



connection AND restoration

JANUARY 2026



Celebrating a Meaningful Year's End

As we look back on the close of another year, our hearts are full. Thanks to your generosity, the children and staff at My Father's Arrows ended the year surrounded by joy, and the steady reminder of why we celebrate in the first place — the hope we have in our Savior. Your support didn't just provide activities or meals; it created an atmosphere of belonging, rest, and genuine celebration for children who deeply needed it.

Our holiday season began with a beautiful Thanksgiving buffet that brought everyone together around the table. The laughter, the full plates, and the warmth in the room were all possible because of friends like you who give so faithfully. Moments like these help our children feel seen and cared for in ways that stay with them long after the holidays have passed.

As Christmas approached, we made space for rest — something our children and staff both needed. And of course, one of our most cherished traditions made its return: Daddy Jason at the grill, cooking his famous Christmas Day steaks. It's a simple tradition, but it creates memories the kids talk about all year long.

Your giving didn't just meet needs — it made it possible for our arrows to experience a holiday season marked by joy, stability, and the love of Christ. Thank you for helping us end the year strong and begin the new one with hope.



Finding Joy Together in Our Community



The holidays can feel busy, but they also open the door to moments that remind our kids what it feels like to simply be kids. This year, one of those moments came on the ice. Watching our Arrows lace up skates, laugh with friends, wobble, glide, and cheer for each other was a gift in itself. Outings like these help our children experience the simple joys of belonging — being part of a community that welcomes them, celebrates them, and gives them space to grow.

These small adventures matter. They build confidence, create memories, and remind every child that they are seen, valued, and worth showing up for. They also help our kids learn teamwork in a hands-on, joyful way. Most of all, these outings show them that the world is bigger than their past and full of hope for their future. Each time they step into the community, they discover a little more about who they are and what they're capable of. Moments like these turn ordinary days into opportunities for healing and joy. And the laughter shared on the ice becomes one more reminder that brighter days are ahead.

Turning Piles Into Purpose

If you've ever wondered where mountains of socks mysteriously multiply, we've found their homeland — our laundry room! With kids coming and going, the piles never stop growing, and we could use a few cheerful hands to help tame the chaos. Laundry duty may not be glamorous, but it is a simple, practical way to bless our children and staff. If you love the smell of fresh detergent and a good laugh, we'd love to have you join the fun!



Growing Strong Kids Through Real-Life Skills

At My Father's Arrows, we believe in raising a generation that spends less time on video games and more time learning the skills and experiences that shape real character. Whether they're working the ground, caring for animals, building with their own hands, or simply playing outside and burning off energy on the playground, something powerful happens. They're not just staying busy — they're growing.

Hard work teaches them they're capable. Outdoor play helps them build courage, coordination, and confidence. And learning new tasks gives them independence. Doing all of this side by side with mentors and friends creates a sense of belonging that many of our children have never experienced before.

These everyday moments give them reasons to be proud of themselves and show them that effort leads to accomplishment. Whether they're feeding animals, tending the garden, racing down a slide, or fixing something that's broken, each experience becomes a chance to learn resilience, problem-solving, patience, and teamwork.

Most importantly, they discover that they have a place and a purpose — that their hands can help, their voices matter, and their choices make a difference. These moments matter. They're shaping stronger kids every day, preparing them for a future filled with responsibility, hope, and the joy of knowing they can do hard things.



Can Somebody Testify?!

We'd love to come to your group or church and share the incredible ways the arrows in our program are growing, learning, and thriving. From overcoming challenges to celebrating victories, each story is a testament to hope, faith, and transformation. Invite us to speak, and let's celebrate the arrows' journey together—because every success is worth testifying about! Reach out to **Deneen Goforth at 850-918-9093** to schedule.



Faithful in the Small Things

As we step into a new year, it's easy to feel the pressure of "fixing everything at once." January comes with big resolutions, big promises, and big expectations — and before long, those heavy goals can start to crumble under the weight of everyday life. But God rarely works through grand, flashy gestures. Again and again in Scripture, He chooses to move through the small, steady acts of obedience that no one else sees. Jesus reminds us of this principle clearly:

*"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much"
(Luke 16:10, NKJV)*

That verse isn't about perfection — it's about direction. It's about showing up, doing the little things with a willing heart, and letting God grow something meaningful out of our daily choices.

We see this truth every single day at MFA. Healing doesn't come from one big breakthrough moment. It comes through the slow, consistent rhythms of safety, structure, compassion, and presence. A child learns to trust again because someone shows up at

the table every morning. A teenager learns to believe in their worth because staff speak life into them in a dozen small ways. Change isn't event-based — it's habit-based. And God is in those habits.

This new year, instead of reaching for sweeping resolutions, we're focusing on simple faithfulness — the kind that honors God and creates space for Him to work. Maybe it looks like choosing patience when the day feels overwhelming. Maybe it's five minutes of prayer instead of none. Maybe it's one encouraging word spoken to a child who's had a hard week. Maybe it's just pausing long enough to be present with the people God has placed in front of us. These small choices matter more than we think. They build spiritual muscle. They shape culture. They create stability. And they prepare us for whatever "more" God plans to entrust to us in the months ahead.



Sarah Ellis

*Executive Director
My Father's Arrows*



Your Gift Keeps Us Moving

We want to give a big thank you to Frank & Beverly Fontenot for blessing My Father's Arrows with the donation of a truck! It will be a huge help around the farm for daily tasks and keeping everything running smoothly for the children we serve.

If you would like to donate a vehicle or learn how it can help, please call our office at 850-675-4403 for more information.

