

CHATTER

Sherwood & Myrtie Foster's Home for Children

2023 Erath County Livestock Show











The ECLS was something our children had been looking forward to for months. They were finally able to show off their hard work! We were incredibly proud of each child who participated in the show. They are already looking forward to next year!

More pictures on pages 4 & 5







Christmas at Foster's Home

More pictures on pages 6 & 7









FROM PRESIDENT

Douglas Young
President/CEO

Child Spotlight: Annaleigh



In March of 2023, Annaleigh will have been with us for 3 years and in certain ways she's unrecognizable. She's gotten taller for sure but I'm not thinking about physical characteristics when I say "unrecognizable." There's something noteworthy in her attitude and demeanor, especially for a young lady who is only 10.

It is cliché to talk of kids "coming out of their shells." I hate to even do it, but if there is ever an example of a child "coming out of her shell" at Foster's Home for Children in the last couple of years it might be Annaleigh.

Annaleigh may be the personification of "shy," at least with adults. In her first year or two, I hardly ever heard her speak, and when she did it was so softly that I couldn't make much sense of what she was saying. But now things are a bit different. In fact, not just a few days ago she spoke to our board members about school and showing her goat, "Cookie Dough." I'd like to offer just a few thoughts about what I think is going on here.

Comfortability is huge in our program. Any child, especially initially, is going to be fearful but when children become comfortable it is unmistakable. It can't be faked. That's when we truly learn about the kids that come into care, and I sense that Annaleigh is truly comfortable. She lives under one roof with her two sisters. She is doing great academically. Her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are all being met. These are a recipe for comfortability.

Caring. One of the contributing factors to becoming comfortable is realizing people really care. I think she believes she's cared for at Foster's Home and that can't but affect a child for good. A couple weeks ago I saw her at church in between bible class and worship. She saw me, walked in my direction, and gave me a hug. I don't get to see the kids in care nearly as much as caregivers and case managers, but that young lady has convinced me she believes we care about her. Those are the kinds of experiences that keep me going.

Confidence. We have had animals in our barn since late August-early September. There's been much shared over the last few months about how well she did in working her goat. We got to see it translate into confidence at the Erath County Fair the first week in January. She did amazing. It is anecdotal evidence our barn program matters. Sure, I want our kids to win only blue ribbons and banners, but deep down I really know that those aren't the most important thing our kids can attain through showing livestock. Annaleigh proved that to me.



When you provide care for as many kids as we do at Foster's Home, it is easy to overlook the young quiet ones. Lord knows I love to highlight football stars like Tytus and Tristian, as well as the uncommon work ethic of young men like John Wayne. Behind the scenes, though, there are those thriving who equally deserve recognition. What they are doing, how they are growing, and where they are going in life is something our partners need to read.

Doug 456

It's AUCTION time!

March 4, 2023

9:00am-Outdoor Auction 11:30am-\$5 BBQ Lunch 12:30pm-Live & Silent Auction Vehicles, Equipment, Fibergrate to follow

We will be posting pictures of items on our Facebook page.

Make sure to check back regularly to see all the good
things we will the auctioning

Hope to see you there!!

Isabella is SOARing!

One of our first "graduates" from the SOAR program for young adults who have aged out of foster care is Isabella. Isabella lived in the first SOAR house for about two years while she worked full time and sorted



out her future. She chose to enlist in the U.S. Army, and has served for about a year and half. On a recent trip to Stephenville with her boyfriend Jorge (a Sergeant in the Army), they were treated to dinner at Grump's by Glenn and Cheryl Newberry. Isabella is now stationed at Fort Stewart in Georgia, and Jorge is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. We are proud of Isabella's service, and are thankful that our SOAR program was there for her when she had no place else to go!

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Cupcake is the most loved animal in the barn!









Our Foster's Home 4-H Team

We are extremely blessed to have a group of people who worked tirelessly helping prepare our kids (and their animals) for the stock show. From our 3 "Barn Ladies", to Kenny and Leah, to Dr. Frazier at TSU, we are incredibly thankful for the late nights, long Saturdays, and most importantly the LOVE you pour into our program! Our children were encouraged and praised every day. The memories made and the lessons learned will never be forgotten!















Page 4



































Aggies for Christ Weeklong









36 Aggies stayed with us for a week in January. They repainted our parking lot, built porch swings and shelving, and entertained our children with games and skits. As tradition, The Hood & Somervell County A & M Alumni Association provided all of our meals. We ended the week with a fish-fry by our favorite Western Dairy Crew!









Toy Run!

Hundreds of motorcyles brought lots of gifts!





Frisco





Legacy





Dalworth Park



Stonewater













Christmas Fun with TSU!

10 different Tarleton Organizations spent an evening playing games, painting faces, and making memories with our children. It was so much fun!









Greer's Cafe

A special thanks to Phil Greer, the staff at Greer's Cafe, and the local law enforcement for treating our whole campus to a meal out! We arrived in style by police escort and were greeted by the entire Greer's staff and a chorus of singers. Our children could order anything on the menu! What a way to make us feel extra special!



New pillows from **Mattressville!**

Thank you **Seven Points Church of Christ** for getting new coats for all of our children!



Thank you **Huckabay Church of Christ** for the commissary items!





Nothing better than kids outside with a big pile of dirt!







Hair Styling Fun

A big thank you to Christi Barnes and her daughters for spending an afternoon styling several of our children's hair. They loved it!





Memorial and Honor gifts received October 20, 2022 to January 17, 2023

Andy Anderson

John & Jan Shewmaker Family

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Winter 2023 Sherwood & Myrtie Foster's Home for Children P.O. Box 978

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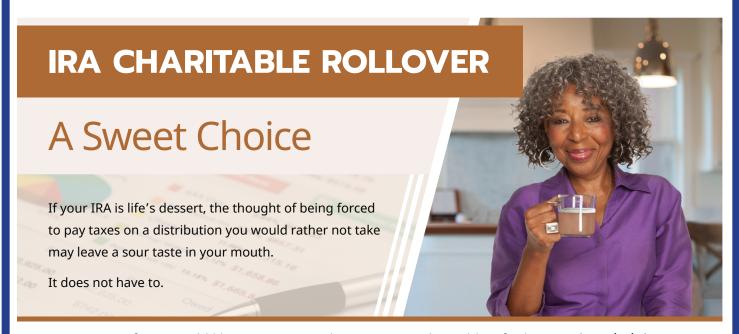
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e-mail: lacy@fostershome.org Chatter is

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Editor: Lacy Barton



If you would like some personal assistance in charitable gift planning, I can help!

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