



# The Road To Success

Boys and Girls Country 2013 Annual Report

## Mission

To change the lives of children from families in crisis by loving and nurturing them in a Christian home, raising them to become self-sustaining and contributing adults.

## About Boys and Girls Country

Boys and Girls Country is a home for 88 children between the ages of five and 18. These children are from families in crisis due to such problems as poverty, domestic violence, neglect, sexual abuse, and drug and alcohol problems. Children stay an average of three years, though some grow up here. Not only are their daily needs met in a Christian “family” home environment, but we also help our children reach their dreams by meeting their educational, spiritual, social, and mental health needs.

In 1997 we established our College and Career program, which is designed to prepare these young adults to earn a living, becoming productive members of the community. Residents who have graduated from high school have the option to enter into the program. These students live on the College and Career campus, which is five miles from the main campus. If those students, who enter the College and Career program, maintain good grades and good behavior, Boys and Girls Country will assist them in graduating from college or technical training, debt free.

## Our Vision

That every child has a place to grow up and a sense of being home.



## Dear Friends of Boys and Girls Country:

On the anniversary of our 42<sup>nd</sup> year, it is our pleasure as Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors to thank you for helping to make this another extraordinary year for the children at Boys and Girls Country.

In 2013, we continued to stay true to our mission of providing a loving and nurturing Christian home environment for our children. We received over 50 inquires a month from families needing assistance as they struggle with poverty, domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse.

Your investments in our children continue to reap many returns. In 2013, we graduated seven students, six from high school and one from college. We continued to place great importance on educating our children, and we ended the school year with a 3.3 grade point average. This has given our kids confidence where they once were insecure. Our College and Career program has supported well over a dozen young people in college and trade schools. These schools include the Gary Job Corps welding program, University of Texas at Austin, Lonestar College, University of Houston, Texas A&M University, Baylor University, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Sam Houston State University.

In June, we were "Accredited" by the Better Business Bureau (meaning we met all 20 standards for charity accountability). Soon after, the national charity watchdog, Charity Navigator, announced our seventh consecutive four-star rating, awarding us with their "exceptional" designation and further stating "only two percent of the charities (we) rate met these standards and (this) demonstrates to the public, (we are) worthy of their trust."

All of our boys and girls have been active in their churches and youth groups, and many have attended Christian summer camps and mission trips. Our founder, T.A. Robinson, told us that one of his main goals was to have our children "leave us as strong, dedicated Christians." Because of the sacrifice of our Teaching Parents, the central figures in our kids' lives, we work towards completing our mission every day. Our staff has been most instrumental in encouraging these results.

Thanks to your generosity, we have operated in a fiscally sound manner and have had successful special events. In fact, we raised \$880,000 at Spring Festival and \$2.0 million at the Heritage Award Dinner. This money is critical to the operation of BGC because it represents 46% of our annual budget. This support, along with the gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, churches, and civic groups, has enabled us to fully meet the needs of our children.

We are grateful to each of you who partner with us in raising these talented and wonderful boys and girls. Thank you!

Sincerely,



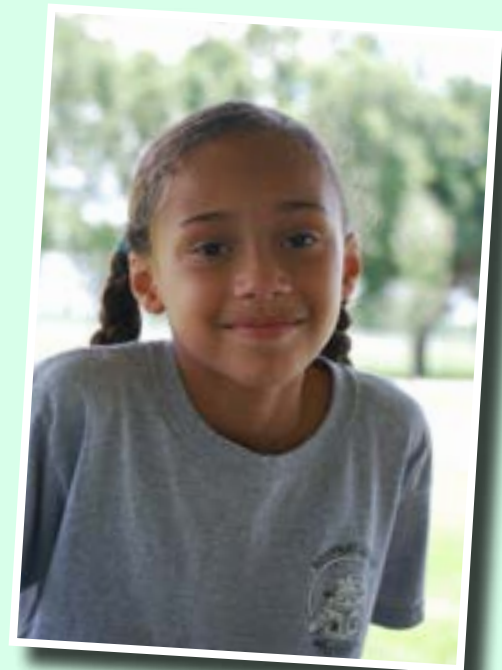
**Lou Palma**  
Executive Director



**J.R. Sult**  
Chairman  
Board of Directors



*You can't do anything  
to change what already  
happened so do what you  
can to make your life better  
for now and in the future.*



*You learn skills and how to  
be a better person. You get  
direction. Here you get love  
and acceptance.*

## Who We Serve



*I moved to Cottage 2 and to this day I still feel at home there.*



*On the road to success, everyone has those moments that you can always look back on when the going gets tough.*

Although our main cottages can accommodate up to 88 children at one time – 48 boys and 40 girls – we typically serve over 114 children per year. The average length of stay is 3 years. In addition to a stable family environment, all of our children are provided with food, clothing, medical and dental care, and counseling as needed. We help our children develop a firm foundation for their lives, emphasizing academic achievement, personal accomplishment, and participation in enrichment activities. Since our founding, a total of 1,355 children have found a home at Boys and Girls Country.

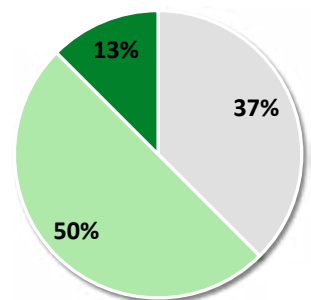
Boys and Girls Country serves all 11 counties in the Greater Houston area. The majority of our children come from Harris (65%) and Montgomery (15%) Counties, with the remainder coming from Brazoria, Brazos, Fort Bend, Grimes, Jefferson, Liberty, San Jacinto, Waller, and Williamson Counties. In 2013, Boys and Girls Country served a total of 114 children ranging in age from 5 to 18, and 15 young adults through our College & Career program. The average age of the children living on our main residential campus is 14.

We serve children who have suffered from abuse and neglect and need a safe place to grow up. It is likely that the adults in their lives lack sufficient education to find good paying, stable employment; therefore, they struggle to provide for even the children's basic needs. In Harris County alone, 61% of school age children live in poverty and qualify for free and reduced-price lunches. Caught in generational cycles of poverty, alcohol and drug use are often prevalent, and verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse are not uncommon. Our children

come to us broken and without hope of a better future.

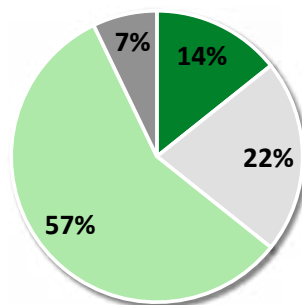
Boys and Girls Country is not a foster home. Children are not typically referred to us by CPS; instead, they find us through churches or concerned friends and neighbors, extended family members or guardians who are assured that their child will be well looked after and cared for.

### College Grade Point Average



- A Average
- B Average
- C Average

### College and Career Program Current Residents



- Workforce
- Trade School
- College
- Graduate School

# 42 Years of Caring for Children

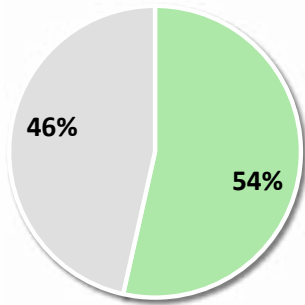
## 93 High School Graduates (since 1997)

## 21 College or Trade School Graduates

## 1,355 Children Reached

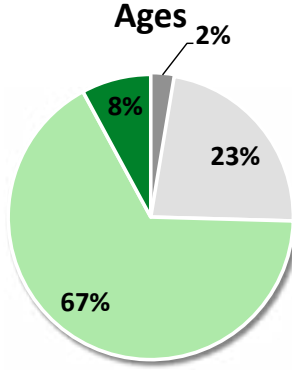
In 2013, Boys and Girls Country Served 114 children between two campuses.

**Gender**



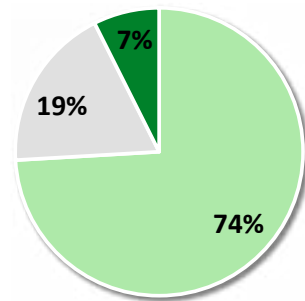
■ Male ■ Female

**Ages**



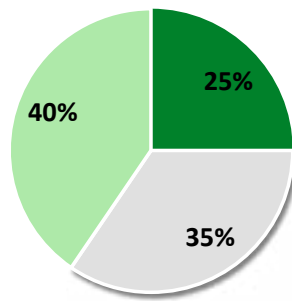
■ Ages 5-7  
 ■ Ages 8-12  
 ■ Ages 13-17  
 ■ Ages 18 and older

**Grade Point Average**



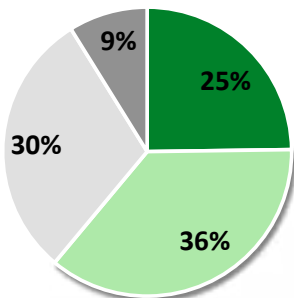
■ A/B Average ■ C Average  
 ■ D Average

**Grades**



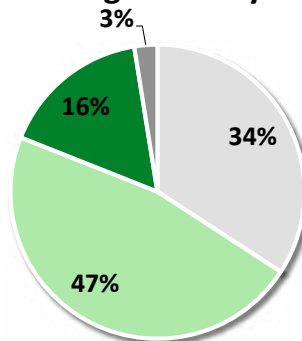
■ Elementary School  
 ■ Middle School  
 ■ High School

**Ethnicity**



■ African-American ■ Caucasian  
 ■ Hispanic ■ Other

**Length of Stay**



■ Less than 1 year ■ 1-3 years  
 ■ 4-7 years ■ 8+ years



*Take advantage of the opportunities here...BGC will benefit you in the long run. Here you learn to face the obstacles that brought you to this place.*



# What's Happening at Boys and Girls Country



Spring Festival

## Spring Festival

Where can you find live entertainment, **4,000 people**, 1,000 pounds of brisket and sausage, 1,600 slices of cheese, 2,000 hot dogs and hamburgers, a petting zoo, games and activities for the kids, auctions, and the largest yard sale west of the Mississippi? Where else but Boys and Girls Country's annual Spring Festival! People from Houston and the surrounding area made the annual pilgrimage May 4, helping us raise **\$880,000** for our children and young adults.

## Graduation

Boys and Girls Country realizes the keys to success are learning and education.

We seek to provide children with opportunities to discover and reach their potential. Since 1997, Boys and Girls Country has celebrated 93 high school graduations and 21 college or trade school graduations. In 2013, we graduated six seniors; Denisha Bullock; Hannah Brown; Amber Salas; Joseph Le; Harley Williams and Hannah Butchee. These

fine young men and women have started their college careers at Lone Star Community College, Texas A&M University, and Stephen F. Austin University.



## Children's Awards Banquet

Once the school year concludes, Boys and Girls Country hosts an annual Children's Awards Banquet to celebrate each child's various accomplishments, no matter how big or small. Special awards are given including highest grade point average, most improved students, Kids' Choice Awards, Residents of the Year Award and the Gerry Lyon Award.

This year's awards banquet was held at **St. Francis Episcopal Church** with over 200 guests in attendance, including board directors, staff, volunteers, donors, parents and extended family members. The event is a great way for our community to see the major accomplishments of our children and how their support contributes to the success of our students.



Children's Award Banquet

## Heritage Award Dinner

Boys and Girls Country's Heritage Award Dinner, held October 30 at the Hilton Americas Hotel, raised **\$2.0 million**. The event attracted over **1,200 guests** who celebrated **Johnie Schulte** (posthumously) and were entertained by comedian **George Lopez**. The dinner is the home's largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds help cover operating expenses as well as programs and services such as the College and Career program, education lab, healthcare and counseling services.

## Christmas

Christmas is truly a holiday for children, for making memories, teaching generosity and enjoying the magic of the season. Many of our children have never experienced the Christmas we cherish from our childhoods. We want our kids to know the love and excitement of this incredible time of year. At Boys and Girls Country, we make sure they do. They go to a tree farm and choose and cut their own family Christmas tree. They help their cottage families decorate for the annual door decorating contest.



They attend multiple Christmas parties with clubs, churches and school. Our kids see the Nutcracker ballet and Christmas plays at church, they spend time creating gingerbread houses and decorating the tree. They make presents for family and friends. On the **Day of Wonder** our children celebrate with their cottage families and sponsors, sharing a meal, fellowship, and receiving presents. And the reward of this huge celebration is that our children will have a true Christmas in their hearts and in their memories forever!



Heritage Award Dinner



Christmas

# Financial Highlights

For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

(In thousands of dollars)



*I now get all A's and B's, I have learned to cook and I realize that education really is important.*



## Statement of Activities

### Public Support and Other Revenue

Contributions in Support of Operations	3,214
Special Events (net of expenses)	2,674
Other Revenues	737
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>6,625</b>

### Operating Expenses

Program Services	5,249
Fund Raising	535
Management and General	356
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,140</b>

## Balance Sheet

### Assets

Cash and Investments	2,106
Pledges and Other Receivables	1,492
Interest in Net Assets of Endowment Fund	13,700
Property and Equipment, net	8,879
Other Assets	152
	<u>26,329</u>

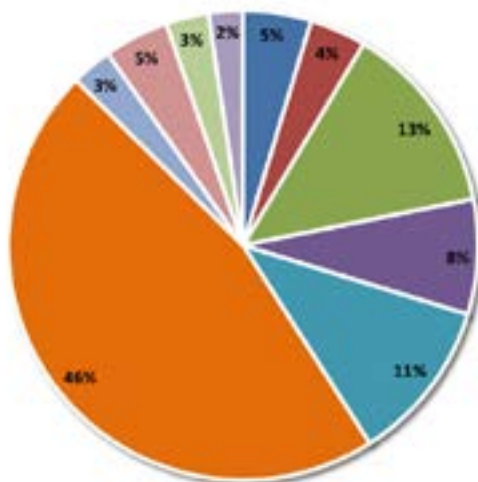
### Liabilities

653

### Net Assets

25,676

## Funding



- Annual Fund - Board
- Corporations
- Foundations
- Individuals
- General Contributions
- Special Events
- In Kind Contributions
- Reimbursement for Care
- Grant from Endowment Fund
- Other Income



# Expense Highlights

**Utilities**  **\$ 6,435 Monthly**

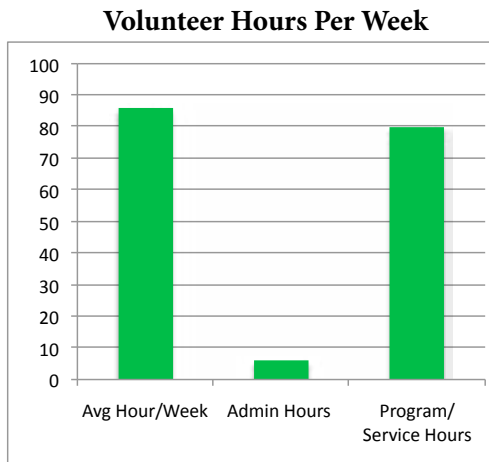
**Transportation**  **\$ 4,125 Monthly**

**Food Budget**  **\$ 7,260 Monthly**

**2,380 Meals served monthly**

## Volunteer Program

Boys and Girls Country volunteers are committed, passionate people who care about our children, contribute to our mission, and support our big family in many different ways. Some serve as cottage “grandmas” and mentors, spending valuable one-on-one time with our kids. Some work on cooking teams or maintenance work groups. Board members fundraise and provide leadership and guidance. And that’s just the



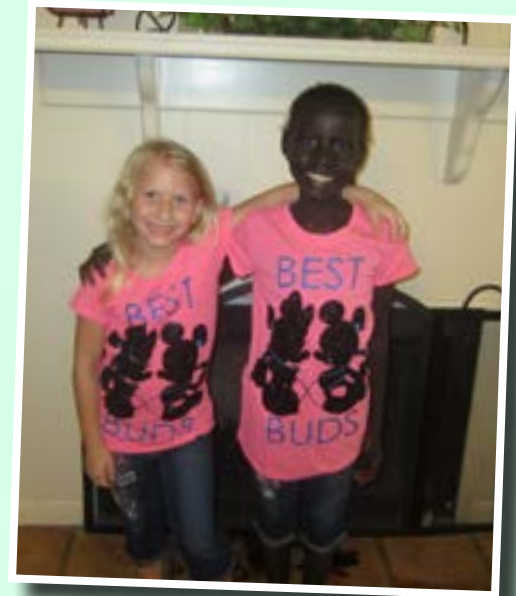
beginning.

All this help reduces our bottom line, allowing more of our funds to go directly to the cost of raising our children.

**Over 500 volunteers** visit our home each year between Spring Festival, Christmas events, birthday parties, volunteer group projects, committee meetings,

and weekly volunteer appointments. We are so blessed to have such great support from our community.

**Volunteer to  
34:1  
Paid Staff Ratio**



*Every single teaching parent here has blessed me.*



*I would still be locked in my room or taken by CPS had I not come to BGC – there are no longer locks on my room.*

## Success Story



*God placed people in my life that have taught me lifelong lessons and have given me joy.*



*If you come here and work the program with the right attitude you have an opportunity at every privilege that they can give you.*

Piero came to Boys and Girls Country in 2001. He finished his undergraduate degree at Stephen F. Austin University graduating December 2013. After graduation, Piero plans to apply to the New School of Philanthropy at Indiana University to pursue a graduate degree.

### In His Own Words: Piero's Story

“Before I moved to Boys and Girls Country, college was out of the question. My family moved from one homeless shelter to the next; the only dream I had was to get a job so I could help pay the bills. Fortunately, I came to live at Boys and Girls Country. It provided me with a platform to pursue my dreams, to go to college, and to live a life that would have never been possible living on the streets. Growing up, I had incredible support from the staff and my teaching parents, the Fuentes family. I feel like other charities put bandages on social problems—a quick fix on the long-term implications of being hopelessly poor. Boys and Girls Country gave me the kind of childhood that allowed me to thrive and to give back to the community. I am thrilled to be working at HealthTrust Software as a PR intern focusing on brand promotion and online marketing. I want to utilize my skills in the non-profit sector to help non-profits with communication and fundraising endeavors.”



Piero was asked to give open remarks at the October 30 Heritage Award Dinner, where he addressed a group of nearly 1,200 guests. Below is an excerpt from his speech.

*“That’s the difference that Boys and Girls Country makes – they teach kids to fight back. One of my favorite quotes comes from John D. Rockefeller. He said ‘Charity is injurious unless it helps the recipient to become independent of it.’ I’ve been recipient of many charities but no other philanthropy applies this quote better than BGC. They are unique in their ability to make warriors out of the wounded. To take kids from the worst parts of Houston and they out-perform their peers.”*

## Board of Directors

### Chair

John R. Sult

### Immediate Past Chair

Scott Wegmann

### Board of Directors

William F. Aimone III

Michael Bennett

David J. Bishop

Donna Boyer

Craig A. Bunk

Jan Cameron

Rodney Eads

Scott Galloway

Mike Gatewood

Sten L. Gustafson

Randall B. Hale

Smith E. Howland

Robert B. Knepler, Jr.

Robert Kurtz

Charles H. Listen

Penny Requa Loyd

Brian McCabe

Mark L. Mey

John T. Nesser, III

Gregory P. Pappas

Ben Pisklak

Ryan A. Rodgers

Karen Rosales

Matthew P. Rotan

Robert W. Roten

Chuck Scianna

Dick Scott

Mark Slaughter

Steve Stephens

Randall D. Stilley

John Sullivan

Jeremy D. Thigpen

Beth Thompson

Frank R. Todaro

Jim Tomforde

Tony Vallone

Peter S. Wardenburg

Bob Warren

## Honorary Lifetime Board Directors

Leonard A. Bedell

Bennis G. Butler

H. Douglas Church

H.L. Gardner

Howard S. Hoover, Jr.

Philip L. Leggett, MD

Loraine Janette McDonald

Charles M. Rampacek

R. Allen Schubert

Jack I. Tompkins

C. Kenneth Wall

Reed G. Wood

## Advisory Council

Les Allison

Rosanna Blalock

Jame Bloodworth

Hulda Coskey

Carl Curtiss

Ronnie Deyo

Lesha Elsenbrook

Steve Emmott

Bradley Freels

Robert F. Gray, Jr.

Robert L. Howard

Todd M. Johnson

John Knapp

Beverly Laws

Carolyn Little

Michael M. Lowther

Ralph McIngvale

Mark Taylor

Howard L. Wagner

Dane Whitehead

T. Michael Young

## Management Team

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### Jim Allen, Chief Financial Officer

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[jima@boysandgirlscountry.org](mailto:jima@boysandgirlscountry.org)

### Marcia Elrod, Director of Residential Services

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### Ginny Hargrave, Director of Development

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[ginnyh@boysandgirlscountry.org](mailto:ginnyh@boysandgirlscountry.org)

### Teri Medina,

### Director of Education/ Counseling/College and Career

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### Quintes Starks, Director of Operations

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### Don Weber, Director of Human Resources

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*BGC has a unique ability to make warriors out of the wounded. To take the kids from the worst part of Houston and have them out perform their peers.*



**BOYS & GIRLS**  
C O U N T R Y  
A Home for Children

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