

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.

SPRING NEWSLETTER

The Dream Lives!

Former TCCI Client On the Way to Bright Future

Lexer Rene Soto came into care of The Children's Center, Inc. on his eighteenth birthday. He had struggled to leave his native Honduras as a young teen to escape childhood trauma and build a better life. At The Children's Center's Transitional Living Program, Lexer began work on his new life. He obtained his U. S. Permanent Residency status, completed private high school, worked in multiple jobs and cared for his beloved daughter Bella, as a single parent. Over the next few years, Lexer left the care of the Transitional Living Program, started a family with companion, Deyna and soon added daughter Mia to their growing family. Lexer worked full-time in the community and attended Galveston College. He returned to The Children's Center as a foster parent, a youth care worker and most recently as a Case Manager in The Children's Center's program for Runaway and Homeless Youth. He completed his Associates Degree at Galveston College and began further un-



Erik Paul/ErikPaulPictures.com



dergraduate coursework at the University of Houston. Last year Lexer was awarded his U. S. Citizenship at ceremonies in Houston. This past December, Lexer completed training at the Law Enforcement Academy at College of the Mainland in Texas City. Lexer has worked diligently in serving runaway and homeless youth from across the Galveston-Houston area. We are sad to report that Lexer's work as a Case Manager with our Runaway and Homeless Youth program will soon come to an end. We are pleased to announce that he has been appointed as a police officer with the Houston Independent School District. His own childhood experience, life and work with The Children's Center will no doubt help him compassionately serve countless future area children and youth. Congratulations Lexer!



How We Serve The Community

Host Homes Program

Host Homes Provide A Safe Harbor for Children

Joe Huntington understands compassion. A resident of Clear Lake Shores, he serves as a host home parent for The Children's Center, Inc. He recently marked one year of care for a youngster recovering from life threatening burns received from a catastrophic fire in Guatemala. The youth is receiving medical care from Shriners, the world-class pediatric burn center, located in Galveston.

Mr. Huntington and his volunteer team support activities of daily living, recreation and educational needs of the youth. The ultimate goal is to support independent living. Mr. Huntington supported his own daughter's path to independence. His daughter Sunshine completed high school at Clear Falls High in League City and is now completing medical school in Australia.

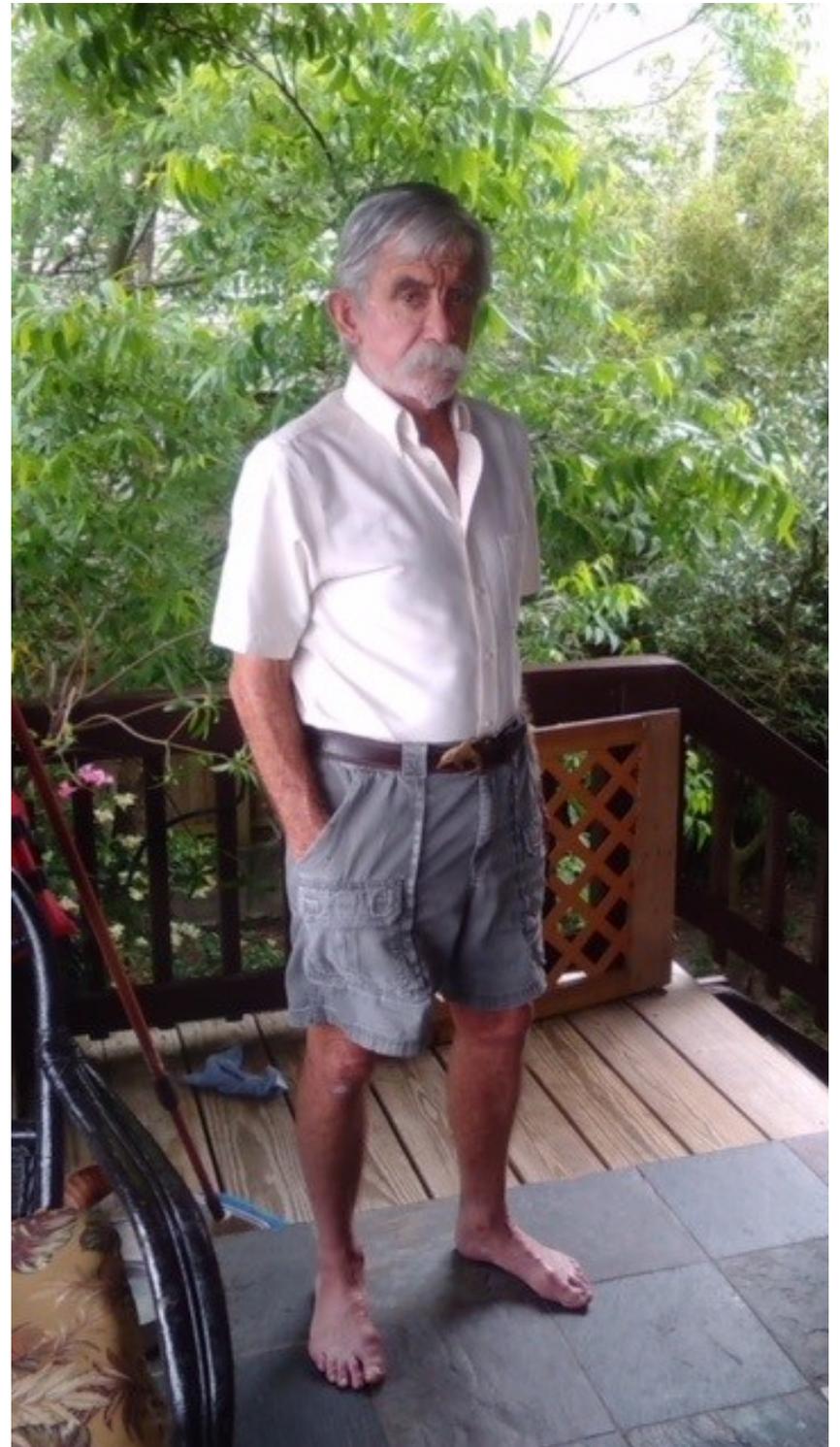
Do You Have Room in Your Heart and Home to provide a Host Home to a Child in Need?

Please email your interest to jkeel@tcc1878.org or call (409) 770-3540.

In Memoriam



We at The Children's Center, Inc. wish to honor the memory of Tino Gonzalez, a long-time friend of our organization. Tino departed this life on January 22nd and will continue to share a legacy of caring with everyone he knew. Tino served as a management team member and passionately cared about The Children's Center's work with disadvantaged youth.



How We Serve The Community

Our Programs



Safe Place Training Prepares Our Staff



In March, National Safe Place provided training for The Children's Center's greater Houston Area and Rio Grande Valley Area Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. Susan Harmon, Director of Safe Place National Operations, from National Safe Place, based in Louisville, Kentucky provided intensive training for both teams. The Houston-Galveston area team works with over 100 Safe Place sites covering the thirteen counties within the region. The Rio Grande Valley team, is establishing The Children's Center's Runaway and Homeless program in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties.

Those at training included:

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.
National Safe Place Affiliate on the Gulf Coast of Texas



104 Verified Locations
in
Critical Regional Target Areas

Legend	
Brazoria County	
Fort Bend County	
Chambers County	
Clear Lake/Webster/Harris County	
Galveston Island	
Greater Galveston County	
Deer Park/Pasadena/Harris	
Houston/Fifth Ward/Harris	
Houston/Gulfton/Harris	
Houston/Montrose/Harris	

Version March 2019

How We Serve The Community

Our Programs



THE CHILDREN'S CENTER: A HISTORY OF PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX PROBLEMS

The level of expertise inherent in the Children's Center is a result of 135 years of caring for youth in the Galveston community. In fact, their cutting-edge intervention into the problem of runaway and homeless youth was recognized when the Youth Center was featured as a "core program" for a "60 Minutes" television documentary on CBS, narrated by veteran newsman Robert McNeil.

CHILD AND FAMILY SAFETY NETWORK

- ◆ The Crisis Response Team is an emergency response team available 24/7/365 on-call that transports runaway and homeless youth and families in crisis to safe and secure destinations. The team, which covers the entire HGAC (Houston Galveston Area Council) 13 County area in Texas answers the TCCI Hotline at: 844-763-8861.
- ◆ Safe Place provides employee training and clearly marked signage for runaway and homeless youth and families in crisis. TCCI is the only National Safe Place affiliate within 241 miles.
- ◆ The Family Crisis Center is an emergency homeless shelter that keeps families together as a unit and provides trauma-informed care. The shelter also provides referral resources such as health care, sub-

stance abuse treatment, job preparation and limited mental health care as funds permit.

- ◆ Transitional Living Program provides transitional housing and support for young adults who have aged out of the CPS system; have been victims of human trafficking; sexual abuse or other forms of victimization and require education and job referral.
- ◆ Host Homes Prototypes are vetted, temporary placement for minors and older youth with oversight from licensed TCCI professionals.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION NETWORK

- ◆ Community Youth Development (CYD) is a juvenile delinquency prevention program, managed by a professional educator that provides afterschool and enrichment programs.
- ◆ The Children's Center, Inc. Independent School District—TCCIISD is an Alternative School Cluster, with accreditation from Advanced-ED, a TEA approved Private School Group (Granted 8/2017)

◆

Call for Volunteers!

"Chicktime Galveston" volunteers their time and treasure to assist vulnerable children at The Children's Center, Inc. Take a look at their work on

<https://www.facebook.com/chicktimegalveston/photos>

Join Us. Call: 409-765-5212



1878 to 2018 – Serving the Community for 140 Years





How We Serve The Community

Family Crisis Center and Rio Grande Valley

Classic Auto Group Gives to Community

Classic Auto Group owner Howie Benton recently held special events in Galveston benefitting Texas EquuSearch and The Children's Center, Inc. Texas EquuSearch Founder/Director Tim Miller and volunteers were on hand for the Annual Classic Auto Group "Crawfish Boil", held on Saturday April 13th. This event benefitted Texas EquuSearch, a search and rescue organization, dedicated to finding missing persons. The Children's Center was selected to participate in Classic Ford's "Ford Drive 4 UR Community". Classic Auto Group Public Relations Director and Children's Center Board Member, David Holmen, and volunteers supported a successful fundraiser, providing test drives of new Fords for community members. Ford will provide contributions to children, youth and families served by The Children's Center, Inc.



Thanks Howie and Thanks David!

Pictured:



Rio Grande Valley :

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program serving Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties

The Rio Grande Valley was identified by The Children's Center, Inc. as high risk for runaway and homeless youth based upon research identifying child welfare, economic, educational, health and other risk factors. The Children's Center, Inc. was awarded a Basic Center Grant by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to provide prevention and intervention services, designed to provide safe alternatives for runaway and homeless youth. Team members work alongside the area homeless coalition and community partners to collaborate in meeting these needs. Program offices are located in McAllen and a mobile team is employed to provide 24-hour crisis intervention services for runaway and homeless youth and families in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties.

The Crisis line (844) 763-8861 is available to law enforcement, schools, social service agencies and the public for support and assistance with Runaway and Homeless Youth. Program staff will work with referral sources to stabilize crisis and to seek safe alternatives for youth.

Project Safe Place is being developed across the Rio Grande Valley to provide accessible business locations that serve as volunteer Safe Place sites for runaway and homeless youth to seek while in crisis. Employees are trained to accommodate youth while awaiting arrival of program staff for support.

Families are being recruited to serve as Host Homes to provide crisis care for runaway and homeless children and youth. These homes will care for youth until crisis stabilization and family reunification may be facilitated within generally brief periods of time. .

The Team includes a Coordinator and two other professionals along with counseling and social work interns from area universities. Volunteers are welcome to letters of interest.

Please email jkeel@tcc1878.org or call (409) 770-3540 to express interest.



How We Serve The Community

Volunteer Opportunities

U.T.M.B Students Volunteer in Community

A group of U. T. M. B. students dedicated a project team to The Children's Center, Inc. in March for "UTMB United to Served 2019". Five outstanding volunteers spent their Saturday morning groundskeeping for the Family Crisis Center and organizing files for the administrative offices. The work was strenuous, requiring extensive movement of heavy furniture, discarded obsolete equipment and items and pick up of litter in outdoor areas.

After the project, team leader Hillary Nguyen wrote, "We are students from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) who come from all over. Our mission is to improve health for the people of Texas and around the world. We wanted to serve the Galveston community, which has given us so much. We are very thankful for this opportunity to make an impact and for your commitment to serve our community. We hope nothing but the best for you."

The volunteers included:



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 Wil-lacy Counties of 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 jkeel@tcc1878.org or call (409) 770-3540.



How We Serve The Community

Crisis Response Team and Crisis Hotline

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>

OUR HEARTFELT SORROW

This past fall, in late October, tragedy befell the lives of two young persons in the care of our organization. This event devastated the families of Nicholas and Noah. It also traumatized our staff who cared very much for these precious youth. Fall and winter have passed but not the importance of Noah and Nicholas and their ever presence in our lives.

DONATE TODAY!



Our Mailing Address:
The Children's Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 2600
Galveston, Texas 77553-2600

Call Us: (409) 765-5212



Donate on our website: <http://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org>