

# TCCI *Summer 2021 Newsletter*

The Children's Center, Inc

Volume 5 Issue 1

July 2021

## **REACHING NEW MILESTONES!**

# **TCCI CAFÉ Project Moves to Next Level**

During the June board meeting of The Children's Center, Inc., its board of directors resolved to incorporate the organization as an NGO (non-profit organization) in Honduras. This milestone reflects significant progress in the development of our new social-entrepreneurial enterprise, Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange (CAFÉ). CAFÉ has developed relationships with small coffee farmers in Intibuca Honduras, who produce our coffee and are also becoming host homes to support runaway and homeless youth. These youth, from the streets of cities in Honduras, are in need of nurturing homes, community life and vocational opportunities to prepare for independent living.

Our first coffee has been milled and is being exported by Molinos de Honduras in San Pedro Sula and a shipping company, CBX, in Puerto Cortes, Honduras. In the United States, Coppersmith Global Logistics in Houston, Texas, will bring the coffee into Miami, Florida. From Miami, it will be transported by truck to Galveston, Texas.

The CAFÉ roastery in Galveston is located at the Albertine Yeager Children's Home, a historic site in Galveston being repurposed as a youth cultural center. The Yeager Center provides a drop-in center for Runaway and Homeless Youth. The CAFÉ roastery will also support vocational opportunities for youth. The roastery has been licensed as a food manufacturer by the Texas Department of State Health Services. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Galveston Health District completed its final inspection and approved the Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange Roastery to open and operate.

In June, Carlos Sierra, a bean trader with Molinos de Honduras, visited programs operated by the Children's Center, including the new CAFÉ roastery in Galveston. In July, CAFÉ representative Terry Keel, coffee farmer Jose Adonay, and attorney Anne Ayala will be hosted by Carlos Sierra at the Molinos de Honduras Volcafe – Experimental farm in Siguatepeque, Honduras. Molinas de Honduras – Volcafe mills and exports coffee globally. We are invited



Eric and Eduardo on the Adonay Coffee Farm in Honduras

to explore an ongoing relationship through “Volcafe Way”, a sustainability initiative, providing ongoing technical support from their experimental farm to establish best practices in coffee farming. We will also be visiting colleagues at Casa Alianza in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Casa Alianza operates programs for runaway and homeless youth in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

With the launching of The Children's Center, Inc. new website, we have entered ecommerce with our coffee, now selling coffee subscriptions to support the developing efforts we are describing. Purchasing coffee will create improvement of the quality of life on small farms, communities and for host homes and the runaway and homeless youth they are serving. It will support quality of life for youth engaged in the roastery. Lastly, the profits will be used to maintain and expand these efforts, to reach more children and youth. To learn more, see the new website at: <https://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org>

**Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange**



*Equipment installation at new CAFÉ Roastery*

**Coffee Roasting Room in Albertine Yeager Youth Cultural Center in Galveston.**



**COFFEE ARTISAN FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE**

Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange is a program of The Children's Center, Inc. Coffee is cultivated and produced to support positive youth development in Honduras, Mexico and the United States. Cultivation and harvesting includes and benefits youth in Honduras. Crafting, roasting and packaging includes and benefits youth in Mexico and the United States. All proceeds of this Social Enterprise support nonprofit programming. Coffee is Roasted and Distributed from the Galveston Bay Area of Texas.

**CONTENTS:** COFFEE, 100%, NO ARTIFICIAL COLORS, FLAVORS OR PRESERVATIVES.

**SOURCE:** Cultivated and harvested on the Jose Adonay Gonzalez and associated farms in partnership with Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange in La Serna, Intibuca, Honduras – Very high altitude – Shade Grown.

Imported and Manufactured by Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange - A Program of The Children's Center, Inc. P. O. Box 58545 Houston, Texas 77258-9545 [thechildrenscenterinc.org](mailto:thechildrenscenterinc.org)

**TCCI**  
The Children's Center, Inc.

NET WEIGHT OF CONTENTS: 340.19 GRAMS/12 OZ

# How We Serve The Community

## Successful Collaborations



## TCCI Seeking Historical Site Designation from Texas Historical Commission

The Children's Center, Inc. has been afforded the opportunity to apply for a site designation from The Texas Historical Commission for the original site of the Yeager Children's Home operated by Albertine Hall Yeager. The Yeager Youth Cultural Center in mid-town Galveston, now stands on the site where the original orphanage stood. This site has housed organizations that have continuously served children and youth for over 100 years.

Albertine Hall Yeager, an African-American woman, along with her husband, Charles started the Yeager Children's Home in 1917. The Yeager's used the home initially as a day nursery and kindergarten. The home then became an orphanage dedicated to African American children in the community. The orphanage was one of only six in the state of Texas that provided services to orphaned black children. Soon, Albertine and Charlie Yeager, recognized the need to help all orphaned children regardless of heritage.

Mrs. Yeager died in 1969. Her legacy continued with another milestone, when her 19th century home was replaced by a modern children's facility in 1975. It received broad support from throughout the Galveston Community. The 64th Texas Legislative Session congratulated the Albertine Yeager Children's Home on this milestone through Senate Resolution 507, passed in 1975.

In the mid nineteen-eighties, through a merger into The Children's Center, inc., the



This plaque honoring Albertine Yeager, representing "Our Gold Star Mothers", which still sits behind the Yeager Youth Cultural Center in 2021, was presented by Gus Allen, a prominent Galveston African-American, on behalf of the American Legion 614 and their Auxiliary group.

program evolved into the Albertine Yeager Youth Crisis Center, an emergency shelter, caring for runaway and homeless children and youth. Now being re-purposed as the Albertine Yeager Youth Cultural Center, Ms. Yeager's vision continues in serving runaway and homeless youth through a drop-in center, where basic needs are met and youth may seek information and referral for other services of The Children's Center, Inc. and throughout the community. Over the years, many former clients have visited the Yeager Home. Some fondly recall "Mama Yeager" teaching them to type. Now a social-entrepreneurial enterprise has been established at the home, Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange, where youth are taught to roast coffee.



Albertine Hall Yeager founded the Yeager Children's Home in 1917



# How We Serve The Community

## Successful Collaborations



# Don Aron Makes Generous Land Gift to TCCI



*(Pictured from (L-R -Back) Kay Miner; David Holmen, President of the Board, TCCI; Angie Aron, Douglas Aron, Andrew Aron, Doug Lerner, Joanie Aron; Douglas Aron, Terry Keel, CEO/President of TCCI; (L-R-Front) Lola Aron, Paige Aron, Sue Sue Aron, Leslie Lerner, Morgan Aron, Hilda Tobias, EVP/COO, TCCI and Debra Washington.*

Prominent businessman Don Stephen Aron of The Aron Companies based in Houston, has just gifted two acres of undeveloped property along Clear Creek Bayou in Friendswood to The Children's Center, Inc. The intent of donating "Aron's Landing" is to provide a space for the children and youth at The Children's Center, Inc. to explore nature and enjoy the outdoors.

"My family has made several of these donations," said Aron. "We gave a 12-acre park to City of Houston".

The park, donated in June 2005, is named "Aron Ledet Park" and is located in northwest Houston on 6323 Antoine Drive. Aron has been active in the community having served as President of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, an officer of the Galveston - Houston Historic Foundation, Vice President of Congregation Beth Israel, served on the executive committee & Treasurer of the Houston Parks Board and currently still on the Houston's Parks Board and serving as Treasurer of the Houston Parks Board Foundation.

The recipient, The Children's Center, Inc. is a local nonprofit based in the Houston Metro Area that now serves 24 counties along the Gulf Coast of Texas. Their services include providing emergency services to runaway and homeless youth, shelter for homeless older youth and a family shelter in Galveston that serves families with children.

"We deeply appreciate this gift from Mr. Aron, said James T. Keel, CEO/President of the Children's Center, Inc., "Most of those we serve are in our care because of traumatic life events". Access to a peaceful, natural space will assist in their healing".



The Children's Center, Inc

# Community Engagement

*Cultural Enrichment for Youth*

## ***TCCI Youth Participated in Nationally Recognized Project***

Youth from The Children's Center, Inc. were active participants in a Juneteenth Mural Project in Galveston that became national news. The innovative project attracted national and international media interest from news organizations ranging from ABC's Good Morning America, The New York Times, and NPR, to the Houston Chronicle, National Geographic, and NBC News Nightly News. Local news outlets like The Galveston County Daily News, The Post in Texas City and I-45 NOW, provided copious and continuous coverage as the mural was being painted and during the unveiling.

The mural evolved into a much more significant historic event when President Joe Biden signed a bill making June 19<sup>th</sup> a National Holiday on the day of the unveiling. He did so in the presence of Ms. Opal Lee, who had walked miles across the country in order to get that result.

Also present at the unveiling on June 19<sup>th</sup> were Senator John Cornyn and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee who spearheaded the bill and gathered the votes to get the bill through Congress. It should be noted that both gave credit to the late State Representative Al Edwards who sponsored the original legislation in 1979 that made Juneteenth a holiday in Texas.

The Children's Center, Inc. was able to provide this creative opportunity for several youth in transition due to a Designated Funding/Commission Initiatives Program Grant from The Texas Commission on the Arts. The youth were able to paint part of the total mural by working as that as artist apprentices.

The mural project was designed and painted by Reginald Adams and his crew of "Creatives". The Juneteenth Legacy Committee was co-chaired by Samuel L. Collins, III and Sheridan Lorenz and had many dedicated members.

The work entitled "Absolute Equality" chronicles the history of Juneteenth and features historic figures from Galveston's past. The site located at 2211 Strand is next door to the parking lot where the Osterman Building once stood. The Osterman Building was used as the Union Headquarters when Maj. General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3 on Galveston Island freeing the enslaved people of Texas on June 19, 1865. The mural covers 5,000 square feet of wall.



**Artist Reginald Adams and TCCI Artist Apprentices**

# **TCCI** *How We Serve The Community*

The Children's Center, Inc

*Receiving Community Recognition*

## **Starbucks Supports TCCI in the Rio Grande Valley**



**Aaron Garza (Starbucks Manager), Delfina Casares, Annette Gonzalez, Anahi Reyna, Hector Rodriguez, Esmeralda Davenport and Felix Cid (Starbucks Manager).**

The Children's Center, Inc. – Rio Grande Valley is grateful to be a part of such a giving community. On Friday, June 25, 2021 TCCI-RGV was awarded The Neighborhood Grant through the Starbucks Foundation. The Children's Center, Inc. – RGV has developed a strong professional partnership with Starbucks throughout the last few months. This coffee shop has donated items in the past for our Easter coloring contest and has also agreed to donate items for our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony taking place in July. The agency felt so honored that Starbucks considered us for this award. Our non-profit organization is on the frontlines of helping runaway, homeless, and at risk-youth; therefore, we plan to use this monetary donation to create a path to a better future for the youth of the Rio Grande Valley. Thank you, Starbucks, for supporting our nonprofit organization once again!



The Children's Center, Inc

# How We Serve The Community

*Host Homes and Volunteers*



## Host Homes Provide A Safe Harbor for Children in Need

*Do You Have Room in Your Heart and Home to provide a Host Home to a Child in Need?*



*Go to Our Website/Visit the Jameson Center Host Home Page:*

<https://thechildrenscenterinc.org/friends/host-homes/>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

*The Children's Center is seeking volunteers to support children and families served in its programs.*

Individual Volunteers are needed for mentoring, tutoring, activities of daily living. Current needs include Family Crisis Centers and Transitional Living Programs for youth. Volunteers are also needed in a variety of indirect service areas including clerical, maintenance, housekeeping, food service and transportation. Each of these programs are based in Galveston, Texas.

Volunteer Families are needed to serve as Host Homes for runaway and homeless children and youth needing temporary care while crisis stabilization and family reunification is facilitated. These programs are based in the thirteen county area of greater Houston and in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties of the Rio Grande Valley, the Corpus Christi area, the Beaumont area and the Victoria area.

Individual Volunteers are needed for outreach activities to serve along with our crisis teams in responding to calls from runaway and homeless youth and homeless families all regions we serve.

**Interested? Go to:**

<https://thechildrenscenterinc.org/friends/volunteer/>

**Need Help?**

**Call:**



The Children's Center, Inc

**1-844-763-8861**

# TCCI | How We Serve The Community

The Children's Center, Inc

Our Programs

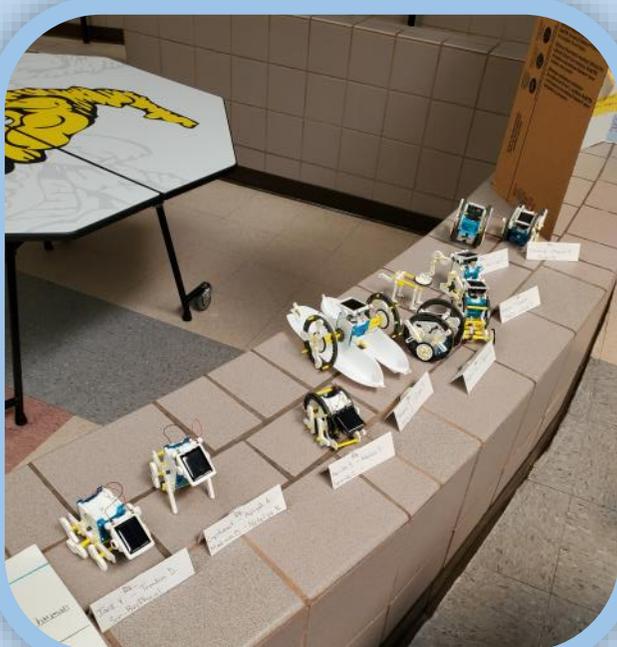
## Community Youth Development at TCCI Receives Five Year Grant from Texas

Amela Seroka of The Children's Center, Inc. is proud to announce that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division, has awarded The Children's Center, Inc. with grant funding to support the Galveston community with new Community Youth Development Programs for the next five years.

Funding will support Artist Boat, Fanfare! Lutheran Music Academy, GISD – Central Middle School, Iconoclast Artists, Odyssey Academy and Sea Star Base Galveston. These programs will directly provide in school, after school and summer programs that focus on academic support, the arts, life skills, mentoring and recreational activities for children and youth, ages 6 -17, free of charge.



*CYD Youth Learning the Value of Exercise.*



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)  
Projects built by CYD Youth.



CYD youth learning health and mental wellness with Yoga.



Learning Maritime Rope Skills at  
Sea Star Base in Galveston.



The Children's Center, Inc

## Partnerships Support Us

Community Collaborations

# Successful June Fishing Tournament Benefits TCCI

The American Association of Drilling Engineers held its 27th Annual, R. T. Riggle, Sr. Saltwater Fishing Tournament in Galveston, Texas on June 3rd and 4th. The tournament was suspended last year due to COVID 19 and its return is welcomed by The Children's Center, Inc. which is grateful to benefit from proceeds of the tournament and for fish donated by participants to feed homeless children, youth and families. Thanks to Ken McCorkle and the AADE team for another successful tournament!

*Thanks to Katie's Seafood and Ron Carter League City for helping us do our part to make it happen!*



These two young men enjoying the fishing tournament have been helped by the services at The Children's Center, Inc.

# How We Serve The Community

## Community Service



## Joseph Trahan is New TCCI Board Member

At their June meeting, the Board of Directors elected Joseph Trahan of Beaumont as a new board member for the organization. A graduate of UT – Austin in Public Relations and Business foundations. Mr. Trahan's career has included marketing, human services and education. He is Chairman of the Jefferson County Democratic Party. Mr. Trahan has expressed particular interest in supporting The Children's Center's new social-entrepreneurial enterprise, Coffee Artisan Friendship Exchange.



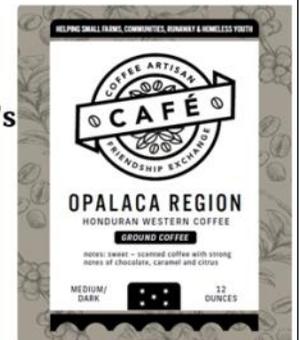
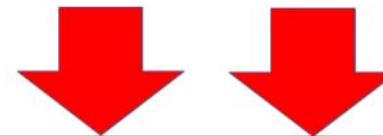
### Trending Topic!

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER HAS A NEW WEBSITE



The Children's Center, Inc. is pleased to announce the launching of its new website in July. The website was developed by Dedonato Enterprises of Atlanta, Georgia and provides a broad overview of organizational activities and numerous opportunities to engage for youth and families in crisis, donors, coffee subscribers, host homes, interns, newsletter subscribers, potential employees and more.

- Get Updates!
- Buy Coffee
- Join Friends of the Children's Center
- Volunteer
- Be a Host Home



**Visit Our New Website here:**  
<https://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org>

**Donate Now!**

Mailing Address:  
 The Children's Center, Inc.  
 CORPORATE OFFICE  
 PO BOX 58545  
 Houston, Texas 77258-8545

Call: (409) 765-5212

Donate on our website:

<https://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org>

**Crisis Hotline: 1-844-763-8861**



The Children's Center, Inc

## How We Serve the Community

Our Programs

### YOUTH IN CRISIS

**P**overty and violence create ideal conditions for human trafficking of youth. Many victims come from Central America, via Mexico. The Houston metropolitan area tops the nation as a human trafficking destination. Major trafficking corridors to the Houston hub include the Rio Grande Valley, Corpus, Christi, Victoria, and Beaumont.

In response to this crisis, The Children's Center, Inc. is developing a network of programs and services for runaway and homeless youth. These prevention and intervention services will target the Texas Gulf Coast, Mexico and the Northern Triangle.



U.S. children are also victims of human trafficking. This family home was photographed by The Children's Center, Inc., Runaway and Homeless Youth Outreach Team at a Colonia in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas.



The Children's Center, Inc

- ◆ **CRISIS LINE** – 24 hour crisis response for runaway and homeless youth
- ◆ **PROJECT SAFE PLACE** – Sites that offer sanctuary for runaway and homeless youth
- ◆ **HOST HOMES** – Temporary shelter for runaway and homeless youth
- ◆ **OUTREACH** – Information, referral and services for runaway and homeless youth on the streets. Education for youth and the community at large

**Please visit our website and look at ways to become a Friend of The Children's Center, Inc. so you can help change a youth's life!**

**Website:**

**<https://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org>**