

AZLEWAY

Summer 2018

In God's Time
Eli's Story

by Sandie Dickey
PAGES 10 & 11

Congrats
Grads!



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15892 CR 26, Tyler, Texas 75707

(903) 566-8444/(800) 340-2697

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Regional Director - Matt Patton ext. 2262

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Children's Services Houston Division

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FB: Azleway Children's Services of Houston

Children's Services Nacogdoches Division

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Director: Jenni Chumley (936) 205-5641 ext. 4013

FB: Azleway Children's Services of Nacogdoches

Children's Services Metroplex Division

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Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Director: Samie Beal (972) 206-2885

FB: Azleway Children's Services of DFW

Azleway Substance Abuse Program

1085 PR 3481, Big Sandy, Texas 75755

Director: David Trest (903) 636-9800

Azleway Boys' Ranch/Valley View

15892 CR 26, Tyler, Texas 75707

(903) 566-6827

Ranch Director - Billy Ray Roberson ext. 2012

Campus Supervisor - Cecil Spears ext. 2016

Campus Supervisor - Vaughn Machristie ext. 2021

Who's Who on our Board?

Board Treasurer

ANDREW FORD



Andy grew up in Mt. Vernon Texas and moved to Tyler to attend college. He has lived in Lindale for 13 years and has been married to his wife, Ashley, for 12 years. They have two children, Rylee - age 11, and Knox - age 3. Andy and his family attend Lindale First Baptist Church. He is the Branch Manager and Loan

Officer at Heritage Land Bank, in Lindale. Andy is also the Chairman Elect for the Lindale chamber of Commerce, and serves as a Board Member on the City of Lindale Board of Adjustments. Andy enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He also loves to hunt, fish and play golf.

Andy has this to say:

"I feel God brought me to be part of Azleway to help in any capacity I can. I have always had a special place in my heart for children, and being able to serve as a Board Member for Azleway is a blessing for me. I love Azleway's mission as a faith-based agency, and am impressed by the staff and all the volunteers that serve in any capacity for Azleway."

MISSION STATEMENT:

"Azleway – A faith-based agency, providing opportunities through quality services to children and families."

AZLEWAY MAGAZINE Summer 2018

Azleway Magazine is also available through an online link at Azleway.org, and on our Facebook pages:
Azleway Boys' Ranch and Children's Services of Tyler
Azleway Children's Services of DFW
Azleway Children's Services of Houston
Azleway Children's Services of Nacogdoches

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A Publication of Azleway, Inc.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

**SUPPORT AZLEWAY
WHILE YOU SHOP!**

Amazon will donate 0.5%
of your purchases to Azleway.
(see back cover for details)

COMING UP:



"Grub Gives Back"

Visit Tyler Grub
on July 28th and
mention Azleway!
A portion of your
purchase will
go to Azleway.



October 27, 2018
at Texas Rose Horse Park

**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Contact: katie.powell@azleway.org.



2018 Wish List

The Azleway Wish List includes three wishes from *each child* in our care across Texas. We fulfill **ALL THREE WISHES**. We need your help to accomplish this!

The WISH LIST will be available in November. You can view the list at Azleway.org, on our FB pages (listed above) or pick up a hard copy of our Winter Magazine in select store locations, across Tyler (listed on our website in Nov.). You can also pick up magazines at your local Azleway office (listed on inside cover).

If you would like to have a magazine mailed to you, please email suzi.rambin@azleway.org.

From our Executive Director

Gary Duke



I recently had the honor of conducting a wedding ceremony for a young man who was in Azleway care for several years. Joseph came to us with the admonishment that he would never graduate from high school, and was probably going to end up in prison. We saw a very different young man. My experience has been that people who are successful in working with traumatized children view them very differently than most people. We believed that Joseph had tremendous potential and we were successful at one of the most important aspects of working with children – relational connection. Joseph connected with a number of staff members at Azleway who have each made a positive difference in his life.

Shortly after Joseph arrived at Azleway Boys' Ranch, I asked him if he would like to get a job in the community. He indicated that he would love to get a job, and was obviously attracted to this sense of independence and normalcy. Joseph went to work at Cici's Pizza, and worked diligently for over a year. In talking to Joseph about his vision for the future, he stated that he would like to go into the medical profession, so he could help people.

During an Azleway fund-raising event, I spoke about our transitional living program that was designed to equip young men with the life skills and knowledge they would need to obtain employment, and consequently improve the probability of future success. After my talk, I was approached by the HR Director at East Texas Medical Center (now UT Health East Texas), who told me that if I ever had a kid who was interested in the medical profession to let him know, and

he would try to help. I told him that I would be calling him on Monday morning. Joseph went for an interview the following week and was hired as a nurses aide at the ETMC Rehabilitation Clinic.

A few months later, Joseph graduated from high school, as class Valedictorian, and immediately enrolled at Tyler Junior College, in the nursing program. Nursing school is no cake walk and Joseph struggled, but he was willing to work diligently to achieve his goals. He worked a full-time job, while going to school. He generally spent several hours each day studying and completing the course work. One of the greatest honors of my life was pinning Joseph at his graduation from nursing school. Joseph went to work for ETMC as a nurse, and began a career that has served him well. About a year later Joseph accepted a job at Methodist Hospital in Dallas, where he lived when he was young.

About a year ago, Joseph sent me a video of a new red Corvette convertible that was being delivered to his house. (Joseph had told me when he was about 15-years-old that one day he would own a red Corvette.) I commented that this was a pretty expensive car for a 25-year-old. Joseph promptly told me that he had worked overtime at every opportunity, and was able to put a \$50,000 cash down payment on the car. So, he had no problem handling the payments.

A couple of months later, Joseph called me and told me he was going to marry a young lady whom he had been dating for a couple of years. He said that she had said, "Yes!", and the wedding was scheduled for the next year. He then asked me if I would perform the ceremony, and I readily agreed. A couple of months later, Joseph called and asked my advice - he indicated that he felt like he should sell the Corvette since he was getting

married, and should look at buying a house for his future wife. He stated that he didn't have many miles on the Corvette, since he did not drive it to work, in fear that it would be scratched in the parking lot at the hospital.

And so on May 19, 2018, I joined together in holy matrimony Joseph and Allison Hammer. Allison is currently enrolled in graduate school to complete her degree requirements as a nurse practitioner. They invited me to their newly built five-bedroom home in Mansfield, Texas. I was

happy to see three other young men, who also lived at Azleway, who were the groomsmen at the wedding. These other three young men have also been successful at living in this world. Two of them are married with children, and *all* are living productive lives.

Performing this particular ceremony was one of the greatest honors of my life! It has been such an honor to be able to see some of the seeds we planted growing to fruition.



I particularly want to take this moment to thank every single donor who made this story possible through ongoing financial support that allows Azleway to continue to exist. Your dollars are making a huge difference in the lives of so many and you all share the credit for this remarkable story.

Blessings, Gary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary".



*In
Loving
Memory
of*



With heavy hearts, we say "goodbye" to Mr. James Surber, our former Human Resources Director. James was born on September 16th, 1943, in Temple, Texas. He went to be with the Lord on May 13th, 2018 in Tyler, Texas.

James grew up in Killeen, Texas and attended Tarleton State University, and North Texas University. He served as an E4 Sargent in the Army in Korea. James coached at Lake Dallas, Greenville, and Chapel Hill High Schools. He also served as assistant principal at Chapel Hill High School, and principal at West Rusk High School. He also served as a deacon of University Church of Christ. He had a great love in his heart for his brothers and sisters in Christ, especially the youth. He had dedicated his life to children, and so, after retiring, he served as the Human Resources Director here at Azleway Boys Ranch, for more than 16 years. He retired from Azleway less than one year ago. His absence has not gone unnoticed. He was a good man, with a kind heart, and will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Azleway Graduates - Trinity Charter School - May 25, 2018



Left to Right: Miles Kelley Azinge, Elijah O'Neal Hardeman, Tyler Sean Edmond Martinez, Wesley Donovan Wood and D'Janonte James Alonzo Hill



U.S. Representative Louie Gohmert was our guest speaker, giving an inspiring speech to our graduates. One key message was *"You guys have had a harder time than most people. The fact that you are here today shows that you are MORE SPECIAL than most people. You did NOT give up. It's a BIG DEAL."*

Thank you Mr. Gohmert, for giving of your time to help honor and inspire our boys, as they celebrated their big day.

Our National Anthem was sung by: Barbara Jones
Invocation: Sylas Lopez
Presentation of Graduates: Chris Wyman
Diploma Presentation: Sonja Cornejo & Andy Benscoter
Benediction: Rada Blevins
Music: B. J. Hooks,



Ms. Barbara Jones gave us a beautiful rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly". She ended by singing to the students that she believes *they can fly*. Thank you, Ms. Jones!

Azleway Graduates - All Divisions



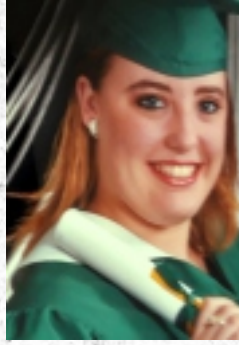
Ann Alvarez

Ann is a graduate of Elkins High School. She plans to work and continue living with her foster parent, as she is extending her stay in foster care.



Braydon Blalock

Braydon graduated from Cedar Hill High School. He plans to attend UTA in the fall to study mechanical engineering.



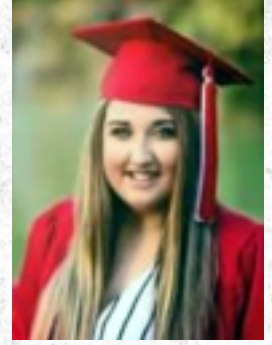
April Carrier

April graduated from Desoto High School. She plans to pursue a career in cosmetology.



Chelsey Dickson

Chelsey graduated from Summer Creek High School. Her future plans are to move to Transitional Living, get a new job, and attend Houston Community College.



Skylar Mitchell

Skylar graduated from Splendora High School. She has been accepted at Lone Star College and plans to continue her education there.

Adarius graduated from Humble High School. His future plans are to attend Lone Star College for basics, then go to the University of Houston to major in education.



Adarius Neal

CLASS OF
2018

We are So Proud of You!



Azzariah Newton

Azzariah graduated from Red Oak High School. She will be attending Cedar Valley Community College for basics, then on to cosmetology and culinary school.



**David Owolabi
(VeShawn Harris)**

David graduated from Humble High School. His future plans are to join the Army to serve our country.



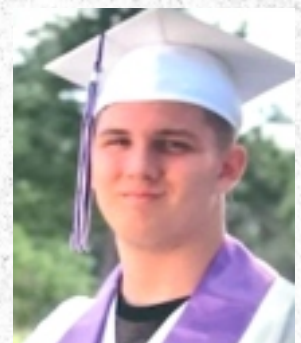
Bryan Ovelle

Bryan graduated from Summit High School. He would like to continue working at a car wash in Dallas, and plans to possibly pursue a career in automotive repair.



Jordan Petty

Jordan graduated from Desoto High School. He will be attending Cedar Valley Community College, possibly in nursing.



James Council Watson

James graduated from Humble High School. His future plans are to join the Navy to serve our country.

Azleway Events

Say "Hello" to our new HR Director Austyn Bailiff



Austyn was raised in East Texas, and has been a member of the Lindale community for the last 15 years. He has a B.A. in Communication from Wheaton College in Chicago, Illinois, with an emphasis in media studies. After finishing, Austyn returned to his alma mater to complete an M.A. in Christian Formation & Ministry, with an emphasis in Student Development. During this time, he worked with the college's Student Development division to develop strategies to enhance student engagement. He also served as a live-in staff member, overseeing community life in the campus houses and apartments. These experiences sparked an interest in furthering his education and learning more about helping others navigate the challenges in their lives. After returning to Texas in 2014, Austyn began work on his M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University. He completed the program in 2017, while working at Azleway developing the Employment Program, and providing counseling services and career counseling, while he pursues licensure. Austyn is married with 3 children, and enjoys spending time with his family, learning new tricks in Excel, reading books, and being on the leadership team with the young adults group at his church.

Austyn has this to say, *"A critical part of Azleway's mission is to help children work through trauma and hardship so they can grow into healthy and independent members of the community. It is my goal to remove barriers that may hinder our employees, staff, and volunteers from helping our children work toward this end. I truly enjoy working with this organization and look forward to serving in this new role."*



Azleway Foster Parents of the Year
Mitchell & LaTonia Bell with adopted daughter, Amiya



FOSTER PARENTS OF THE YEAR

Tyler Division

LaTonia and Mitchell Bell

These loving foster parents were selected as Azleway Foster Parents of the Year by Azleway Executive Director Gary Duke. They have earned this designation through hard work, giving spirits, and a willingness to sacrifice for the good of the children of Azleway. Thank you, LaTonia and Mitchell for your dedication.

Look for more of their story in the Winter 2018 edition of Azleway magazine, coming in November.

We love our foster parents!

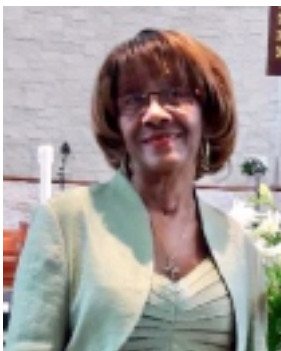
Fun times at the **Foster Parent Appreciation Spring Luncheon**, for the DFW/Corsicana divisions - great people, awards, care packages, along with some delicious BBQ!



Yolanda & Louis Flores
Longest Placement Award



Deborah & Morell Thomas
Foster Parents of the Month (Feb.)



Delores Preston
Foster Parents of the Month (March)



Back Row (L-R): Tiesha White, Ariel Blankenship, Savannah Sells, Kathryn Brown, Kara Francis, Amy Brackley, Cathy King

Front Row (L-R): Kendra Westfall, D'Undrea Smith, Christol James, Samie Beal
(Not pictured: Robin Chandler, Office Manager Corsicana)

"We have a heart for children, and our desire to see children in the foster care system experience a positive family environment. And to be able to take them on family vacations, and do fun things with them."

— Deborah Thomas

It's All About the Kids.



We have many more AMAZING foster families who have received awards. These parents excel in every aspect of fostering children.

February: Leticia and Ray White

March: Cherice White

April: Elizabeth Diggs

Misty & Justin Northcutt

May: Shanta Davis

Celister & Leeroy Johnson

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT!

"I became a foster parent because I wanted to make a difference in young lives. Everyone deserves to be loved and feel cared for, with support and structure our children can contribute to society in positive ways. I am most proud of the two little angels that I have raised for the last 3 years. They bring joy and happiness to every person that comes in contact with them. They have been through a lot; however they are strong and resilient."

—Delores Preston



2018 Big Ranch Round-Up

Dinner – Silent & Live Auctions – Thursday, March 22nd at 6 pm



Auctioneer J.B. Smith and Emcee Gillian Sheridan

Held on the grounds of the Azleway Boys' Ranch in Tyler. With dinner, live and silent auctions, and a chance to meet some of the kids who call Azleway home, the Big Ranch Round Up is truly a unique event.

Thank You to our Sponsors

Ranch Boss: The Genecov Group

Wrangler : TransCanada Corporation

Ranch Hand: Threlkeld and Company Insurance

Tenderfoot: Altra Federal Credit Union, Brookshire Grocery Company, D&L Tooling & Plastics, Inc., Heritage Land Bank, Hibbs-Hallmark & Company, Goosehead Insurance (Colin Phaup), Duane & Toni Nash, Nanci & Bruce Ogilvie, Southside Bank

Houston: Central Baptist Church (Pastor Kim Beckham), E.L.S. Surveying & Mapping, Inc., Tyler Junior College

Crockett: United Health Underwriters, Vesuvius USA

Travis: Billie & Mike Carpenter, Kathleen & Steve Hardy, Louise & Joseph Ornelas, White-Shaver, PC

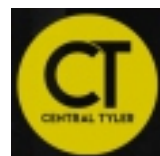


Executive Director Gary Duke (left), with Founder Bill Partridge

Media Sponsor: Tyler Today



Azleway Foster Parents of the Year
Mitchell & LaTonia Bell
with adopted daughter, Amiya



NORTH TEXAS VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Car Show

It was an unseasonably cold April day, but that did not stop the members of the **North Texas Viper Owners Association** from hosting the **Annual Car Show** for the Azleway Boys' Ranch. Nor did it stop the boys who live at the "Ranch" from showing up. It is a private show, and our boys love it!

The boys got to spend a couple of hours checking out all the beautiful cars, and voting for their favorite. It was a hard choice with so many cool cars - Vipers, Corvettes, and Mustangs - just to name a few. **This year, the car owners generously donated nearly \$7,500!**



Just a few of our boys admiring one of the HOT RIDES!

We can't thank the car owners enough for how patient and generous they are with the kids. Every question is answered enthusiastically, and it seems that the grown-ups have as much fun as the kids! **Of course, our very special thanks goes to Wayne Rauh for his hard work, kindness and untiring dedication in organizing this event. We really couldn't do it without him.**

Thank you!

Once again - it was a GREAT DAY!

North Texas Viper Owners Association



June 8th, 2018

United Way of Smith County held their Day of Caring for the 25th year in a row. During Day of Caring, United Way coordinates volunteers from area businesses to donate services to local non-profit organizations. Thank you, United Way, for including Azleway Boys' Ranch in your Day of Caring.



Volunteers from Trane, with the son of an Azleway employee

We had a fantastic **Day of Caring!** Ten very special ladies came out from Trane to Azleway Boys' Ranch to help out in Papa Bill's Store (named after our founder's father). This store provides extra food and clothing for the boys who live at the Ranch full-time, as well as being a food pantry for local residents. The store is set-up just like any other grocery store, to give the boys the opportunity to have the same everyday experiences as others.

The help provided by our volunteers was **INVALUABLE!** The ladies sorted through several bins of donated items, organized the items, and put them on shelves in the store.

Thank you ladies! Your hard work, organizational skills and willing spirits make our mission so much easier.

In God's Time

Eli's Story

by Sandie Dickey

Sandie and Homer Dickey are east Texas residents. She is a Project Manager for Frankston Packaging, as well as being a Christian gospel singer, performing in churches across Texas. Homer works as Field Staff for The American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches. They tried for years to conceive a second child. After losing three babies through two ectopic pregnancies, they decided to adopt. This is their story:

When Homer and I married, we never talked about or planned for adoption, but we knew Isaiah 55:9 states that *"His ways are higher than our ways."* After a few years of marriage, we surprisingly found ourselves pregnant, only to discover it was an ectopic pregnancy that led to surgery just a few days later. It was at that point that we realized that *our* plans for our family may not be the same as what God had planned for us. This led us to our first discussion on adoption, where we wondered if that was part of God's plan for our family.

So, we began to change the way we prayed and simply asked God **"if the desires of our hearts do not line up with your plans, please change our desires"**. We again found ourselves pregnant, with even our doctor saying he had no idea how it had happened! That was a moment! **Our daughter, Sydnie, came two weeks early at a whopping 10 lbs. and 21 inches long. She had her Daddy's red hair and Momma's lungs, which told us early - we were in trouble!**

For the next five years, we continued to try for another child, with no luck. I was ready to pursue adoption and felt like this was where God was taking us, but Homer was not ready to give up on a biological son. We journeyed for three months with a fertility doctor in Dallas. After 3 months, we felt like God had answered our prayer, and was clearly leading us to adoption.

However, immediately following the last round of fertility, we found ourselves with overnight accommodations at Baylor in Dallas on Valentine's Day of 2012, with another ectopic pregnancy, emergency surgery, and twins. To us, we felt like God had already told us "no", but this was God slamming the door, so that we were perfectly clear what His plan was for us, and honestly, we were fine with it. **God may not have answered our prayers the way we wanted Him to, but He was faithful and he answered.**

After a while, we began the endless paperwork journey for adoption and made the decision to partner with *Loving Alternatives* in Tyler. Little did we know that God would move so quickly through the process. **Just two short weeks after we had finalized our paperwork we got "the call". They had presented our story to a birth mom and she chose us! We couldn't believe it! We set up a meeting to meet the birth mother that week.**

As we walked in the door that Thursday night, to meet her for the first time, I remember feeling an instant connection to this stranger who met us, sobbing. She immediately hugged us, told us she loved us, and began thanking us for what we were doing for her. Are you kidding? What we are doing for you? I felt so unworthy at that moment, wondering if she realized what SHE was doing for US. As we sat and exchanged the details of our stories with one another, I told her about Valentine's Day, earlier that year, and how we had lost twins. She said, "That's the day I found out I was pregnant! Well, I mean the day before!" My eyes got so big and I can only imagine the look of disbelief on my face. As I sat there taking it all in, it finally clicked. **I said, "Do you realize that on the day that God revealed to you that He gave you life, He took life from me the very next day?" I sat amazed at how God had been working in both of our lives, at the same time, before he ever brought us together.**





Leaving that night we were exhausted, and encouraged knowing that this was “our child”. Our minds begin reeling with the hope of another child, and the faithfulness of our Father. **Thinking that we had a good week and a half or two weeks until delivery, we were completely caught off guard when we received a call the very next day from our case worker saying, “We are at a 5! We’re at the hospital! We are having a baby tonight!” Whaaaaaat?**

That Friday night, September 14, 2012, we sat waiting on pins and needles, just staring at each other, waiting on the next message or call, until just before 10pm, when we got word that our baby boy was here weighing 7 lbs 7oz and 19 inches long.

Two days later, we sat through Sunday morning church, watching as other parents stood proudly at the front for a baby dedication service. We listened, as the preacher read Hannah’s Prayer, “for this child I have prayed...” These services had become difficult for me the last few years, but that day, I was proud, excited and eagerly waiting to meet our son.

We made the journey to Longview that afternoon, and sat with the baby and birth mom, just visiting, relaxing, and enjoying the gift of new life. I was so honored when the nurse walked in to give directions for caring and cleaning the circumcision wound, and she directed the nurse to me saying, “This is his Momma, you need to show her.” *Oh be still my heart!*

Monday morning, we made ourselves busy running errands - buying a few small necessities until we received word that they were on their way home from the hospital. Then, time seemed to stand still as we waited for the last call to tell us to come to the agency. I almost cannot put the next few hours into words. As we walked back into the agency where we had met only four days before, there sat this precious woman with her child, silently smiling and sobbing. We sat and talked about how much we meant to each other, and how this encounter had changed all of our lives. She was so grateful for us, and for what we were doing for her. **As she placed the baby in my arms that night, I clearly remember her saying, “Tell him that I love him. Tell him about Jesus. Take care of him and protect him.” It was the most touching moment, and completely selfless, thinking only of her child and what was best for him.**

Because Sydnie was only five, we did not tell her any of this was going on. We simply went to town with a car seat, and came home with a kid! What a joy it was to introduce her to her brother that evening. We had prayed as a family for a baby brother, and had continued to tell her that sometimes God says “no”, sometimes He says “yes”, and sometimes, He says “not right now”. **She was so excited that God had said, “YES” this time!**

Eli is five now, and will begin kindergarten this year, with Sydnie in 7th grade. Seems like only yesterday - our journey was fast. A call in two weeks, and a baby in nine days. Things like that don’t happen in the world of adoption. **There are so many details along the way that were only explainable by the hand of God. So many moments that continued to show us that God was in control when we felt out of control.** We had to trust in Him completely. Sure, it was intense, but it made our faith stronger, our prayer life richer, and it was incredible to see God move! Never give up and never lose faith that God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

THE STORM IS OVER

But Many Families Still Struggle

As of today, over \$501,109 in groceries have been provided by Azleway to our Houston neighbors. That's in just 10 months and DOES NOT include our foster children and their families whom we continually serve.

He stood in the line with a dazed look on his face. I couldn't help myself; I just had to know what brought it about. So I spoke warmly and asked what was going on. As he fought the tears now rolling down his cheek, he told how he was not accustomed to receiving "charity." *"All my life, whether in the military or in the private sector, I've always given to the Red Cross, United Way, and many others - never expecting to be on the receiving end. But Harvey changed all of that. When the floods came, it started with me using my fishing boat to pull my neighbors from their flooded homes. And then the boat motor gave out. I had to be towed to my home, which was now surrounded by water, and beginning to flood. I told myself it would be alright. The rain will stop, and the waters will recede. They didn't! My wife and I got out with what little we could carry, and went to stay with friends on higher ground. Within days, it was obvious that we were not going back for a while, so we checked into a hotel. I mean, after all, I had insurance and a pension, so I could take care of this. But I didn't count on the fact that we were starting over - and that's expensive. When I went to ask for help from an unnamed charity, I was turned away because I wasn't in a shelter, and had not accessed FEMA help. But we were still hungry, and just needed a little help. Then I heard about you guys giving away food, and here I am!"* As more tears started, he said *"I'm just not used to asking for help."* With that, we got to the front of the line, he got a grocery cart, and we began to fill it up. For the next 3 months, he was a regular, only taking what he needed, never more, and always willing to help others.

As I walked away, I remembered how this all began:

It all started with the unexpected. I had just returned from a mission trip to Costa Rica, when the rains hit. Little did I know that this was just the appetizer before the main course. In just a matter of weeks, the news of an impending hurricane set everyone on edge. The Monday morning before Harvey hit was as regular as they come - picking up groceries and supplies from the Houston Food Bank, to restock **Papa's Bill's Food Pantry** at our Houston Azleway branch, purchasing clothing for kids at my usual haunts and then back home. I remember watching the news, and then the weather, showing where Harvey was just approaching. The following Thursday, after the storm hit, we were able to make it back to Houston, among scenes of utter devastation. Many hotels, businesses, and restaurants were closed, and many would not reopen for months. Some remain closed today. **Grocery stores were either closed or out of food all around us, and so it was that we opened our door to the community, never imagining that we would still be giving away food 10 months later, but we are!**

Through the end of May, we have served over 3,863 families representing more than 15,657 people. With an average value of over \$119 per family, that is a lot of food and supplies being provided. It's a lot of work, but so many of our customers tell us they just don't know how they would make it without our help. If you want to see charity really working, drop by our Humble office between 9:00am & Noon, any Monday.

Thanks again to the Houston Food Bank, Feed the Children, Harvest International, and to the many companies, churches, and individuals who have given to make an impact here in Houston and around the state through Azleway's Papa Bill's Food Pantry! Our hearts have been blessed by the overwhelming outpouring of love!

Some of the folks we serve have literally had to start all over, while others are still making up for lost wages and extra expense during the two weeks surrounding Harvey. Others were not financially affected, but have lived on such limited income that our weekly assistance has helped them through the holidays, into the new year, and even into the heat of this Houston summer! But no matter the circumstance, whether its Ms. Pumpkin and her crew from right next door, Mr. Joe and his discomfort with charity, or the thousands of others we have been privileged to serve, each in their own way has come closer to one another and to God!

God bless you all,

Bill Partridge

If you would like to help us in our Harvey Recovery, you can donate online Azleway.org.

WHAT WE DO AT AZLEWAY

Azleway has been faithfully restoring lives and relationships of children in crisis since 1979. We have had the privilege of helping thousands of children and families in their times of desperation.

Every child that comes into our agency is evaluated and placed in an appropriate program based on his or her needs. We have a continuum of care which includes: basic foster family homes, therapeutic foster family homes, general residential operation (GRO) and transitional living homes.



GENERAL RESIDENTIAL OPERATION (GRO)

Children struggling with emotional and behavioral issues are quickly stabilized in Azleway's Residential Treatment program. Unfortunately, many of these youths are not ready to move into foster care.

Bouncing between residential treatment and foster care is hard for a child's security, education and self-esteem. Azleway's GRO program is a way to transition a child into foster care by continuing enrollment in an on-campus school, where the child receives counseling services, structured activities, case-management support and care from professional staff who can maintain active support. A change in placement can then be accomplished when the child is ready and able to successfully function in a less-restrictive environment.

AZLEWAY BOYS' RANCH VALLEY VIEW

Azleway Boys' Ranch is intensive therapy set in relaxed atmosphere. Catering to at-risk boys, Azleway Boys' Ranch provides a wide variety of professional services, tailored to meet the needs of residents, in a planned continuum of care. Providing flexible, individualized therapy, testing and counseling services, Azleway staff professionals are committed to building a program to fit each child's needs. Each boy is invited into a caring environment at the Boys' Ranch, where he receives structure, compassion, education and coping skills.

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

Azleway Children's Services (ACS) was originally established to provide the "next step" for successful residents of Azleway Boys' Ranch. Now, Azleway finds homes for boys and girls, ages 0-17. When parents are unable or unwilling to care for a child, ACS finds safe, secure homes for these Texas children in crisis through our Foster Care Program. Foster homes range from basic care homes to therapeutic homes, depending on the needs of the child.

AZLEWAY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM (ASAP)

Founded in 1997, the **Azleway Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)** helps kids get free from chemical dependency. The staff, of licensed professional counselors and licensed chemical dependency counselors, works with young men ages 13-17, in a ranch setting in Big Sandy, Texas. The goal is to help each youth develop a solid recovery program that includes relapse prevention planning and strong support systems, through group and individual counseling sessions, education and group therapy.

ADOPTION SERVICES

Azleway Children's Services (ACS) also provides adoption services. At Azleway, parents can be verified to adopt in two ways, matched adoptions or foster-to-adopt. Potential adoptive parents must be at least 25 years of age, with a high school diploma or GED, and must pass a criminal and child abuse background check. Since its inception, the Azleway Adoption Program has helped almost 200 children find their forever homes.

Donate Now at Azleway.org



AZLEWAY, INC.

15892 CR 26, Tyler, Texas 75707-9136
Operators of Azleway Boys' Ranch and Azleway Children's Services

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SUITCASE DRIVE

Azleway Boys' Ranch is a home for boys. They live here. They generally come here after being taken from neglectful or abusive parents. Most times, they arrive here with their belongings in a trash bag. When they leave the Ranch, we send them on their way with a suitcase for their belongings.

We refuse to have any boy leave the Ranch with his belongings in a trash bag!

We are in dire need of suitcases and large sport duffel bags - in new or gently used condition. Lately, each time a boy leaves, we have to go purchase a suitcase for him. We would like to have a surplus in the store, so that we can stay prepared for the eventuality of a boy leaving. **If you have extra suitcases or would like to purchase one for a boy here at the Ranch, please call Andy at Papa's Bill's Food Pantry (903) 565-0215 OR you can donate online at Azleway.org, and designate your donation towards the SUITCASE DRIVE.**



Save the Date



October 27, 2018

at Texas Rose Horse Park

Texas Wine Tasting, Dinner by Villa Montez, Live & Silent Auctions

Sponsorships

AVAILABLE

For information, contact: Katie Powell
@ 903.566.8444 x2212 or
Katie.Powell@Azleway.org

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