



Vincent Duran,  
Executive Director

## Walk of Hope Tour

Curious about life on our campus and in our cottages? Would you like to see firsthand the warm, family-oriented home your support makes possible?



Come join us for a tour of our campus and cottages. It's an hour of wonderful stories, great information and an inside look at where our children live. This is not a fundraising event. Bring only an open heart and a friend.

Below are the dates for 2018. You can find more information on our tours on our website.

**Saturdays at 10 a.m.**  
**Meet in the Administration Building**

- March 10
- September 8
- April 7
- October 6
- May 5
- November 13
- (Spring Festival)

## Message from the Executive Director

### Vince's View

**PATIENCE** and **PERSEVERANCE** are qualities that are not easily mastered by some of our students at Boys and Girls Country. Many of our kids come from neighborhoods and environments with very little structure. Their hopes and dreams for higher education are squashed by circumstances, but we give them the opportunity to break the cycle of low expectations.

Kelly and her sister came to live at Boys and Girls Country several years ago. They are both in the College and Career Program, and Kelly recently completed her first semester with a 4.0 GPA. Not only did she finish with an excellent GPA, but she will receive the President's Scholarship for the spring semester at Lone Star College Tomball. Not bad for a young lady who did not see herself going to college or completing high school.

Kelly is a graduate of Waller High School, but this was an accomplishment that did not come easy. "I did not see myself graduating high school. I would easily give up because of my learning disability. I never felt like I was good enough," says Kelly. Sports also played a vital role in her life. "Playing soccer helped with my social skills and improved my grades."

Kelly credits her Teaching Parents and several tutors for her academic success. The Education Lab at BGC is equipped to help students like Kelly reach their academic goals. Tutoring and college preparation begin early at BGC. We want our students to envision

graduation as well as a career path that will lead to college or technical training. Kelly desires to pursue a degree and career in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Boys and Girls Country is blessed to have a dedicated staff and a host of generous volunteers. Kristi Pierce serves as the Program Manager for the Education Department at BGC. She has a long standing relationship

with Waller ISD and is a fierce advocate for our students. Kristi has watched Kelly grow and develop into a young adult over the years. "Kelly has overcome many educational difficulties through hard work and determination. With every achievement I would watch her set

a new and bigger goal," says Kristi. Some students do not realize their full potential. Kelly claims, "She even encouraged me to take an AP class I did not want to take. Ms. Kristi really pushed me."

What separates Boys and Girls Country from other programs? I could list a number of indicators, but Kelly's story is definitely one reason we are different. BGC is not a shelter, boot camp, or short-term program. We are dedicated to the long haul of success. Our students are on a life-long journey, and we will help them exercise patience and perseverance every step of the way. Thank you for helping Kelly reach her goals as she works to complete another semester of college. 



Kristi and Kelly

  
**Vincent Duran** | Executive Director

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