ACH est 1924
AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME

To restore the identity of **children** so they can realize their **great value** and be a **blessing** to others.



Family Camp at Silver Cliff Ranch



Teaching at Family Camp

GROUP HOMES

A Home Setting, 102 Years Strong

For 102 years, Amarillo Children's Home has provided a safe, residential home for children in need. Our cottage-style homes are led by house parents and a team of caring staff who create a true home-like environment, not an institution. Many of our kids come to us from homes marked by abuse and neglect, and here they find something different: a family table, a bedtime routine, and the steady, patient love of Christ lived out every day.

Life in our cottages looks like everyday family life: meals shared together, outings to local events, and this summer, a trip to family camp at Silver Cliff Ranch in Colorado. Our kids also enjoyed another season of Summer STIR, where local churches and businesses provide praise and worship along with meals and a weekly message. This year's series explored "The Stories Jesus Told" and the truth that God is still writing each child's story. Between board games on the front porch, water slides, and bounce houses, it was a summer full of joy. Now our kids are back in the classroom, supported by our local school districts and the ACH family behind them.

God is still writing their story - and this summer, our kids got to live it.

GOLDEN WAFFLE COMPANY est. 2019 AMARILLO, TX

Mission Fueled: How Lattes Made an Impact

What a sweet three months it's been! From April through June, Golden Waffle Company featured a rotating "Impact Latte," with $1 from every latte sold going directly to Amarillo Children's Home. We're grateful to share that this partnership **raised $1,086** through latte sales and donations for the kids and families we serve - all because our community showed up, one cup at a time.

Over those three months, our community enjoyed more than **700 Impact Lattes**, with each flavor earning its own following. To every customer who ordered one, and to Golden Waffle Company for dreaming up such a simple, delicious way to give back - **thank you**. Because of you, more children in our community will experience restoration, stability, and hope.



Amarillo Children's Home

For more than a century, Amarillo Children's Home has surrounded children in crisis with the love of Christ, one home at a time. This fall, that mission is reaching more kids and families than ever through our cottages, our Supervised Independent Living program, and a brand-new licensed foster care ministry.

Our Mission

To restore the identity of **children** so they can realize their **great value** and be a **blessing** to others.



SAVE THE DATE
ROOTS & WINGS



Cynthia Yanof, Keynote Speaker

MARCH 2, 2027

Amarillo Civic Center

5:45 pm Dinner | 6:30 pm Program

Cynthia Yanof grew up in El Paso, went on to Baylor University, and earned her J.D., practicing law for seven years before trading the courtroom for full-time motherhood and ministry. She and her husband, Mike, have been married since 2001 and have three kids: Kate, Brett, and Joshua Bo, the last of whom joined their family through foster care, a calling that reshaped their entire lives. Since her first (disastrous) public speaking attempt at age 13, she's found her voice and now uses it to make Jesus real in the everyday, ordinary moments of life. She speaks with humor, honesty, and hard-won wisdom about grace, curiosity, and figuring out which hills are worth dying on. Whether she's talking about faith, family, or foster care, she brings the kind of laugh-out-loud realness that makes truth easier to swallow. Diet Dr. Pepper in hand, she's ready to make you laugh, think, and maybe even tear up - sometimes all in the same sentence. Find out more at **cynthiayanof.com**

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Residential Care

We provide a safe, family-style home for children ages 5–18 who cannot live with their families due to abuse, neglect, or other crises. Sibling groups and older youth, often the hardest to place, find stability, healing, and hope here, whether they stay a few months or several years.

Supervised Independent Living

We guide young adults ages 18–21 who have aged out of traditional foster care. Living in ACH homes with roommates and the support of a caring life coach, they learn independence with the security of a safety net.

Foster Care Homes Program

Through our new program, we license and support local families to become foster homes. These families provide safe, loving care for children in need, helping them stay connected to their own communities.



Cecilia Limas, Director of Foster Care Homes

FOSTER CARE HOMES

A New Chapter in Our Ministry

We're excited to share that Amarillo Children's Home is now a licensed foster care agency.

For 102 years, our community has shown up for the children living in our cottages on 34th with meals, service projects, supplies, and prayer. Now that same love and support can surround foster families throughout the Texas Panhandle

Every foster family we license receives training and ongoing support from our experienced foster care staff, backed by the same community of churches, volunteers, and partners who have stood behind ACH for generations.

If you or someone you know has ever considered foster care, call us - we'd love to take you to coffee.

SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Two Years of Building Futures





Our Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program, built to walk alongside 18 to 21-year-olds as they step into adulthood, has now been serving young people for two full years. SIL gives young adults the independence they're ready for, paired with the support they still need: stable housing, mentorship, and a community in their corner.

The program was originally designed for youth aging out of foster care. But as word has spread, we've heard from more young people who were never in the foster system at all, yet found themselves without a safe place to live. Today, half of the young adults in our SIL program are private placements rather than extended foster care youth, meaning the state provides no funding for their care. Your generosity is what makes it possible for us to say yes to them. Thank you.

Most of these young adults find us the same way: word of mouth from current and former ACH youth. That's how Casey found us. When Casey turned 18, she was asked to leave her home. She spent months couch surfing between friends and family, working late shifts, and doing everything she could to finish high school. A classmate, an ACH youth, finally told her, "You need to come to ACH." Casey had grit and independence, but what she needed was stability.

Today she has both: a safe home through SIL, real support, and her diploma within reach. She's still with us - and still writing her story.



RENE'S STORY

Football and Family



My son was playing varsity football and kept coming home talking about a teammate who was having a rough time at home. His mom found herself in a difficult relationship, and home wasn't a great place to be anymore. He couldn't sleep and was trying to hold it together by keeping his grades up, showing up for practice and carrying it all quietly.

One day my son asked if his friend could stay with us for a little while. I said yes without a second thought. I wouldn't have had it any other way.

He and my boys ate me out of house and home - that's just what happens with a houseful of athletes. He'd stay up late talking to me about his mom and what was going on, and I didn't always know what to say. I was figuring it out on my own, with no one to call and no roadmap to follow.

This is why ACH's Kinship Navigator program means so much to me. If I'd had an ACH staff member to call - someone to guide me, answer questions, point him and his mom in the right direction - it would have been a game-changer. The vision of a church partner showing up with a meal and a gallon of milk, just to say "we see you, we're in your corner," would have meant the world.

We didn't have that support. But because of ACH, families stepping up today now do.





A NEW WAY TO HELP

Licensed Kinship Homes & Kinship Navigator

When children can't safely stay with their parents, one of the best places for them to land is with family: grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings, cousins, or close family friends who step forward to offer love and stability during an incredibly hard season. This is kinship care, and it's often unexpected. Many caregivers get a single phone call and suddenly find themselves raising children with little time to prepare.

Most take on this role simply because they love their family, not because they planned to become caregivers, which means they often face challenges they never saw coming, including:

- Financial strain from the added cost of food, clothing, school supplies, childcare, and transportation
- Navigating the child welfare system with caseworkers, court hearings, paperwork, and required appointments
- Meeting the behavioral and emotional needs of children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or trauma
- Balancing complex family relationships while everyone works through a difficult season together

Amarillo Children's Home now meets these families wherever they are, through two programs built around the same need.

ACH est 1924



Licensed Kinship Homes Alongside traditional foster care, we now license kinship homes. When a kinship home becomes licensed through ACH, caregivers gain a partner for the journey: monthly financial assistance, training in trauma-informed care and child development, ongoing support and advocacy from ACH staff, respite care opportunities, and the same community of churches, volunteer groups, and our supporters who stand behind ACH families.

Kinship Navigator We kept hearing the same kinds of stories from across our community: a grandmother who took in her grandson, a family who welcomed their son's friend from the football team after learning he was sleeping in his car, neighbors and relatives stepping up for a young person with nowhere else to go, informally, quietly, and often overnight. Because these arrangements happen outside the formal system, they also happen without formal support: no reimbursement for the added cost of raising a child, no case guidance, no help navigating school enrollment, medical care, or legal paperwork. These families are doing something remarkable, largely on their own.

That's why we launched Kinship Navigator. When a family takes in a relative's child, or any young person in need, they can call ACH, and one of our case managers will walk alongside them: **how to enroll the child in school, how to get them to the doctor, what legal documents may be needed, and where else to turn for help.**

The need is larger than most people realize. **For every youth in formal kinship care, an estimated 24 more are living in informal kinship homes across Texas, roughly 7,000 kids in our region alone.** Amarillo Children's Home is working to reach these families and the youth in their care, whether that means a place on our campus through Group Homes and Supervised Independent Living, or ongoing support for a relative or family friend through Kinship Navigator.

Because most of these situations fall outside the formal foster care system, none of this work comes with state reimbursement. Your support is what makes it possible for us to say yes to these families and the youth who need them.

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
John Forbis



Dear Friends,

My family and I had a chance to lead a mission trip to an orphanage in Guatemala this summer. This was the same orphanage Alisha, my wife, worked in for ten months while we were engaged fifteen years ago. It was such a sweet, full-circle moment to take our kids to a place they have prayed for over the years.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:3-5

This was the passage I read just before leaving for the trip and what I prayed through while I was there. "Partnership in the Gospel."

We weren't going to Guatemala to serve because we had some skill or ability they did not have. The staff at the orphanage is highly trained, knowledgeable, and most importantly, dedicated to the redeeming work of Jesus Christ in kids' lives. We were serving as partners in the Gospel.

I often hear, "I could never do foster care." Foster care doesn't need special skillsets; it just needs partners in the Gospel. That partnership may be as a foster parent, a house parent, or a respite care home. That partnership may be as a Sunday School teacher, school counselor, or a prayer warrior. The greatest answer to our kids' needs is the good news of Jesus Christ. We do not need special people. We need partners in the Gospel.

Whatever you are called to as a family, whether that's to become a house parent, foster parent, or providing your family member/friend a safe home, let ACH and this great community of supporters come around you as Partners in the Gospel.

With gratitude,

John Forbis
Executive Director, Amarillo Children's Home

