

2020 IMPACT REPORT



INDEX

- Vision and Mission Statement Page 02
- Letter from the Executive Director Page 03
- Programs
 - CarePortal Page 05
 - Christmas Store Page 07
 - COVID-19 Response Page 08
 - Diversity Page 09
 - Foster Parent Night Out Page 10
 - Respite Care Page 11
- Events
 - #GivingTuesdayNow and #GivingTuesday Page 13
 - National Foster Care Month Page 14
 - Trust-Based Relational Intervention..... Page 15
 - The Legacy unGala..... Page 16
- The Ranch
 - Updates Page 18
- Financial Report Page 19
- Looking Ahead to 2021 Page 20
- Call to Action Page 21

VISION STATEMENT

Every child will experience unconditional love and understand his or her value.

MISSION STATEMENT

Many children in foster care feel unlovable because of the abuse they've suffered all their lives. Agape Ranch breaks that cycle by providing compassionate care, connections within the community, and now by creating a neighborhood to give them a place to call home with families that provide unconditional love.

Dear Agape Friends,

Year 2020. It brought many unexpected challenges, but I could not be more grateful for the innovation, creativity, and dedication of Agape Ranch this past year. Agape Ranch is more than an organization; it's made up of dedicated people: Agape Team, Board Members, volunteers, and professionals, who relentlessly work to serve God, His children, and foster families in the Coastal Bend. I believe many of you will hear these words from the Book of Matthew, "Well done, good and faithful servant" coming from the One, our God, whom we love and desire to please.

Our many partnerships with Foundations, Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Placing Agencies, church partners, community members, advocates for vulnerable children, and professionals, who selflessly give of their time and resources, allowed Agape Ranch to support over 1,600 children and log over 5,800 volunteer hours. It was an honor to be recognized by the National CarePortal as the 2020 Community of the Year. CarePortal alone has made an economic impact of over \$212,000 in the Coastal Bend, which enabled families to stay together, prevented foster care, or supported families being reunited.

Rather than letting the pandemic simply cancel all of Agape Ranch's programs, we innovated to meet the needs of vulnerable children and continued supporting foster families. We provided masks for foster children so that they can visit their biological families, created webinars to help families process our changing world, supported foster families with rent and childcare needs, and began a pilot program, Agape Acts, to wrap around foster families in crisis. We also transitioned our annual gala fundraiser to a virtual event and raised \$61,000 for the next home on The Ranch for youth aging out of the foster care system. Lastly, the Christmas Store broke a record in the number of donated gifts – 680, serving over 500 children in the Coastal Bend.

Agape Ranch closed out 2020 strong, with construction beginning on The Ranch and setting the course to start Agape Harbor, a faith-based Child Placing Agency to help families adopt and foster children in 2021.

It is our commitment that we will continue to chase wholeheartedly after God and His will to create a better legacy for His vulnerable children.



Susan Klaus
Founder & Executive Director



PROGRAMS

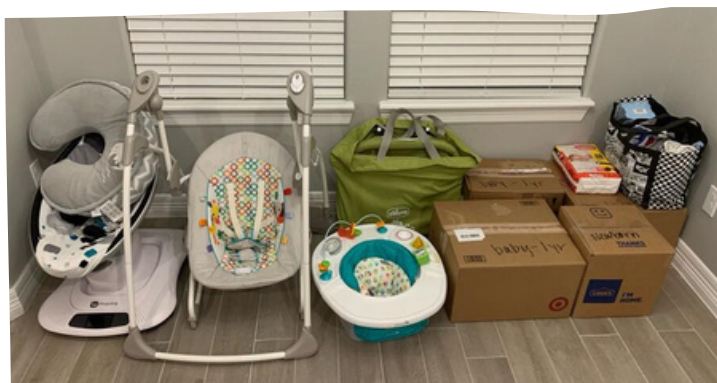
CAREPORTAL

\$212K+

ECONOMIC IMPACT

829

CHILDREN SERVED



As the Implementing Partner of the CarePortal in the Coastal Bend, Agape Ranch serves vulnerable children and their families through a network of churches, Department of Family and Protective Services, and non-profits within our community.

Churches stepped out with great faith this year to serve through the barriers posed by COVID-19 to meet 332 requests. These requests represent children in crisis potentially facing foster care due to poverty, not abuse or neglect. The Church stepped in, provided for their physical needs, prayed with them, and kept these children with their families, preventing foster care.

During an overwhelming time for all, child welfare professionals continued to be able to share real needs in real-time with the surrounding church community, through the online platform we know as CarePortal.

As a recognition of the efforts and impact made in the Coastal Bend, Agape Ranch was awarded the Community of the Year by the National CarePortal!

It is our vision to expand CarePortal into the areas of adoption, foster care, and aging-out foster youth in 2021.



CarePortal 

**COMMUNITY
OF THE YEAR**

2020

COASTAL BEND
OF TEXAS

CHRISTMAS STORE

681

GIFTS FOR FOSTER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

20

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

100+

VOLUNTEERS



Agape Ranch's annual Christmas Store blesses families with gifts for foster children in kinship placements and at-risk children of the Coastal Bend. Often, families that care for vulnerable children are responsible for large sibling groups. When it comes to providing beyond their basic needs, holidays can become a difficult financial obligation.

In 2020, Agape Ranch provided 681 gifts with the partnership of more than 100 volunteers and 20 community partners.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Agape Ranch continued to assist vulnerable children in our community by supporting foster families that were directly impacted by COVID-19 and meeting the needs of the foster children and families.

Through the generosity of our faithful supporters, Agape Ranch was able to provide the foster children and families in following ways:

- HEB and Walmart gift cards for families that became food or housing insecure,
- Masks for foster children visiting their biological families,
- Rent support for families who no longer had an income or partial income,
- Childcare tuition for foster families who suddenly found themselves seeking childcare for their children,
- Mental health webinar on the topic of how to help children process the pandemic and practice healthy connecting principals, and
- Provided Halloween candy for 300 foster children at the CPS Trick-or-Treat Drive-Thru.

These efforts allowed families to continue to love the foster children in their care.



DIVERSITY

Race, Church, and Child Advocacy



Agape Ranch stepped purposefully into the national conversation of diversity. By asking how the Church and child advocates can enter into a productive conversation from a variety of perspectives that is God honoring, The Race, Church, and Child Advocacy Panel Discussion brought tangible ways to support vulnerable children and celebrate diversity.

1000+

FAMILIES SERVED VIA ONLINE VIEWING

Many foster and adoptive families care for children who are of a race different than their own, and we believe that one of the ways that we can positively impact our families is by encouraging them with simple tips to clean, style, and celebrate ethnic hair.

Agape Ranch produced the Ethnic Hair Care Workshop to serve local foster and adoptive families and connect them with local businesses who share our vision to care for vulnerable children.

Ethnic Hair Care Workshop

Ethnic Hair Care:
Clean, Simple, Celebrated



FOSTER PARENT NIGHT OUT



10

FAMILIES SUPPORTED

31

CHILDREN SERVED

60

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Foster Parent Night Out is a free program that allows foster parents to connect with their spouse or enjoy a child-free evening. In order to relieve the burden of having to find additional childcare helpers, this event welcomes foster parents to register their foster children, adopted children, and biological children.

Due to COVID, only one event was able to be held in 2020; however, we intend to resume normal operations in 2021, allowing for greater support for foster families in the Coastal Bend.

RESPITE CARE

"AGAPE RANCH IS SUCH AN ASSET. I HAVE HAD MULTIPLE FOSTER PARENTS UTILIZE AGAPE RANCH FOR RESPITE AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE. "

-LOCAL PARTNERING CHILD PLACEING AGENCY



Foster parents face unique challenges due to the challenges that arise when caring for children coming from a place of trauma. In order to avoid burnout, their sacrificial lifestyle must be balanced with support. Agape Ranch works with the Department of Family and Protective Services and local Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) to license individuals to become certified childcare providers, known as Respite Care Providers.

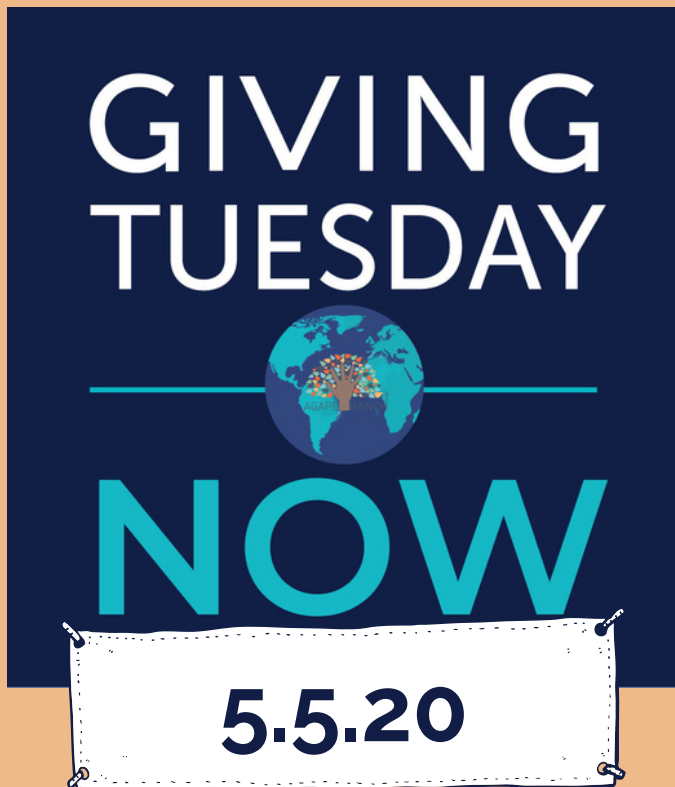
After becoming trained and certified, Respite Care Providers are able to step in to care for foster children, up to 14 days, in order to allow foster parents opportunities to go on date nights, attend to personal medical appointments, take vacations, visit family from out of the state, or simply take a break.

- 62 RESPITE CARE PROVIDERS TRAINED.
- DEVELOPMENT OF AGAPE ACTS, A WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FOSTER FAMILIES.
- 2700+ CITY-WIDE RESPITE HOURS SERVED.
- 25 FOSTER FAMILIES SERVED AND 62 CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH RESPITE CARE SERVICES.

EVENTS



#GIVINGTUESDAY



#GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement that began in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. In 2020, an additional day, #GivingTuesdayNow, was created as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19.

Friends of **Agape Ranch** responded in big ways, **raising nearly \$50,000** to support our mission as well as expressing their generosity through acts of kindness, donation of goods, time, notes of compassion, advocacy for causes, and care for family and friends.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH



National Foster Care Month is a time to recognize that we can each play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. There are many ways to get involved in the child welfare arena: volunteer, become a respite care provider, purchase a Christmas gift, provide a meal for a foster family, adopt a child, pray with us, or become a foster parent.

In 2020, Agape Ranch introduced Legacy Stories, which aim to shine light through a variety of lenses to see through the obstacles for those seeking to join the cause and make an impact in the lives of vulnerable children. Read them at www.agaperanch.org/agape-stories.

TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION



Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training is a practical therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support and treatment for at-risk children. Agape Ranch conducted this valuable training for foster parents, child advocate professionals and volunteers, and caseworkers.

The TBRI method, developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. Davis Cross, is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children.

23

PARTICIPANTS

276

TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED

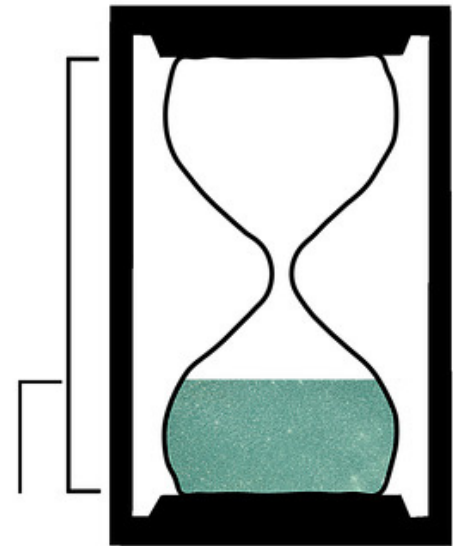
THE LEGACY UNGALA

As COVID-19 loomed on, The Agape Ranch Legacy Gala team worked to reformat our largest fundraising event to become The Legacy unGala: The Gift of Time, presented by Chick-fil-A. Through the online event, supporters responded to raise 30% of the \$200,000 goal towards the building of a home for youth aging out of foster care. More than 90% of young adults aging-out of the foster system will become homeless, incarcerated, in prostitution, trafficked, or dead within three years. It's a frightening statistic and Agape Ranch is determined to help create a different legacy for these youth.



Goal:
\$200,000

Current Status:
\$61,055.56



"AGAPE RANCH IS GOING TO HAVE A HOME THAT WILL ALLOW US TO PLACE OLDER CHILDREN [18+] IN A FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT... AGAPE RANCH WILL GIVE THEM A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN LIVE AND GET THE SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE, AND GUIDANCE THAT THEY NEED TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE ADULTS."

TARA O'CONNELL
REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES REGION 11



MORE THAN 90% OF YOUNG ADULTS AGING-OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM WILL BECOME

- homeless
- incarcerated
- lured into prostitution
- trafficked
- dead

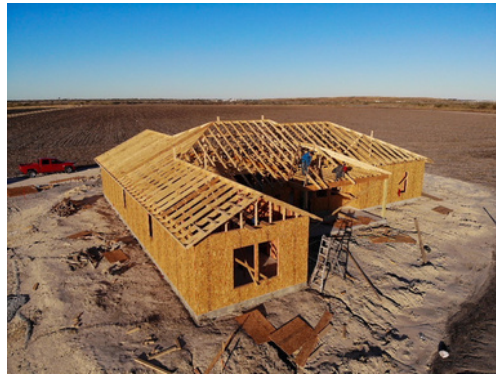
WITHIN THREE YEARS

THE RANCH



THE RANCH UPDATE

- Foundation and plumbing complete
- Scripture & prayer dedication: Jan. 16, 2021
- Official Groundbreaking Jan. 20, 2021



AGAPE RANCH MASTER SITE PLAN JUNE 2020



2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Fundraisers - \$113,967.68
General Support - \$65,958.45
Program Support - \$31,459.29
Grants - \$27,500.00
Interest - \$8,725.37
PPP & Other Donations - \$8,137.76
Total - \$255,748.55

EXPENDITURE

Programs - \$12,558.69
The Ranch Development and House - \$101,520.93
Operations & Rent - \$7,399.52
Fundraiser - \$4,633.11
Agape Harbor - \$10,000
Contract Services - \$8,182.00
Insurance - \$3,424.54
Business Expense - \$1,958.54
Payroll Expenses & Taxes - \$47,568.90
 Programs - \$31,213.13
 Operations - \$8,507.40
 Community Relations - \$3,744.25
Total - \$197,246.23

DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Ranch Development and House - \$50,000

Net Total - \$8,502.32

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

PROGRAMS

We are hopeful that we will be able to return to the majority of our programs in 2021. This past year gave us the opportunity to innovate and find ways to continue to do the work of leaving a better legacy for the foster children and youth in the Coastal Bend, and we will continue to be creative in the work that God has set before us to do. At the same time, we are eager to return to hosting our annual program events that help children get adopted and receive the services that they need.

We have two Team Members joining the Agape Ranch Team!

- Jessica Blakeslee, Program Coordinator. Jessica will be responsible for planning all annual programs and events.
- Yohance Warrick, Program Advocate. Yohance will establish and facilitate the ongoing mentorship program for aging-out foster youth, Agape Acts for foster family support, diversity training for foster families, and connect with churches in the Coastal Bend to join this cause of taking care of God's children.

THE RANCH

The first home on The Ranch will be completed in the Spring of 2021. We are deeply thankful for the support of our friends, community, and foundations for making this vision into a reality. The Ranch will be a place where every child will experience unconditional love and understand his or her value. Pray with us that God will anoint every square inch of The Ranch for His work for the sake of His children.

AGAPE HARBOR

We believe that it is the call of the Church to care for God's fatherless children. There are not enough families in the Coastal Bend for the foster children in our community. Therefore, more than 60% of the children are sent out of our area, often separated from their siblings and everyone and everything they know. We need more people in the Church to take the step of faith to enter into this calling to love God's children. Agape Harbor will be able to license families for foster care, transitional care for youth aging out of the foster system, and adoption through the state. Find out more at www.agapeharbor.org, coming in Spring of 2021.

CALL TO ACTION

PRAY

As we look forward to 2021, will you join us in prayer?

- Completion of first home on The Ranch.
- Raising funds for two homes, one for aged-out foster youth and one for respite care provider.
- Wisdom in continuing to innovate our programs to best meet the needs of the foster children, youth, and families.
- Establishing of Agape Harbor, a faith-based foster and adoption Child Placing Agency.

DONATE

You can support the work that Agape Ranch is doing to serve foster and adoptive children, youth, and families. www.agaperanch.org/donate

BECOME A LEGACY MAKER

Your monthly commitment allows us to be able to plan more effectively and efficiently for Agape's programs, The Ranch, and events. www.agaperanch.org/legacymaker

VOLUNTEER

There are many ways you can get involved to make an impact. Volunteer for several hours at one of our events, be an ongoing support for foster families by becoming a part of Agape Acts or Respite Care programs, purchase a Christmas gift, provide a meal for a foster family, or become an adoptive or foster family. www.agaperanch.org/volunteer

BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT

In Spring of 2021, Agape Harbor, a faith-based Child Placing Agency, will be established. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent or adopting through the state of Texas, contact susan.klaus@agapeharbor.org.

