



# THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.

## FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

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# From Tragedy to Triumph

## TCCI Helps Survivors With New Futures

### DAVID JAMES HOLMEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC. BOARD

During its annual meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, The Children's Center, Inc. Board of Directors nominated and elected David James Holmen to become its Chairman of the Board for the upcoming year (October 1, 2019-September 28, 2020). Mr. Holmen is Public Relations Manager for Classic Auto Group in Galveston and has been an area resident for the past 18 years. Supporting many civic and community projects, he also serves on the Coastal Credit Union Board of Directors. David and his wife Gena reside in La Marque, Texas. Gena is a licensed insurance agent with Highpoint Insurance Group. The Holmen family includes son, Alexander who is a First-Class Petty Officer in the Navy on the staff for Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic, his wife Katelyn, a homemaker, and their children, Amelia and Emmie. Son, Ario is a Texas A & M graduate in Engineering. He works with EADS Distributing in Clute, Texas. Daughter, Angelena, has completed training at College of the Mainland in Cosmetology and practices her trade at the San Luis Resort, Spa and Conference Center in Galveston, Texas.



At age 30, David and his family moved to Galveston from St. Paul Minnesota. In Minnesota, David had worked in automobile sales and was challenged by inner city turmoil and substance abuse issues. The move to Galveston was a commitment to change for David, but it wasn't easy. Gena and the children, then 12, 8 and 4 moved into The Children's Center - Family Crisis Center. Unable to accept the dilemma of homelessness, David lived in his car, on the streets. Achieving sobriety and a sales position at the Bob Pagan dealership, David has not looked back. Inspired by faith, he and Gena continue their unwavering commitment to their own children and grandchildren, the community and social justice for children and families served by The Children's Center, Inc.



*Orphanage fire survivor recovers at The Children's Center*

The Children's Center was there for Nina\*, who had miraculously survived a horrific fire in Central America. This tragedy was yet another blow for a young woman who had endured a life of poverty, abuse and neglect that ultimately had her placed in an orphanage. She was coping with intense physical pain and the emotional agony due to the loss of her friends when she was flown to the United States for emergency medical treatment. Her stay was extended due to her fragile condition.

With no family, she was placed into a Children's Center Host Home where she received trauma-informed, compassionate care while continuing her medical treatments. She is now a U.S. Resident, is studying English and learning to drive a car. Nina\* thrived in her new environment and is so grateful to the care she received that she is planning a career in social services. Her goal is to give back by helping others as others have helped her.

*\* Named changed to protect privacy of our client*



# How We Serve The Community

## Host Homes Program

### Host Homes Improve Young Lives

#### Why Do We Need Host Homes?

In certain circumstances, runaway and homeless children or youth may be eligible for host home - crisis care services. In these circumstances, youth may access services with assistance from The Children's Center's Jameson Center Host Home - Crisis Care Program.

#### What Rules Keep Children Safe?

Crisis care is provided in keeping with Chapter 42, Texas Human Resources Code, "Regulation of Certain Facilities, Homes, and Agencies that provide child-care services" and Chapter 34, Texas Human Resources Code, "Authorization Agreement for Non-Parent Adult Caregivers".

#### What Crisis Situations Apply to Host Homes?

*Eligible children, youth and families:*

- ◆ Parent is in alcohol/drug rehabilitation
- ◆ Parent is in hospital for health or mental health condition
- ◆ Youth is separated from parent and needs safe return
- ◆ -Parent is arrested for non-violent crime with short term incarceration
- ◆ Youth has runaway due to family conflict, alleged abuse, neglect or other circumstances and there is potential for resolution
- ◆ Youth is temporarily homeless and unaccompanied due to family problems such as lack of housing, mental illness, or other circumstances beyond youth or family control and there is potential for resolution
- ◆ At risk youth, who have verbally stated they have a plan to run-away or have ran-away before.

#### What Situations Don't Apply?

*Ineligible children, youth and families:*

- ◆ Parent refusing to accept parental responsibility, requiring CPS custody.
- ◆ Parent has charges or pending charges due to child abuse and CPS is taking custody.
- ◆ Active CPS custody case.
- ◆ Active Juvenile Probation custody case.
- ◆ Youth is danger to self or others
- ◆ Youth has active health, mental health or substance abuse problem that will interfere with care
- ◆ Youth has legal issues that will interfere with care



#### What Are the Screening and Training Requirements?

**SCREENING** - A screening process is utilized to identify qualified families who express interest to become host homes and provide crisis care. Host homes are truly volunteers. Unlike foster homes, host home families receive no reimbursement and do not serve "system youth," who are in the care of CPS, Juvenile Probation or other state or federal agencies. Host home screening includes child abuse and criminal background checks, drug screening, and a family study.

**TRAINING** - Host home education and training is provided in areas that include safety, emotional support, positive parenting, trauma, positive youth development, life skills, child abuse/neglect grief/loss, safety techniques, and CPR-First Aide . In vivo training is also provided to support experiential learning on the part of family trainees with children. Registration of the private family is complete when all screening, training, experiential requirements and mutual agreements are satisfactorily completed and approved.

#### Will Host Home Parents Get Ongoing Support?

**CONSULTATION** – Jameson Center Host Home-Crisis Care staff provide ongoing consultation through regular visits to registered host homes to ensure ongoing support, guidance and learning in areas of training and education, policies, procedures, and standards. Staff will also facilitate assessments, counseling for youth, their families and host homes, utilization of partner and community resources, family reunification activities and aftercare follow-up.

#### Who Do I Call If I Want to Volunteer?

**CALL: (866) 763-8861 FOR HOST HOME INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS**

# How We Serve The Community

## *Outreach in the Rio Grande Valley*



**Project Safe Place in the Rio Grande Valley**



**Successful Back to School Event in RGV**

## Did You Know About the Colonias?

Texas has over a half a million people living in impoverished neighborhoods known as “colonias” scarred along the 1,200-mile Texas-Mexico Border. There are approximately 2,300 colonias in the Rio Grande Valley, that in many cases lack basics such as clean water or solid waste disposal. The Children’s Center, Inc. has an active outreach in these communities that provide residents with information, referrals, water and some basic hygiene items.



**TCCI Rio Grande Valley Outreach Team in an RGV Colonia**





# How We Serve The Community

*Support from Our Friends and Neighbors*



## WELCOME! New TCCI Staff



### Summer Williams *Senior Lead Case Manager* Houston Metropolitan Area

Summer Williams has been named Senior Case Manager for The Children's Center's Houston, Galveston - Pasadena and Golden Triangle Regions, serving Runaway and Homeless Youth and their families. These programs are based out of Beaumont, Galveston, Houston and Pasadena, Texas and include surrounding area counties. Ms. Williams received her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Houston. Her recent work has included case management, prevention and intervention services with at risk youth, and residential care for children and youth.

WELCOME SUMMER!

### Ana Sánchez *Senior Lead Case Manager* Rio Grande Valley

Ana Teresa Sánchez has been named Senior Case Manager for The Children's Center's Rio Grande Valley and newly formed Coastal Bend Regions, serving Runaway and Homeless Youth and their families. These programs are based out of Corpus Christi and McAllen, Texas and include surrounding area counties. Ms. Sánchez received her Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley. Her recent work has included life skills and suicide prevention curriculum for children and youth, case management, youth outreach services and community collaboration activities.

WELCOME ANA!



## 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. Our programs are based in Galveston, Pasadena/Southeastern Harris County, Beaumont/Golden Triangle, Corpus Christi/Coastal Bend, Houston Metropolitan Area and the Rio Grande Valley.

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 in the greater Houston area and in the Rio Grande Valley.

**Please email your interest to:  
volunteer @tcc1878.org or**



**Need Help?**

**1-844-763-8861**

# How We Serve The Community

## Our Services



## Family and Youth Crisis Support Center Now Open

**C**hildren's Center is pleased to announce that it has opened a donation center in Galveston to support work with homeless families, children and youth. The Center is located at 4414 Avenue M. To inquire about making donations please call (409) 765-5212. The donation center accepts the following items:

**Food Pantry** – non-expired canned and non-perishable dried foods, cooking oil/spray, salt, pepper and spices.

**Clothes Closet** – adult, children, teen – school and play, summer-winter (coats and gloves) and underclothes/socks, babies - diapers of all sizes, swipes and clothes.



**Linen Closet** – single bedsheet sets, pillows, comforters, blankets, towels, bath cloths.

**Household Supply Room** – washing detergents, fabric softeners, dryer sheets, cleaning fluids, disinfectants, window cleaners, mops (wet and dry), brooms, laundry baskets, trash cans and trash bags.

**Kitchen Supply Room** – foil, foil pans, plastic wrap, dish soap, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery

**Bathroom Supply Room** – toilet paper hand soap, shaving cream, disposable razors, tub and shower cleaners, bathroom rugs,



**Hygiene Supply Room** - shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap, deodorant, sunblock, feminine hygiene products, hair-brushes and combs

**Independence Room** - Cribs, bassinets and twin mattress sets for families and youth moving into housing. Luggage/duffel/computer bags and backpacks, pots and pans, shower curtains, shower rods, bicycles, computers and tech accessories.

## Keel Continues Travels to Honduras

**T**erry Keel traveled on his fourth trip to Honduras, this past June. He provided after-care visits to former clients and their families, obtained birth records and visited a shelter operated by INFA (Honduras' federal child protective services agency) in San Pedro Sula. There he discussed issues for older Honduran homeless youth with INFA staff. Keel visited rural areas in the Departments (states) of Copan, Francisco Morazan, Lempira and Olancho.



## TCCI Board Election Results 2019

**T**he Children's Center's Board of Directors held elections at their 2019/2020 Annual Meeting on September 28th. Mike Seifert and Lexer Soto are newly elected board members. Mr. Seifert is a border advocacy strategist for the ACLU. A former Roman Catholic Priest, he has served as an advocate for Rio Grande Valley residents for a number of years, connecting their needs with community-based organizations. Mike and his wife, Marsha Griffin, M. D. reside in Brownsville, Texas. Lexer Soto is a police officer for the Houston Independent School District Police Department. He is a former Transitional Living Program client, foster parent and staff member of The Children's Center. Lexer and his wife Dayna, live with their two children in La Marque, Texas.

Board Officers were elected for 2019/2020 and include David Holmen of Hitchcock, Texas—Chair, Selma Yznaga of Brownsville, Texas—Vice Chair, Gabriel Martinez of Fulshear, Texas—Treasurer, and Hilda Torres of Texas City, Texas—Secretary.



# How We Serve The Community

## Community Support

### MAKE AN IMPACT INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

#### OUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES NEED:

- Expenses for Host Home Families
- Housing and Support Costs for Runaway and Homeless Youth who need shelter past the 21-day government grant period
- Expenses for longer-term social services that treat addiction and trauma

#### WE HAVE THE SAME EXPENSES YOU DO:

- ✓ Higher Utility Costs
- ✓ Higher Maintenance Costs

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Government Grants Only Cover the Barebone Basic Expenses
- ✓ There have been no adjustments for rising costs in the past few years

**DONATE  
TODAY!**

Web:

<http://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org>

**Call: 409-765-5212**

Mail:

Houston, Texas

#### TCCI Programs Your Donation Can Impact

**Family Crisis Center** – Shelter that gives houses entire families and provides social service networking that helps them find and keep a permanent home.

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs** – a program that helps runaway and homeless children from Infants to Age 17

**Safe Place** – RHY in crisis can go 106 sites in 6 counties.

**Host Homes** – program that utilizes volunteers who take in homeless children.

**Crisis Intervention** – includes Safe Place, Host Homes and the

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

## TCCI Critical Partner in Texas Continuum of Care

The Children's Center, Inc. has been on the cutting edge of housing homeless youth and families for the past two decades. As a result, TCCI is an active participant in the Texas Balance of the State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC).

TCCI is a lead agency in the coordinated entry process in Galveston that is currently recommended by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The organization is also an active member of the Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition.

This fiscal year, TCCI was trained and worked closely with the Texas

Homeless Network in the application process for two HUD grants. TCCI was awarded an Emergency Solutions Grant for 2019-2020 and ranked high in the Texas competitive process for the HUD COC grants for 2020-2021.

The Texas Homeless Network is working on a strategic plan that will assist the Texas Homeless Network, a nonprofit tasked with finding solutions for homelessness in Texas. TCCI was considered a valued asset and a staff member, Marsha Wilson Rappaport was invited to join the balance of the state strategic planning committee for this process.

# How We Serve The Community

## Our Programs



### THE CHILDREN'S CENTER: CUTTING EDGE SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX MODERN PROBLEMS

#### CORPORATE PURPOSE

The Children's Center Inc. is a Texas-based, private, non-profit child welfare and social justice organization dedicated to promotion of human rights for children, youth and families who are victims of abandonment, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

*The Children's Center Crisis Response Line receives calls from across the United States. Runaway and Homeless youth and their parents often reach out for guidance and to locate resources. In the past few weeks, a mother in Kansas called about her runaway child in Houston, two children called, one 11 and one 12 years old, wanting help to escape from a sexual trafficking ring in Houston, and a homeless teenager called from her high school in the Rio Grande Valley looking for a place to stay at night. Our crisis response team was able to mobilize and reach each of these youth and connect them to safety, with family or community resources, in response to their needs. Calls come from different parts of the country. Most calls come from the greater Houston area. Approximately 400 calls have been received over the past six months.*

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Children's Center, Inc. is engaged in changing and saving lives through rescue, nurture and empowerment of children, youth and families in a quality continuum of caring that facilitates achievement of satisfying living opportunities.

#### PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNOLOGY

The Children's Center, Inc. provides Trauma Informed Care, utilizing principles from The Sanctuary Model and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, along with principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, Positive Youth Development and Harm Reduction Practices.

#### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Children Center's work in Galveston, Texas, which began in 1878, is an evolving continuum of caring. The continuum includes mentoring programs, safety programs and housing and supportive services programs. Programs span the Texas Gulf Coast from the Louisiana border in Orange County to the Mexican border in Cameron County.

#### OUR MISSION

*The Children's Center, Inc. is engaged in changing and saving lives through rescue, nurture and empowerment of children, youth and families in a quality continuum of caring that facilitates achievement of satisfying living opportunities.*

*Oscar\* came to The Transitional Living Program at The Children's Center, Inc. after living on the streets. He was a native Galvestonian, who was discarded by his parents after they had separated. Oscar\* received trauma-informed care, and vocational guidance from the TCCI Case Managers. He persevered, finished High School and entered Galveston College, while working steadily at a job. He has earned enough to purchase a car and insure his vehicle. Oscar\* discovered he had a talent for technology and enrolled in the Electronics course at the Applied Technology Center at Galveston College. As he approaches graduation, he is already receiving job offers and is headed toward a bright future.*



**Need Help?**

**Call:**

**1-844-763-8861**



# Where We Serve The Community

## PARTNERSHIP WITH UWGCM BENEFITS OUR FAMILY CRISIS CENTER AND OUR COMMUNITY

The ongoing partnership with United Way Galveston County Mainland supports our Family Crisis Center. The Family Crisis Center is the only emergency shelter program in Galveston County that keeps homeless families together while they work toward rebuilding their lives. This TCCI program provides holistic trauma-informed care, referrals to other social services, education, jobs and permanent housing. The staff at TCCI thanks and deeply appreciates the support of the UWGCM.



Chris Delesandri, Executive Director of United Way Galveston County Mainland with Hilda Tobias, EVP/Chief Operating Officer/TCCI



## The Children's Center, Inc. Serves Multiple Regions in Texas

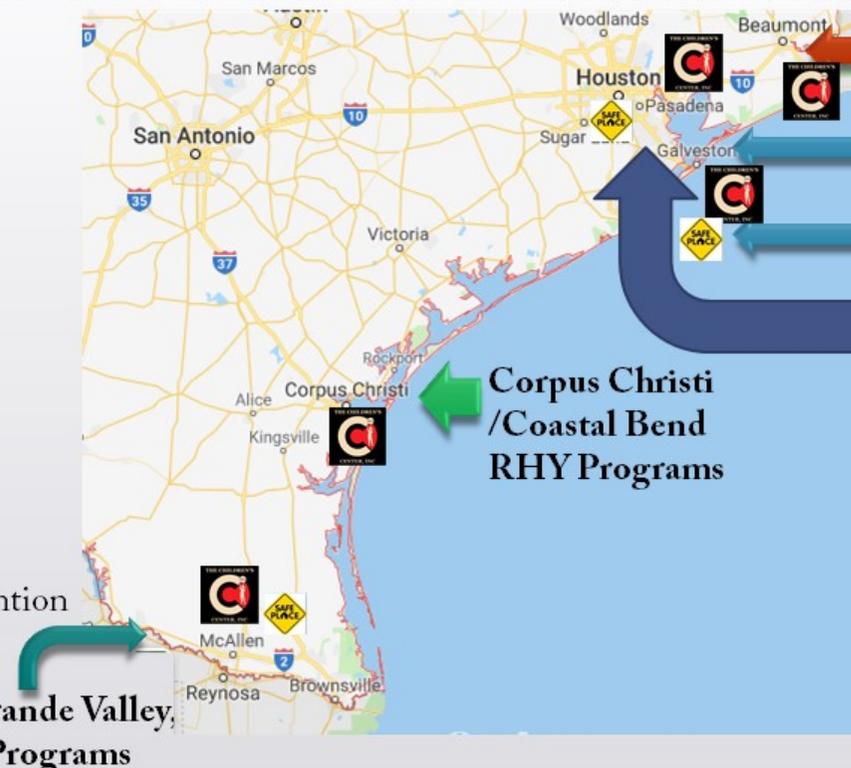
*Federal and State Grant Awards Extend Mission in 2019 - 2020*

### We Serve:

- Homeless Families
- Homeless Children
- Homeless Older Youth

### We provide:

- Shelter
- Safe Place in 106 sites
- Trauma Informed Care
- Host Homes
- Crisis Response/Intervention
- Crisis Line



Beaumont/Golden Triangle RHY Programs

Galveston/Pasadena RHY Programs  
Galveston Shelter/RHY Programs

Houston RHY Programs

RHY Programs = Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

**Crisis Line**  
**1-844-763-8861**





# How We Serve The Community

**TCCI Expands Services in Texas**



## The Children's Center, Inc. OUR EXPANDED SERVICE AREA 2019-2020

### GALVESTON/GALVESTON COUNTY

- ❖ Crisis Intervention and Response Teams
- ❖ Emergency Youth and Family Shelter
- ❖ Host Homes
- ❖ Safe Place

### CORPUS CHRISTI/COASTAL BEND

- Crisis Intervention and Response Teams
- Host Homes

### HOUSTON METROPOLITAN AREA

- Crisis Intervention and Response Teams
- Host Homes
- Safe Place

**CRISIS LINE:  
1-844-763-8861**



### BEAUMONT/GOLDEN TRIANGLE

- Crisis Intervention and Response Teams
- Host Homes



### PASADENA/SOUTHEASTERN HARRIS COUNTY

- Crisis Intervention and Response Teams
- Host Homes
- Safe Place



### RIO GRANDE VALLEY

- Crisis Intervention and Response Teams
- Host Homes
- Safe Place



### West Columbia Hosts New Safe Place Site



### BE A HOST HOME!

CALL:

(866) 763-8861

FOR HOST HOME

INFORMATION

AND APPLICATIONS



# How We Serve The Community

## Host Homes

### BE A HOST HOME WITH THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.

**J**im and Marcie Casey have served as Host Home parents for The Children's Center, Inc. over the past three years. Jim, an engineer and technical writer and Marcie, a nurse, have lived in Galveston, Texas since 1995. Children have a special place in their hearts and lives. In 1985 they adopted a son Carlitos from Columbia at 5 months years of age. They loved and nurtured Carolitos through his young life. In 1994 Carlitos was diagnosed with Sanfilippo Syndrome He passed away from this chronic illness in 2014.

While the healing process is ongoing, the Casey's choose to continue blessing the lives of other children. In the past three years, they have hosted four young teens in their home. Two are now independent with their own families. The family continues to host two other youth, a boy and a girl, both of whom are high school students. Their compassion does not stop there. Recently, the Casey's stepped in as "extended family" on three separate occasions to host children for young mothers requiring hospitalization during childbirth. Each of these occasions involved mothers and their children who were being served at The Children's Center's Family Crisis Center, an emergency shelter for homeless families. These single parent mothers had no other family support for their children during hospitalization. Homelessness for one expectant mother and her two-year old daughter stemmed from her flight from domestic violence.

Another expectant mother's husband had been detained after an immigration raid on his employer, stranding her and her four and five-year old children without support. The third expectant mother, a youth herself, was referred by the Galveston Police Department, as she and her two children had been abandoned and were living on the streets.

*Marcie best expressed the Casey's feelings, "To us all of these moms and children are wonderful and deserving people".*



Jim and Marcie Casey



#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Children's Center, Inc. is nationally recognized and vetted social service provider in the Polaris Project and the National Runaway Safeline. Polaris which hosts the National Human Trafficking Hotline is an important national organization with expertise in helping runaway, homeless youth, and victims of sex and labor trafficking.

Go to this link to see the listing: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/training-resources/referral-directory>

***In Crisis? Polaris BeFree Textline: "BeFree" (233733)***

**TCCI Crisis Line: 1-844-763-8861**