



Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Announces the Appointment of Dr. Mashelle Ancell
Ancell Named New President As Current President Kerry Fortune Assumes CEO Role

Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program Board of Directors announces the appointment of Dr. Mashelle Ancell as president and Kerry Fortune as CEO. Ancell has been with the Ranch for over 27 years serving as a social worker and then becoming Vice President of Social Services. Fortune has been president for 28 years.

“I am honored to be able to lead Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program and continue the work of guiding and connecting with children and families who seek hope and healing,” says Ancell. “I am passionate about training parents and professionals to help children heal from traumatic experiences and helping adults and kids know their infinite worth.”

Ancell earned her Bachelor of Behavioral Science in Social Work from Hardin-Simmons University, Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Tarleton State University, and Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Abilene Christian University.

She is a Licensed Social Worker, a Licensed Child-Care Administrator, and a certified practitioner for both TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) and the Making Sense of Your Worth program. Ancell serves on the Social Work Advisory Council for Hardin-Simmons University, the Board of the Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation, and on the Executive Boards of the Texas Coalition of Homes for Children and the Family Resource Centers of Texas coalition.

Mashelle and her husband Dwayne have been married for 31 years and have four children plus two bonus in-law children.

Kerry Fortune will assume his role as CEO effective April 1, 2024. In this role, Fortune will oversee various fundraising efforts, stewarding donors, and building projects on both campuses. “Mashelle is the perfect choice to lead the Ranch. Her knowledge of state guidelines regarding residential care is invaluable. She has a heart for children and families that are facing struggles and challenges. I am excited to see what is ahead for Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program under Mashelle’s leadership,” say Fortune.

With Kerry and Mashelle’s combined experience, we will continue the legacy of Ben Richey which started in 1947 as a private, non-profit, general residential operation providing basic childcare for boys. Our family program started in 2009 and has grown exponentially. Providing hope and opportunities for healthy families will always be at the forefront at Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program.

