

Dear Friends of Agape Ranch,

In 2023, you chose to be a gifter of belonging to vulnerable, foster, adoption-ready children, and the families that love and support them. You chose to be a voice for children who cannot speak up or advocate for themselves, and supported families that live with extreme grit and passion. You have chosen to show them that they belong here and that you belong here beside them.

These children and families are some of the most grit filled people you will ever meet, and they do not know how to give up. Through late nights full of behavioral challenges, trauma that cause chaos, endless visits from state agencies that scrutinize every aspect of their lives, constantly changing court dates, documentation upon documentation, trainings, and doctor visits, families continue to say, "yes" to pouring out their love for the children in their care so that they feel valued and can accomplish all God has for them.

Thank you to your support as Agape Ranch continues to grow and impact children and families. Ground has been broken at the Ranch and land development is scheduled for completion in the Spring 2024. The Ranch will be the physical embodiment of the gift of belonging. Families will get to move to a community where people are passionate about loving vulnerable children.

Through your support, Agape Ranch has grown Foster Parent Night Outs from three to four times a year to six times a year. In 2024, foster families will get to enjoy this program on a monthly basis. More individuals have chosen to become respite care providers, so we increased the number of our respite provider training from two to three this year.

Programs such as Agape Acts and Agape Roots continue to provide support to adoptive and foster parents. Foster Family Days and Foster Family Retreat, allow foster families opportunities to experience things that can be cost prohibitive for large families. Thrive focuses on leaving a better legacy for young adults who will soon or have aged-out from foster care.

Thank you for serving alongside Agape Ranch. As our Lord calls us to serve and love the "least of these," we are deeply grateful for your support through financial giving, volunteering, and prayers. Please continue to pray for God's guidance and blessing as we serve vulnerable, foster, adoption ready, and aged-out children and families.

For His glory, His Kingdom, and His children,

Susan Klaus Founder & Executive Director

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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.

### MEET THE 2023 TEAM



**Susan Klaus** Executive Director & Founder



Jonathan Stubbs Operations Manager



**Rose Ruiz** Program Coordinator



Kim Morales Program Coordinator



**Shannon Murphy** Community Coordinator



Tad Gilstrap Church Relations



**Jorden Tramp** Donor Relations & Event Coordinator



Jennifer Robinson Finance Coordinator

#### 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Treasurer** Tim Klaus

**President** Bailey Wilson

Ginger DeLatte

Javier Huerta

Ken Schuetze

**Secretary** 

Justin Horton

Lori Carlino

Ashley Cocke Jos

Joshua Segundo Agape Ranch | Annual Report 2023

## CHURCH PARTNERS

The success of our programs and services in 2023 would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our church partners engaging in the mission of Agape Ranch, each responding to God's call to care for vulnerable children.

### **2023 Church Partners**

Abundant Life Fellowship Asbury UMC Believe Church Christian Revival Center Church of the Epiphany City Church CC Christian Fellowship Crossbridge Fellowship Destination Pointe Church Ebenezer Worship Center First Baptist Church Portland First UMC Kingsville First UMC Portland Gethsemane Lutheran Church GracePoint Church Portland Grace Episcopal Church Kelsey Memorial Methodist Church Kingdom Church Kingsville New Life at the Cross New Life Church Oso Creek Church River Hills Baptist Church Rock City Church St. Andrew's Episcopal Church St. Mark's Episcopal Church Summit Church Trinity by the Sea Episcopal Church Waldron Road Baptist Church Yorktown Baptist Church



**VOLUNTEER AS** 



AGAPE ACTS CHURCH

OME AN

SUPPORT AS



SPONSOR AN



HOST AN AWARENESS EVENT







# PROGRAMS

# **AREAS OF IMPACT**

### Prevention

### CarePortal

### **Foster Care**

Agape Acts Agape Roots Children without Placement Christmas Store Foster Parent Night Out Foster Family Day Foster Family Retreat Respite Care

### Adoption

Agape Connection

### **Aging-out Youth**

Thrive Youth Coaching

# CAREPORTAL













As the Implementing Partner of CarePortal in the Coastal Bend, Agape Ranch connects children in need to people who want to help. This gives child welfare professionals the opportunity to share real needs in real-time.

Each request represents a child in crisis potentially facing foster care due to poverty, not abuse or neglect, and assists in preventing children from entering into foster care unnecessarily. Also, it may be to meet the request of a biological family getting ready for reunification.



AGAPE RANCH | ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## AGAPE ACTS

Turnover rate for foster parents in the United States is as high as 30-50%. We work to strengthen their support system.



This supportive wrap-around care for foster parents exists to empower churches to care for foster families. We work to strengthen their support system to mitigate turnover, so that children can have healthier and more stable family unit. We support foster families through Agape Acts Teams that provide services such as meals, mowing lawns, prayer, babysitting, and celebrating adoptions.

## AGAPE ROOTS

Coastal Bend foster parent support group which creates space to connect with other foster parents, celebrate successes, share struggles, and learn about community resources. K Space Contemporary provides an art activity for the children while the parents have time with each other. 70 CHILDREN SERVED 18 FAMILIES SERVED

### CHILDREN WITHOUT PLACEMENT



Due to a lack of available homes, there are times when children and youth do not a foster home available for them. In cooperation with the Department of Family Protective Services. Thanks to your support Agape Ranch was able to complete our two year commitment to providing meals.



The annual Agape Ranch Christmas Store blesses kinship foster families and at-risk families in the Coastal Bend with gifts for during the Christmas season. Often, families that are caring for vulnerable children have large sibling groups in their care. To help alleviate the challenges of providing beyond basic needs, we offer the Christmas Store.







#### **2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Adamson & Co Ashley Cocke City Church Contender CrossFit Padre Island Corpus Christi Christian Fellowship Corpus Christi Financial Group Crossbridge Fellowship Church CrossFit XLR8 DFPS Kinship Care Gibson Elementary Harrison's Landing Hollon Safe New Life at the Cross Oso Creek Church Pregnancy Center - Coastal Bend Trinity Fellowship Church Viera Senior Living Yorktown Baptist Church

## FOSTER PARENT NIGHT OUT



#### **Foster Parent Night Out**

Foster Parent Night Out allows foster parents to enjoy a welldeserved child-free evening at no cost to them. This event welcomes foster parents to register their foster children, adopted children, and biological children. This year we added Foster Parent Day Out events and are looking to host a monthly Night or Day Out.

### 2023 Host Churches

- Oso Creek Church (February)
- Yorktown Baptist Church (April)
- City Church (June)
- Asbury United Methodist Church (August)
- New Life at the Cross (October)
- Asbury United Methodist Church (December)

### **35** FAMILIES SUPPORTED

### **125** CHILDREN SERVED

### **132** VOLUNTEER HOURS



## FOSTER FAMILY DAY & RETREAT



This year, foster families were treated to a day out at In the Game, a Corpus Christi Hooks game, a day at the Lexington, and a Foster Family Dance! Families were able to experience different attractions in the Coastal Bend that they may have never been able to do before.



Agape Ranch had its second annual Foster Family Retreat. This is an opportunity for foster families to connect at a deeper level with both their foster children and biological and/or adoptive children.

The demands placed on foster parents are great. Dedicating a time away as a family and gathering in a distraction-free environment allows the time and space needed for all to recharge and create lasting memories.

SERVED

# **RESPITE CARE**









ACTIVE PROVIDERS

Agape Ranch works with the Department of Family and Protective Services and local Child Placing Agencies to license individuals to become certified childcare providers, known as Respite Care Providers.

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

"For months I felt alone, unsupported, incapable, and in general, not enough. I am absolutely overwhelmed by the support and kindness I have been shown from Agape Ranch."

-Anonymous, Foster Parent

## AGAPE CONNECTION

### 46 CHILDREN SERVED

### FAMILIES SERVED

8





#### **Agape Connection**

Agape Connection is an annual festival in May for Texas foster children, who are eligible for adoption. Adoptive parent prospects, who have completed an adoptive home study, attend this stress-free environment that allows children and families the opportunity to play, connect, and interact with the goal of forming forever families. Participants engage in a variety of activities that include crafts, sports, bounce houses, photo booth, bookstore, and lunch.

## THRIVE COACHING

The Thrive Program works directly with youth ages 16-23 that have or will age out of the foster care system and connects them to coaches and organizations to help them succeed as they enter into adulthood. While many events are scheduled throughout the year, below you can learn more about our graduation celebration and Christmas event.





Agape Ranch celebrated nine bright individuals in the foster care system that graduated from High School in May 2023 from multiple different High Schools in the Coastal Bend.

Agape Ranch hosted a Christmas party for aged-out foster children and coaches in December. A total of 14 youth gathered to play games, gather in community, and celebrate the joy-filled time of year together. We also hosted a March Madness networking event where 22 students were able to network with local business owners and other professionals.





\*According to the Department of Family and Protective Services,

# EVENTS

## LEAVE A LEGACY 5K/10K

Leave a Legacy 5K/10K raises awareness and funds for foster, adoption ready, aged-out, and vulnerable children, youth, and families in the Coastal Bend.





### FEBRUARY 11, 2023

### 2023 SPONSORS

#### Legacy Sponsor

Chick-fil-A Coastal Bend Everest Water

### **Ranch Sponsors**

HEB Mattress Firm Scott Electric

### **Family Sponsors**

Yorktown Baptist Church State Farm -Bobby Hyatt RBFCU

### Hope Sponsors

ACE Global First Baptist Church Portland Kennedy Dental Care Seaside Funeral Home Tropical Smoothie Cafe Yorktown Christian Academy



### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH MAY 2023

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.







## LADIES LEGACY BRUNCH

The second annual Agape Ranch Ladies Legacy Brunch hosted at Gaslight Square, welcomed 100 women in the Coastal Bend to enjoy a meal together and learn more about the needs of vulnerable children and families in the Coastal Bend.



COMPANY

MAY 2023



SAFE

Roughian





CHARRED





Thank you Table Hosts

Kleberg Since 1905 Bank Ashley Cocke Bailey Wilson

Connie Pester Sherry Johnson

## THE LEGACY GALA

**\$148K** FUNDS RAISED



Thanks to the generous support of Gala sponsors, Gala attendees, our keynote speaker Tori Hope Peterson, and the community, \$148,000 was raised in support of the mission of Agape Ranch during 2023 Legacy Gala: You Belong Here. The continued development and The Ranch as well as the existing programs and services offered to support foster children and the families that serve them is critical in our community.

Thank you to all of those that provided financial support, volunteered, and prayed for the success of the event.

#### **SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**



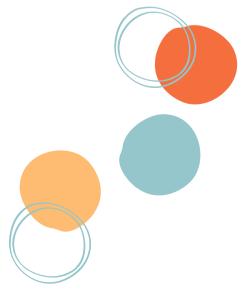
### NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH NOVEMBER 2023





Stand Sunday provided 14 churches with videos, information, and engagement ideas to support vulnerable children and youth in our community. On that day, all across Corpus Christi, churches learned about the needs of vulnerable children and opportunities to serve via Agape Ranch.

Volunteers and staff spoke to the congregations of these churches, answered questions, and got more people involved in supporting the vulnerable children and youth in the Coastal Bend.





# THE RANCH

## THE RANCH

### **UPDATES**



Phase 1 of the Ranch has begun and is in full swing. Thank you to the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, Todd Hunter, Pastor Don Leavell, Congressman Michael Cloud, and many other members of the community for joining Agape Ranch to celebrate land development construction.



## 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

### INCOME

Fundraisers - \$765,056 General Support - \$96,272 Program Support - \$11,833 Grants - \$101,493 Interest - \$30,740 Other Types of Income - \$42,405 Total - \$1,047,799

### **EXPENDITURE**

Programs - \$83,433 Operations- \$40,043 Fundraiser - \$89,516 Payroll Expenses & Taxes - \$337,430 Total - \$550,422

### **ASSETS**

Land, Development, and House - \$818,098

## CALL TO ACTION

### PRAY

As we look forward to 2024, please join us for prayer. We are seeking wisdom in continuing to innovate and grow our programs to best meet the needs of the foster children, youth, and families. In addition, land development and building work will begin this year.

### DONATE

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

### **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. <u>www.agaperanch.org/legacymaker</u>

### 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. <u>www.agaperanch.org/volunteer</u>

### **BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT**

Agape Ranch partners with six Child Placing Agencies in the Coastal Bend. Should you be interested in opening your home as a foster or adoptive parent, please contact us at admin@agaperanch.org.



AGAPE RANCH | 5151 FLYNN PKWY, STE. 106 | CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78411 | 361-742-6330