



# connection AND restoration

FEBRUARY 2026



## The People Who Make It All Happen

The mission of My Father's Arrows is carried forward every single day by an incredible staff who bring dedication, patience, and heart into everything they do. **They show up early, stay late, and pour themselves into the lives of children** who need stability, consistency, and hope. This work requires sacrifice—emotionally, physically, and spiritually—but our team continues **to serve with compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to each child entrusted to us.**

**And while the work is serious, it isn't without joy.** There are moments of laughter, celebration, and connection that remind us why this calling matters. This past season, we were grateful for the chance to slow down and enjoy a holiday party together—good food, shared stories, and plenty of laughs—as a small way to say “thank you.” It was a meaningful reminder that community matters not just for the children we serve, but for those serving alongside them.

**We are deeply thankful for a staff who work hard, love well, and continue to show up—together.**





## Recognizing What God Has Placed Within Them

We believe every child carries unique gifts and passions waiting to be discovered and nurtured. Sometimes that looks like a quiet moment on the floor, lost in a good book. Other times it sounds like the soft strum of a ukulele as a child practices and gains confidence one note at a time.

When we slow down enough to notice these moments, **we're able to encourage**

**growth in ways that feel personal and meaningful.**

Taking time to recognize what excites and motivates each child **helps build confidence, purpose, and joy.**

As we invest in their interests, **we affirm that God was intentional in His creation and that they are seen and valued**—and that their gifts matter, now and for the future.



## MOMENTS MADE BY CREATIVITY

Artwork days are more than just crafts — they can be very therapeutic. When the kids sit down and create, **it helps them slow down, focus, and relax.** Art gives them a safe way to express themselves and take a break from worries. **Sometimes it's not about talking — it's about creating.**

We're thankful for these quiet moments where healing, peace, and creativity can grow.

These simple moments often open doors to connection, reflection, and renewed joy. In the stillness, creativity becomes a pathway to healing and **a reminder that growth doesn't always need words.**



## WHERE TRUST TAKES THE REINS

There's a bond between a child and a horse that's hard to explain but so easy to feel. We get to see moments like this every day — moments filled with trust, comfort, and healing. **Horses have a special way of calming hearts and bringing confidence to kids who need it most.** Watching them connect is one of the sweetest parts of what we do.

# Blessed by Many Hands

We are continually reminded that **the work at My Father's Arrows is not done alone**. Time and again, individuals and groups step forward to bless our children and staff in thoughtful, meaningful ways—and we are deeply thankful.

We want to extend a special thank-you to the **Ladies Sunday School Class at Hillcrest Baptist Church** for donating the coolest socks for our kids. What might seem like a small gift brought big smiles—and even better, the kids proudly wore them during a fun outing to the skating rink. Joy looks a lot like laughing, skating, and showing off new socks.

We are also grateful to **Donald and Kim Dillinger** for providing a special movie outing so the kids could watch David. With snacks, drinks, and a shared experience, it was an afternoon filled with excitement, connection, and meaningful conversation afterward.

And to **The Olivers**, thank you for hosting a truly unforgettable Cowboy Christmas. From delicious food and horse rides to thoughtful gifts for each child, the day was filled with laughter, wonder, and the kind of memories that last.

These acts of generosity remind our kids—and our staff—that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved. Thank you for being part of their story.

*"The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself."*

Proverbs 11:25 (NKJV)



## When God Doesn't Fix It

There are seasons when we pray for healing, restoration, and resolution—and **it doesn't come the way we hoped**. Loss still hurts. Grief still lingers. **Some situations remain broken this side of heaven**. In this past season, members of our staff have walked through the deep pain of losing loved ones, and many of the children and families we serve carry wounds that are not quickly—or neatly—fixed.

**Scripture never promises a life free from suffering. What it does promise is the presence of God in the middle of it.** The Lord does not stand at a distance from our pain; He enters it with us.

"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit" Psalm 34:18, NKJV

Near doesn't mean rushed. Near doesn't mean untouched. **It means we are not alone.**

Sometimes God's work **isn't about removing the hardship, but about sustaining us through it.** The apostle Paul learned this

firsthand when he pleaded for relief and received a different answer:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" 2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV

**Grace does not erase grief—but it carries us when we can't carry ourselves.**

At My Father's Arrows, we sit with children, families, and staff in these unresolved places. We grieve together. We pray together. **We trust that even when circumstances don't change, God is still working**—shaping hearts, deepening faith, and revealing His faithfulness in quieter, steadier ways. **God may not always fix what is broken. But He never wastes the brokenness.** And He never leaves us to face it alone.

*Sarah Ellis*

*Executive Director  
My Father's Arrows*



## New Chapter Begins at Home

We are excited to celebrate with one of our boys as he graduates our program and is reunited with his family. There is something powerful about being home, surrounded by family, love, and a fresh start.

This journey took courage, growth, and hard work, and we couldn't be more proud of the young man he's become. We pray this season brings peace, joy, and continued healing as he steps into this next chapter with his family.

"He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." — Psalm 23:3

