



2021 Annual Report

EMPOWER 7

WWW.EMPOWER7.ORG



BACKGROUND

Founded in 2018, Empower 7 is a Christian faith-based organization created for the sole purpose of empowering the lives of vulnerable, underserved youth in North Texas. Love for all of God's children is the foundation for our ministry and is the driving force behind our vision, **“All youth, regardless of their circumstance, to become thriving, purposeful adults who are driven to make the world a better place.”**

Our Christ-centered ministry is guided by our shared values:

- **Mission Driven:** Genuine passion for our mission is at the core of each person.
- **Authentic:** Achieving our mission is dependent on trust – trust from donors, partners, volunteers and clients. To earn and maintain trust, we ensure our actions align with our words and our operations are open and transparent.
- **Tenacious:** Impossible is not in our dictionary. We know that to make a difference in this world, we must have unwavering perseverance, diligence and discipline to our long-term impact plans.
- **Together:** We are best together. When individuals connect with others of a shared purpose, the impossible is possible.

Empower 7's mission is to provide strategic life solutions to empower the lives of vulnerable youth.

OUR CALLING

We live in a broken world where many have lost their way. As a result, our children are suffering. Sadly, there is a modern-day orphan crisis that is affecting youth not only across the oceans but in our local communities. Teens face immeasurable odds just to survive their childhood and thousands are aging out of foster care every year without any loving support system or place to call home. Many have never heard of the hope and future waiting for them through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Due to the complexity associated with their age and trauma experienced, these teens are at risk of becoming homeless, incarcerated, or disconnected burdens to society.

Closest to the organization's heart is the older kids that feel broken, unwanted, and unadoptable. Our services will benefit youth who fall into one or more scenarios:

- In need of emergency placement following a crisis or homelessness
- Unable to successfully live in a traditional foster home
- Transitioning out of foster care (i.e. aging out kids)
- At-risk of becoming disconnected due to traumatic experiences, neglect, developmental disorders, significant barriers/disparities, lack of parental structure, etc.

We are called to make a difference.



THE NEED

In North Texas, there is an overwhelming shortage of services for at-risk youth that guide and prepare them for success as adults. As these young people progress through their teenage years, the risk factors in their lives skyrocket while the resources available to them diminish. They often face enormous hurdles such as poverty, hunger, substance abuse, suicidal tendencies, unplanned pregnancy, sex trafficking, homelessness, school drop-out, lack of parental support, and self-esteem problems related to poor hygiene, peer pressure, and lack of positive emotional and social support. At each stage of their development, they fall behind their more affluent peers. They enter adulthood without reliable support systems or basic life skills and are likely to disconnect from society. This hurts young people, their families, and their communities.

**No one can change their past but
Empower 7 can positively impact their future.**



IMPACT STRATEGY

Empower 7 plans to make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable through carefully designed programming that addresses all aspects of their development: physical, cognitive, moral, psychological, social, emotional, and spiritual. Empower 7's service portfolio will offer 24-hour residential, educational, and community-based services at no cost to the youth in our care.

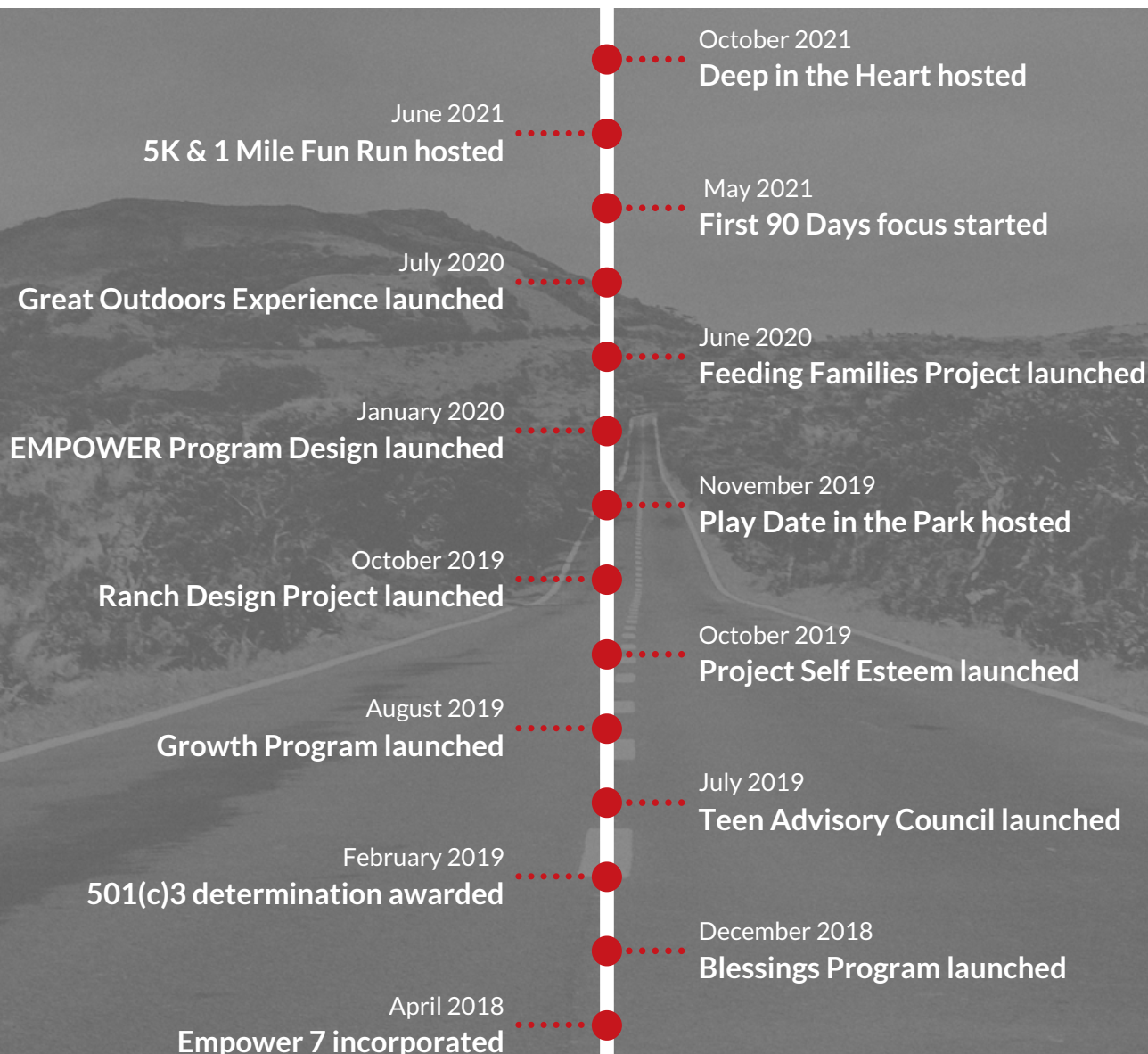
Our primary goal is to build **The Empower 7 Ranch**, a God-inspired, residential safe-haven for older teens, ages 18 years or younger. The Ranch will give youth a chance to overcome their adverse circumstances and develop into responsible, thriving adults. Through our services, youth will be prepared for adulthood, form healthy connections with society, and know God's love and grace. They will discover their life has a purpose and they will be equipped with essential life skills to go after their dreams!



PROGRESS IN REVIEW

Empower 7 is focused on achieving the growth objectives necessary to build The Ranch while impacting at-risk North Texas teens today. Since forming in April 2018, activities involved building the leadership team and management system to assure sustained growth, high quality of services, and effective governance. Programs were launched to address the immediate needs of at-risk youth and provide them with learning experiences to shape their futures. Fundraising and outreach events were hosted to raise awareness for our ministry and funds for our programs and The Ranch building fund. We continued to develop plans for The Ranch and Empower 7-step model and foster a strong network of donors and volunteers.

While many successes were celebrated, our first few years involved navigating through the many challenges of starting a ministry with a BIG vision and the continued setbacks caused by the coronavirus pandemic and political uncertainty. Empower 7 faithfully continues to strive toward the mission, improve all areas of the organization, and pray for God's direction and provision.



PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE

\$133.9k

In 2021, \$133,926 was secured from fundraisers, grants, direct contributions, and donated goods/services to cover administrative and program expenses and fund Lighting Their Way Capital Campaign.

TEAM MEMBERS

157

Empower 7 relies on volunteers to govern and lead our organization, develop and manage processes and programming, plan for The Ranch, fundraise and advocate for our mission, and serve at-risk teens today. In the last few years, over 157 volunteers generously donated over 11,000 hours in the following roles: Board Directors, Advisory Board Members, Professional Expertise Council Members, Committee Chairs and Members, Teen Advisory Council Members, event and project volunteers, and prayer warriors.

YOUTH IMPACTED

553

In 2021, Empower 7's Blessings and Growth Programs directly impacted 553 at-risk kids by providing enrichment activities, self-esteem products, support to stay in school, food, clothing, and Christmas gifts.

PROGRAM REACH

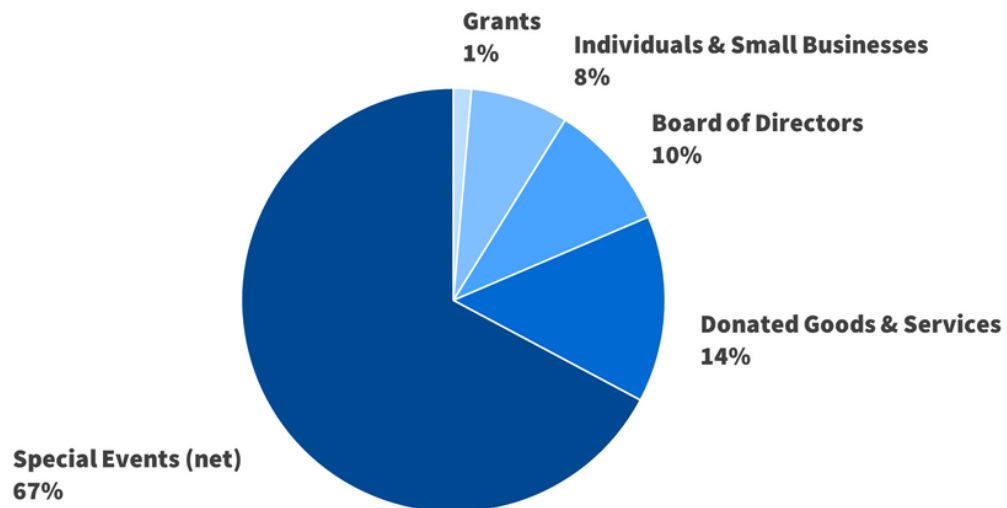
6 counties

Empower 7's programs serves at-risk youth in six North Texas Counties: Rockwall, Hunt, Rains, Collin, Kaufman, and Dallas.

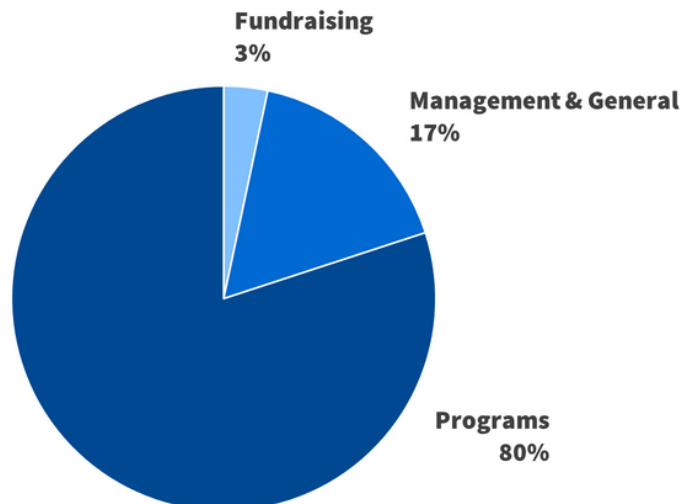


2021 FINANCIALS

REVENUE PERCENTAGE BY TYPE



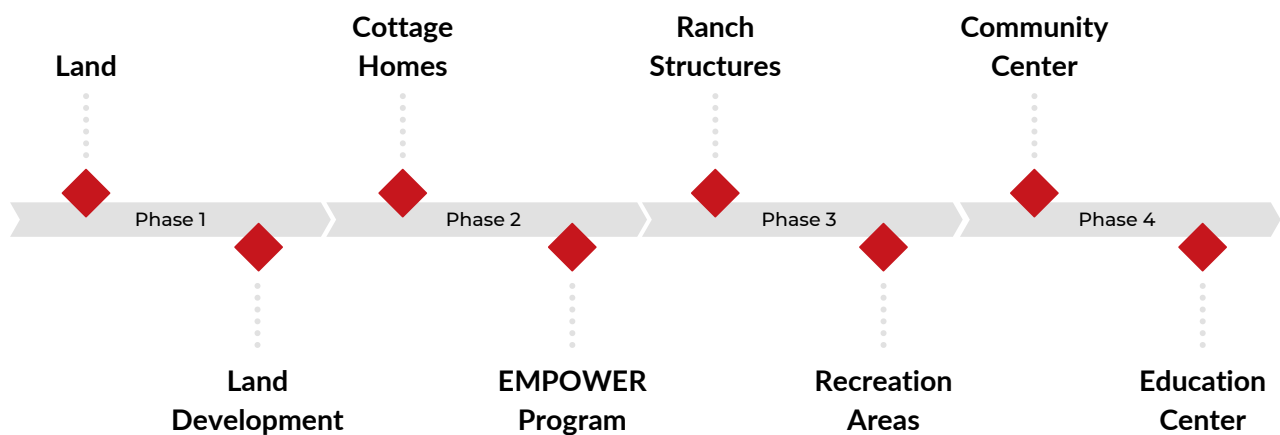
EXPENSE PERCENTAGE BY FUNCTIONAL AREA



12/1/2021 - 12/31/2021

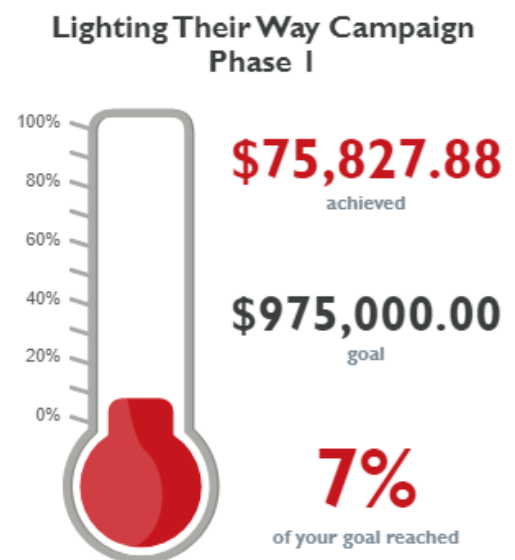
LIGHTING THEIR WAY

Lighting Their Way is Empower 7's capital campaign to raise funds to build The Ranch and launch the full-scale EMPOWER programming. Our strategy is to create The Ranch in phases. Phase 1 of the capital campaign involves acquiring the land and funds necessary to begin The Empower 7 Ranch development process. In Phase 2, we will start building our cottage homes, with the first home designed for older male teenagers.



In Spring 2021, we launched Lighting Their Way. The majority of the proceeds raised from our inaugural fundraisers, 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run and Deep in the Heart, and 100% of donations made to the Lighting Their Way Capital Campaign directly support our capital campaign goals. Together, we raised over \$75,000 in less than 9 months.

We are deeply appreciative of our donors for investing in our ministry and praise God for his blessings and favor.



**Together, we are LIGHTING THEIR WAY
to a brighter future.**

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Empower 7's 4th Annual Christmas Blessings Project supported thirteen kids and their families who were struggling to make ends meet and were going without basic necessities at Christmastime. Because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers, these families were provided Christmas gifts and gift cards to purchase food and clothing. To give a little extra HOPE, JOY & LOVE to those that need it most, especially during the most special time of the year, is the true BLESSING.

PROJECT SELF ESTEEM

Many teens today do not have the simplest of everyday hygiene and self-image items necessary for positive self-esteem! Through Project Self Esteem, we provide at-risk teens with grooming supplies, feminine hygiene products, socks, undies, backpacks, and other items needed for personal care. Our liaisons at our partner schools discreetly give these supplies to teens in need. Because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we supported hundreds of teens in North Texas.

Special THANKS to:

- Our liaisons for making it simple to give teens the support they need to feel good about themselves
- AMICA Rockwall and Rockwall Women's League for program grants
- Skyline Juniors, Virginia Reinhardt Elementary School, Rockwall Women's League, Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church, Rockwall Robotics Half Metal Jackets, Rockwall Robotics Full Metal Jackets, and Rockwall High School Volleyball Team for hosting box drives
- Alliance Bank North Rockwall, Dental Professionals of Rockwall, and The Texan Theater for serving as box drive drop-off locations
- The many individuals who donated supplies or money for this project
- Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church youth groups and the many individuals who tirelessly served at our storage room
- And last but certainly not least, our Teen Advisory Council for helping design and keep this project going, year after year



Faith, Hope, Love, but the greatest of these is LOVE.
1 Corinthians 13:13

BLESSINGS & GROWTH



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16 (ESV)

5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN

Our inaugural race to EMPOWER was held on June 26, 2021, at Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium in Rockwall, TX. Vida Valk, Event Chair, and the 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run Committee organized a successful event with 169 participants from Germany, Costa Rica, Washington, Arizona, Illinois, Missouri, and right here in Texas joining in person or virtually. The 5K was professionally timed by PlayTri and awards were announced by Rockwall County Judge David Sweet and Judge Mark Russo. Proceeds from the event supported the Empower 7 Ranch building campaign and programs for at-risk teens in North Texas.



Enjoy our 2 videos recapping the FUNdraiser and competition at www.empower7.org/5krun-2021/ or simply click on the video images below.

Photo Slideshow



Featured Race Video



THANK YOU

2021 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Because of your support, we were able to host our first annual 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run.
Thank you for believing in us and helping us make this event successful.



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STORAGE 365 LLC



BRONZE SPONSORS

NANCY PARKES – COMPASS RE



Every gift is crucial, sustaining our ability
to offer support to those in need.

DEEP IN THE HEART

Our inaugural fundraiser and auction, Deep in the Heart, was held on October 9, 2021, at Tate Farms in Rockwall, TX. Saralyn Hanford, Event Chair, Bobby Gladu, Event Deputy Chair, and the Deep in the Heart Committee created a fun night to remember for our friends and families to come together to raise money for the Empower 7 Ranch building campaign and programs for at-risk teens in North Texas. Guests enjoyed an authentic Texas experience with famous Eddie Deen's catered BBQ dinner and entertainment by Wild West Performer Judy Taylor and Rockwall's country music singer Brandon Bamburg. Catherine Scott, author of "It Started with a Dream" was our heart captivating speaker. Cowboy Auctioneers encouraged everyone to dig deep to support our mission.



Enjoy our recap video of 2021 Deep in the Heart by simply clicking on the video image below or visit www.empower7.org/deepintheheart/.

Event Recap Video



THANK YOU

2021 DEEP IN THE HEART SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Because of your support, we were able to host our inaugural fundraiser and auction. Thank you for believing in our mission for at-risk teens.

PLATINUM SPONSOR

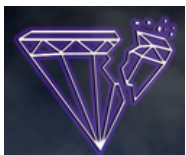
HOLY TRINITY BY THE LAKE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SARALYN HANFORD



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LA CANTERA RESORT



ROCKWALL PROFESSIONAL JEWELERS
SPRINGHILL SUITES ROCKWALL
STUDIO 16:19
TEXAN THEATER
VIP ARTIST
VOYANT AUTOMATION SYSTEMS
JIM & KATIE WHITE
ZANATA



TOGETHER WE ARE LIGHTING THEIR
WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL IN ACTION

Members of Empower 7's Teen Advisory Council play an integral role in our organization. From planning our programs to supporting events, they are there with hearts open wide to support our mission and shape our programs.



OUTREACH FOR GROWTH

We are thankful for the organizations and businesses that helped us grow in 2021. We appreciate your support in strategy, advocacy, promotion, fundraising, and connecting us with other heart-minded organizations:

- AM Technical Solutions
- Avidea Social
- BB Outdoor Advertising
- Blue Ribbon News
- Cowboy Auctioneers
- Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church
- J.E.R. Cilton YMCA at Rockwall
- LASEY
- Living Magazine
- Patty's Posh Picks
- Rockwall Christmas Company
- Rockwall Medical Massage
- Rockwall Neighbors Magazine
- Soldiers For Faith
- StopHate
- Studio 16:19
- SunnyHQ
- Trinity Architects



Thank you for your support!

TOGETHER WE EMPOWER

From client-centered projects to community outreach, Empower 7 believes that together, we will build The Ranch. Together We EMPOWER.



2021 DONORS

Empower 7 is deeply grateful for the financial and in-kind support of our donors. Their generous donations help cover our administrative costs and directly impact the lives of vulnerable youth. Together, we are empowering the youth of tomorrow.



4imprint, AK Art Studio, Alliance Bank, Altrusa International Lake Cities, AMICA Rockwall, Artisan Masonry, Avidya Social, BB Outdoor Advertising, Blue Ribbon News, Classic Chevrolet, DFS Fire Systems LLC, Dodie's Cajun Café, Glasson Legacy Fund, Half Metal Jackets, Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church, Homes by Hudson, L3Harris Technologies, La Cantera Resort, LIV GROUP INC, McGuireWoods LLP, Nance Parkes - Compass Real Estate, National Christian Foundation North Texas, Paper N Peonies, Park Place Motorcars Dallas, Pool Stop, Reinhardt Elementary School, REMAX 3D Real Estate, Rockwall Christmas Company, Rockwall High School Volleyball Team, Robin Jackson Photography, Rockwall Medical Massage, Rockwall Professional Jewelers, Rockwall Women's League, Skyline Juniors, Springhill Suites Rockwall, Standard Site Utilities LLC, StopHate, Storage 365 LLC, Studio 16:19, Sunny HQ, TAYORi, Texan Theater, The Caillet Group LLC, The Treetop Clubhouse, VIP Artist, Virginia Reinhardt Elementary School, Voyant Automation Systems LLC, Zanata

Rick and Trisha Allen, Brian Ames, Christine R Anderson, Chad and Jennifer Arnold, Jennifer Ashmore, Angelia Bowman, Janet Bowyer, Mark and Montene Bryant, Matt and Amanda Chance, Dave and Stacey Christensen, Stephen and Melanie Cobb, Raymond and Mary Cobbs, Chris Collar, Courtney Davis, Marcia Davis, Lacy Deckard, Jacques Dingman, Hope Dobberfuhr, Denton Donahou, Amanda Duquette, Katie Lynn Edwards, Frances Farmer, Marilyn Ford, Greg and Alison Fox, Kay Garrett, Amy Gillentine, Rebecca Grass, Vanessa Gray, Tracy Greenhow, Price Griggs, Diana Grubbs, Judy Hanford, Saralyn Hanford, Andrea Hemann, John Henson, Greg Hill, Liz Immanivong, Catherine Jamerson, Grace E Johnson, Latrice Johnson, David Kelbley, Candice Kidder, Amberly Lago, David Larsen, Marcia Larsen, Kathy Lesnoff, Judith J Maisel, Mary Maynard, Terry McBay, Sally Meek, Krassy Millager, Marlene Moehler, Gabe Nicoletta, Mary Yvonne Noel, Mike Oliver, Donald Ortamond, Nancy Parkes, Vineta Partridge, Sally Pennell, Jude Peskuski, Connie Pettitt, Michele Phelan, David and Melanie Prda, Patricia Reedene, Kathy Roemisch, Cindy Rosen, Mark Russo, Lynda Sanabria, Catherine Scott, Justin and Aman Scott, Monika Shah, Luke Sikorski, Paul Sikorski, Stephanie Sikorski, Chris Snodgrass, Jim and Gail Spann, Bobby Stovall, David and Cindy Sumrall, Christie Taft, Lanelle Tausendfreund, Danna Taylor, Linda Trahan, Deanna Tucker, Don and Alma Valk, Shawn and Vida Valk, Jim and Katie White, Jane M Williams, Lindsey Wynne, Craig Zurek, Julie Zurek

**Every gift is crucial, sustaining our ability
to offer support to those in need.**

OUR TEAM

Founded with a genuine desire and unconditional motivation to make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable, Empower 7 strategically connects with those who share our mission. The Empower 7 team is comprised of Board Directors, Advisors, Professional Experts, Teen Advisory Council Members, Service Partners, Prayer Warriors, and numerous Volunteers serving on committees and special project teams. Our Team is eager to see what God has in store for Empower 7 in 2022. Together we EMPOWER!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melanie Cobb, President
Cindy Sumrall, Board Chair
Jacque Dingman, Treasurer
Yvonne Noel, Secretary
Saralyn Hanford
Stephanie Sikorski
Vida Valk

ADVISORY BOARD

Stephen Cobb
Annie Kate Head
Timothy Head
Kent Davis Jones
Vicki Wallace

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE COUNCIL

Tom Nynas, Jarrod Rhodes, Shawn Washington, DM, Cathy Woodson

RANCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Brent Baker, Tammy Bollman, Melanie Cobb, Steve Cobb
Jacque Dingman, Britni Ganze, Amy Gillentine, Bobby Gladu
Saralyn Hanford, Judith Maisel, Bart Martinez, Dane Powell, Matt Webb

2021-2022 TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Claire Bollman, Carly Braaten, Anna Cepak, Emerson Chance,
Garrett Cobb, Gracie Fleming, Victoria Giardi, Jessica McCoy
Carly Pennell, Jack Rice, Ambrin Smith, Bradley Tebbutt

MISSION-DRIVEN, AUTHENTIC, TENACIOUS, TOGETHER



Empower 7

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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER