



## IN THIS ISSUE

New Campus Resource

---

Really Awesome Dude

---

ACU Volunteers

---

Two, Four, Six, Eight – Part II

---

MLK Day of Service

---

Player of the Year

---

Because of You

---



Ben Richey Boys Ranch and Family Program | Spring 2022

### ***Ben Richey Boys Ranch and Family Program Updates***

Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program is pleased to bring you another edition of our seasonal newsletter. Providing information about recent happenings, Alumni and Staff updates, and plans for the future is a great way to keep donors, volunteers and our community updated about our incredible programs. Through your generous support, we are able to provide a loving and stable home for Boys and Single Mothers. This year we are celebrating our 75th Anniversary at the Ranch, with our early beginnings starting in 1947. Without your support, none of this would be possible. Thank You!



 **BEN RICHEY  
BOYS RANCH &  
FAMILY PROGRAM**

## New Campus Resource

I met Rosie through a mutual friend, who is a local therapist. We became friends as we are both adoptive moms and passionate about educating others regarding trauma and its impact on children. As a result, we schedule regular time together to share ideas, support each other, and to vent frustrations. At a few of our meetings I talked with Rosie about my desire to meet the need for counseling for some of our single mothers and children in the Family Program who did not have insurance and could not afford to pay a therapist. I presented the idea of trading office space at the Ranch with a private-practice therapist in exchange for seeing these moms in our Program who could not afford to pay, in addition to the therapist's current clients. I was thrilled when Rosie said that she would love to be that therapist because she is the perfect choice for our Family Program moms and kids. Her heart and passion for hurting people is obvious and I am so excited about this arrangement. Mashelle Ancell / VP Social Work

### Rosemary Hollingsworth background:

Rosemary was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. While in college, she met her husband, Christopher, and they married in 1995. They moved to New York to pursue advanced degrees and started their family with the addition of Colin. Their family then moved back to the Midwest. Doctoral degrees, professor life, professional ministry in the church, and a growing family, with the addition of Julia consumed their years in Illinois. It is Rosemary's work in the church with families with young children which grew her desire to pursue psychology and counseling. This dream came true when the family moved to Texas in 2010.

Her husband began working at Hardin-Simmons University and Rosemary began working on her Master's degree in Family Psychology and Family Ministry. Her internship and subsequent employment with Regional Victim's Crisis Center increased her awareness of mental health issues suffered by those who have experienced trauma, abuse, and neglect.

Through this awareness the Hollingsworth's decided to serve as a foster family. Their first placement was a 14-month-old boy who was severely neglected. This young boy Ryan became a Hollingsworth more than two years later and is now a thriving 7-year-old, first grader. Our lives have been touched intimately by the traumas of abuse and neglect through Ryan's story.

After working in private practice for several years, Rosemary began working for Abilene ISD as a counselor at Long Early Learning Center and recently began a role as Behavior Coordinator and Licensed Professional Counselor for the district. She has maintained a small private practice and continues in all these roles to serve people suffering the effects of trauma and neglect.



Serving children, youth, adults, and families who have survived traumatic life events is Hollingsworth's passion. She has been trained in Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR). She utilizes a Trauma Informed perspective in all her work.

The opportunity to office at Ben Richey Boys Ranch offers a collaboration with an organization aligned with similar ideals and focus, serving people who are healing and growing through challenging life experiences. Becoming involved with a caring community invested in uplifting and supporting the vulnerable populations so they can thrive feels like a natural progression, professionally and personally for Rosemary.



## Really Awesome Dude

Some time back we instituted a new award here at the Albany Campus...the RAD Award! RAD is short for Really Awesome Dude.

Toward the end of each semester in school, several people in Albany that know our boys and have frequent opportunities to interact with them are asked for their input. They are polled and the boy whose name is mentioned the most wins the RAD Award.

The award is based on several criteria. First is their willingness to go above and beyond whatever they are asked to do. This could be schoolwork, ranch work, their chores or simply volunteering to do a task.

The next piece of criteria is their ability and willingness to

be a friend to others, both at school and here on campus. Sometimes other boys on campus might be going through a difficult time and a RAD recipient is the type of person that goes to the one having difficulty and tries to be a friend and encourage them especially since at one time or another, they themselves were probably having the same issues.

The fall semester RAD Award goes to Justin Clark. Justin is a 17-year-old Junior at Albany High School. He exemplifies the qualities of a RAD recipient including his hard work in school for the past 3 six weeks! Just this past six weeks, Justin was on the A-B Honor Roll for the first time in several years! Justin also volunteers at the Albany Volunteer Fire Department. Since he is too young to join the Fire Department, he goes to meetings and helps where he can. Justin enjoys camping and hiking and most any other activity that has to do with the outdoors. After graduation, Justin plans to attend college with aspirations of becoming a Texas Game Warden.

Congratulations, Justin!



**One of our donors said, "Share your needs with others...". Taking that advice, we'd like to share this list of items needed at the Abilene campus:**

- Pillows
- Basic Hygiene/Toiletries
- Women and Girls Clothing
- Dish Towels and Rags
- Bath Towels
- Kid-friendly Horses
- Hay bales and horse feed
- Used cars for boys getting their driver's license
- Crock Pots
- Toasters

## The Clay Break Classic

The Clay Break Classic committee has been hosting this annual event since 2006. We appreciate all their hard work and for supporting the Ranch through their fundraising efforts.

Come join in the fun on May 7th at the Abilene Clay Sports facility.



## Outlaws and Legends

We want to thank Mark and Meredith Powell for supporting Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program through their hard work in putting on Outlaws and Legends for the last 11 years. Hats off to Mark and Meredith!



## ACU Volunteers

In February, we had the privilege of having one of the ACU men's fraternities (Sub T-16) come and host a game night for the kids in our Family Program. Everyone had a good time and the time together flew by. Our kids (and moms) are already asking when these guys can come back again!



## Two, Four, Six, Eight....How do We Accommodate – Part II

Here is an update to an article from our Spring 2018 newsletter about a group of eight siblings that we took in here at the ranch.

In the summer of 2017, the Ranch received a call from Child Protective services with an urgent request to find accommodations for eight sibling children whose parents were in jail with pending charges. CPS had removed the children from their home. After learning the family background, and through thoughtful consideration, and incredible staff collaboration, we decided to help. This started a new journey for us and the family of eight (6 boys and 2 girls ranging from age 13 months to age 15), as well.

We applied to change our state license for the Boys Program, to take kids less than 6 years old and girls too. We moved some existing kids around to open up a house for the 8 kids. This meant juggling staff, assigning new roles and responsibilities, and transitioning one of our relief families to full-time house parents. Once the kids arrived, the fireworks started and there were days that we questioned what we had gotten ourselves into. Time, combined with lots of love, discipline and moving a couple of kids to higher care facilities, allowed for healing and a healthy transition to a new home environment.

In 2018, two of the younger kids got adopted by a loving foster family (the boys are pictured on the front page). We have included a recent picture of the Jones family for you. Late last year in 2021, two of the middle boys got adopted by our own relief parents, Thomas and Laurie McAdams. Thomas and Laurie already have seven kids between them, and this will make nine. We are so excited for these kids and the opportunity they have to grow up in a loving family environment.

Kerry always says we are lucky if we can change one life and really blessed if we can see that while they are here in our care. Well, we have been blessed beyond belief with these family members to grow up in loving family environments.



# MLK Day

MLK Day is also National Day of Service.

Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (MLK Day) is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a National Day of Service... a "day on, not a day off."

Participation in service activities has grown each year as more Americans are encouraged to provide meaningful change in their communities. Whether service meets a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or a senior center, it builds a sense of community and mutual responsibility.

No matter the choice, service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. It breaks down barriers by bringing people from different backgrounds together and it benefits those who choose to serve.

In keeping with Dr. King's Day of Service, the boys and house parents from the Braun house did their part by going to Lake McCarty and picking up trash around the lake. It was a great opportunity for the boys to be involved in a much bigger picture and participate in the MLK Day of Service. Service to others but not to themselves.

Job well done!



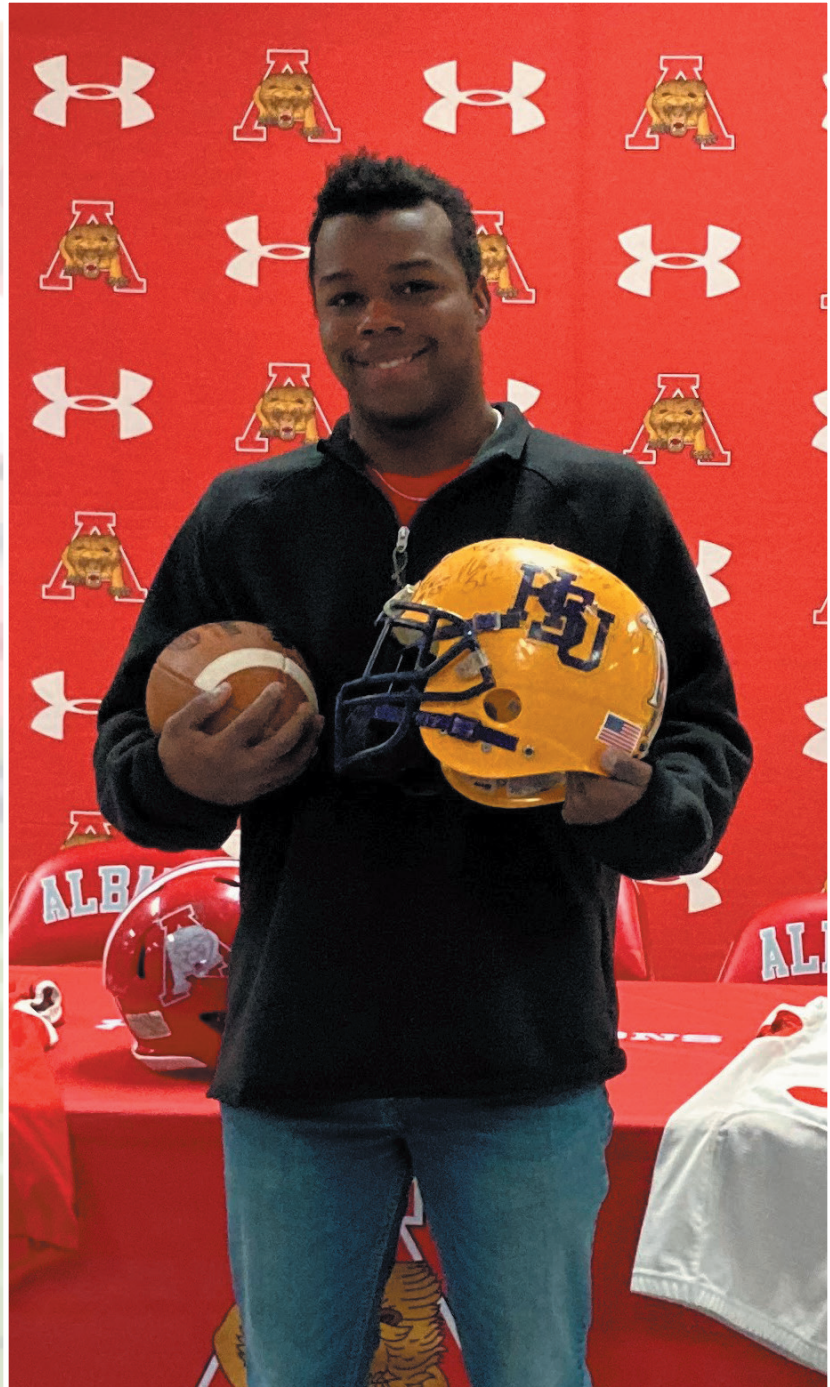
## Player of the Year

Texas certainly enjoys its football season and the big country has a lot to celebrate as it produces some of the best teams and players. Albany is no exception! This year the Ranch is very proud of one of our boys who had another exceptional year.

Jaheim Newton was voted Player of the Year for All-Big Country Class 2A. Jaheim is a senior at Albany and plays Running Back and Linebacker for the Lions. This season, Jaheim finished with 1,628 yards rushing and 21 touchdowns on 156 rushes, fumbling once. He averaged 10.4 yards per carry and averaged 135.7 yards per game. As a senior, he graduates from the program as one of its best players of all time. He was the 2A Region II District 8 MVP and Texas Sports Writers Association 2nd Team All State Running Back. This summer Jaheim will be playing in the 23rd annual Big Country Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-Star Festival as a member of the Red Team. When looking back over his high school career, Jaheim had 441 carries for 4,191 yards, 46 touchdowns, which gave him 8.7 yards per carry and 112.7 yards per game.

Coach Denney Faith said, "He is hard to tackle and gets a lot of yards after contact. We could always count on Jaheim to get the tough yards when we needed it." Coach Faith also said Jaheim is a player that would do anything to help his team be successful and is one of the most humble athletes that he has had the pleasure to coach.

This year the Albany Lions were the State Semi-finalist in Football Conference AA Division II. Jaheim has signed to play football at Hardin-Simmons University in the fall. We are excited about what the future holds for Jaheim. Thank you, Albany Lions for a great season and let's go Hardin-Simmons Cowboys!





PO Box 6839  
Abilene, Texas 79608





Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #10  
Abilene, Texas

## Because of You!

- a boy learned about fossils by hiking on a local ranch and learning about Indian life on the plains years ago.
- a family program child can play outside in a safe neighborhood.
- several of our boys learned to drive and are about to get their drivers license.
- a single mom can learn to budget her money wisely.
- several of our boys who played in the band are going on a band trip to Colorado.
- a single mom and her kids can receive counseling to heal from past trauma.



### GET IN TOUCH OR FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

-  PO Box 6839, Abilene, TX 79602
-  325-692-2500
-  [benrichey.org](http://benrichey.org)
-  [benricheyboysranch](https://www.facebook.com/benricheyboysranch)