Home for Children
- Texas Health Resource Gives Campaign
- Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth
- Textron Matching Gift Program
- The J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
- Malcolm B. Street Donor Advised Fund in the North Texas Community Foundation
- The Trey Rickett Sites Fund of the Dallas Foundation
- UPS
- United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut
- United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
- United Way of Greater Portland
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Inc.
- United Way of Tarrant County
- United Worth HydroChem Corp
- Virtuoso, Ltd.
- The Walsh Foundation
- Woodie Woods Plunging
- Weatherford Regional Medical Center
- Gil and Dody Weaver Foundation
- Wilkes Family Charitable Fund in the North Texas Community Foundation
- XTO East Texas East Reservoir & Geology
- The Robert and Dawn Zuilhof Family Foundation Inc.

Individuals

- Jarrell Adaya
- John and Shellie Ahrens
- Sean and Bridget Allen
- Kofi Amanoo
- Frank and Tasa Anderson
- Sheldon and Jill Anderson
- Alita Andrews
- Emelie Andrews
- Neil and Vicky Andrews
- Paul and Judy Andrews
- Janet Anna
- Anonymous
- Mohamad Arnous
- Carolyn Arrowood
- Lorenzo and Methinee Artami
- Sondra Askew
- Delane Atechly
- Margaret Wall Augustat
- Larry and Tiffany Aytey
- Serafin Avila
- John and Leatrice Bailey
- Briana Balogh
- Surennder Bandela
- Greg and Caroline Barnes
- Neel Barrow
- Sharon Bartells
- Joanna Bassham
- Tom Battle
- Pastor Brian Bauer
- Janice Bean
- Kim Bell
- Teresa Bell
- Christopher J. Benavente
- Bob and Joan Benda
- Alan and Sarah Bennett
- Patrick and Hillary Bessinger
- Thelma Black
- Scot and Jill Blackford
- Lou Ann Blaylock
- Stanley and Cathy Block
- William and D’Ann Bonnell
- Destiny Boos
- Brian Boswell
- Catrena Boswell
- Brandon and Nikki Bowman
- Roy Boyd
- Emily Brandt
- Bill and Verety Braymen
- Wallace Bridges
- Jennifer Broberg
- Sam and Janis Broux
- Robert and Betsy Browder
- Julie Brown
- Vanessa Brownlee
- Smith and Teresa Brownlie
- Donald and Tommie Buckman
- Gary and Sidney Buff
- Ashley Buker
- Felix and Shirley Bunker
- Ronald and Sherri Burke
- Doug and Becky Burleson
- Mary Burnett
- Marcia Buyers
- Sherrie Caldwell
- Elizabeth Cardin
- Rachel Carr
- Wayne and Vickie Carson
- William and Jane Carson
- Greg and Jan Carter
- Louise Carey
- Jason and Kristina Case
- Glen and Tina Casey
- Kent and Lisa Castor
- Adah Ceno
- Stephanie Childers
- Kristen Chinchurrreta
- Melissa Christenson
- Darryl Claiborne
- Joe and Mary Sue Coffman
- David Cole
- Patricia Cole
- Mattie Peterson Compton
- Jeffrey and Abbie Cornelius
- Felicia Cotrez
- Mitch Cottrell
- David Covert
- Christine Crites
- Ted and Delynn Crofford
- Bill and D’Renda Cummings
John and Deb Whitehead
Brett Wiesner
Becky Wilkes
Brian Willett
Bobb Williams
Michael and Doris Williams
Greg and Sandi Wilson
Jeff Wilson
Herb and BJ Pease
Olivia Wise
Dean and Sally Wise
Richard and Anne Wistrand
James and Wanda Witherow
Debbie Wood
Melissa Woods
Milton and Yvette Woody
Beverly Worden
Dana Worsham
Jean Wright
Timothy Wright
Melissa Wynne
Angi Young
Hazel Zak
Adrian Zaporozan
Neil and Hope Zipp

Gifts in Kind

Jamie Adams
All Saints’ Episcopal School - Second Grade
Amon Carter Museum of American Art
Paul and Judy Andrews
Tamera Andringa
Anonymous
ARMA Fort Worth Chapter
Autobahn Motorcar Group
Ballet Frontier of Texas
Bank of America
Barnes & Noble’s Store
Sharon Bartell
Sarah Barton
Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc
Shannon Berquist
Bill J. Elliot Elementary School
Bimbo Bakeries USA
Desiree Blakely and Family
Blue Haze Elementary
BNSF Railway Company
Destiny Bos
Brenda Brackett
Kay and Clark Briggs
Katherine Brownlie
Smith and Teresa Brownlie
Candies for Kids
Candies Foundation
Carpenter Shop
Carter Metropolitan CME Church
Adah Ceno
Sue Chalk
Chalk Mountain Services of Texas, LLC
Joy Chandler
Children’s Charities of Fort Worth
Combs Family
Eric Contreras
Brian and Tamara Cook
Cousin’s Bar-B-Q, Inc
Carla Cowan
Mark and Sherrie Cyrier
Glenn and Julie Davidson
Judy Davis
Sandra Dear
Diamond Road/CCA

Dixie Dibley
Jessica Dinsmoor
Robert and Mo Dorsey and DFW Kids
Emily Dotson
Dr. Greg and Sundie Ellis
Emmanuel Catholic Church - Youth Group
David and Catherine Fankhauser
Fatboy USA
Vivian Ferguson
First Eye Care
Floors, Inc
Kevin and Linda Ford
Mark and Gina Fowlkes
Judy Frank
General Mills
Kristie, Brian, and Grace Gibson
Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains
Greater Love Mission Church
Sheri Greene
Betty Grimes
Cheryl Hadsell
Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford Architects/Planners/Interiors
Andy and Kristen Hall
Katie Hansen
Alma Hernandez
Hiley Mazda/Volkswagen
Mary Hoch
Earl and Paula Hoover
Jack and Leanne Huff
Royce and Lesley Hurst
Hyena’s Comedy Club
Keene High School Beta and Junior World Affairs Council Clubs
Chad Keeney
Keller Retired Teachers Association
King’s Kids
William and Melissa Kirtley
Susan Kitchens
Debbie Kohout
Catherine Lauterbach
Kim Lawler
LINBECK Group, LLC
Cheri Maddox
H. Lance and Angela Mandell
Danielle Marshall
MHMR of Tarrant County
Mira Vista Dental
Meto and Virignia Miteff
Joan Scott
Debra Smalt
Sarah Smallwood
Robert and Robin Sloane
Josh Skinner
Tara Sims
Amie Simpson
Davyre Simon
John and Jennifer Siehling
Hayne and Katie Shumate
Erin Shook
Bill and Barbara Shelton
Kimla Shelley
Greg and Debbie Shannon
Chalk Mountain Services of Texas,
Sue Chalk
Adah Ceno
Carter Metropolitan CME Church
Candies for Kids
Sandra Dear
Wells Fargo
Melissa Weeks-Billeg
Red Hat
ReCept Pharmacy
United Airlines
Plains Youth Group
 wynnedale.org

ACH Leadership Giving Circle

Leadership Level
Jack and Leanne Huff
Dub and Val Stocker

Caring Level
Ted and DeLynn Crofford
Robert and Kelly Keller
Michael and Valerie Mallick
Cam and Lynn Newman

Advocate Level
Jack and Nancy Larson
David and Melinda Teitelbaum
ACH was featured in a float in the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Parade, sponsored by Jetta Operating, earlier this year.