



# 2022 Annual Report

**EMPOWER 7**

[WWW.EMPOWER7.ORG](http://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

Children are a gift from God and the promise of our future. They belong in safe, stable environments with caring families that love them and help them discover and become who God created them to be.

Sadly, the world has drifted from God's design. Many children have been abandoned, neglected, or abused by their families. As a result of the experiences they have endured, these children often feel broken, forgotten, and unwanted. Many have never been told that Jesus loves them.

Empower 7's calling is to open a multi-acre ranch with Christ-centered cottage homes for older youth in foster care to live. Youth will be provided programs to help them successfully complete their high school education and develop critical life skills, resources to aid students who wish to pursue higher education, and personal growth curricula that will enable each individual to pursue happy healthy adult lives.

Our services will benefit vulnerable youth:

- In need of emergency placement following a crisis or homelessness
- Unable to successfully thrive in a traditional foster home
- Preparing to transition out of foster care
- At risk of becoming disconnected due to traumatic experiences, neglect, developmental disorders, significant barriers/disparities, lack of parental structure



**We love, because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19**



# THE NEED

More than 430,000 children and youth are in foster care on any given day, and the number of children without placement has skyrocketed over the last few years. Each year, the foster care system is overwhelmed with more kids entering the system than kinship caregivers, foster families, or group homes can adequately support. These teens face immeasurable odds to survive their childhood, and over 20,000 teens age out of foster care every year without a loving support system or place to always call home. Tragically, over 20% of the teens aging out of foster care become homeless the moment they leave foster care. Many have never heard of the hope and future waiting for them through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Due to traumatic experiences, lack of support, and limited opportunities, these youth are at risk of becoming homeless, incarcerated, victims of abuse, or disconnected from society. These youth need a safe place to call home, a support system that cares about their well-being, and the tools and resources necessary to become thriving young adults.

**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 top priority in empowering at-risk youth is to build **The Empower 7 Ranch** - a God-inspired, residential safe-haven for older youth in foster care to heal, develop, and move forward with their lives. The Empower 7 Ranch will allow youth the chance to overcome their adverse circumstances and grow into responsible, thriving adults. Through our services, youth will prepare for adulthood, form healthy relationships and connections with society, and know God's love and grace. They will know their life has a purpose, and they will be equipped with essential life skills to go after their dreams!





## PROGRESS IN REVIEW

Empower 7 continues to focus on achieving the foundational objectives necessary to build and operate The Empower 7 Ranch while impacting at-risk North Texas teens today. Since our formation, activities have involved building the leadership team and management system to ensure sustained operations, high-quality services, and effective governance. Program services were launched to address the immediate needs of at-risk youth and provide them with learning experiences to increase confidence, direct paths, and shape their futures. Fundraising and outreach events were hosted to raise awareness for our ministry's calling and funding for our programs and capital campaign. We are designing strategic development plans for The Empower 7 Ranch and E.M.P.O.W.E.R. 7-step model and building a strong network of donors and volunteers. With joy, Empower 7 faithfully pursues our mission goals, improves all areas of the organization, and prays for God's direction and favor in everything we do.





## PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

### REVENUE

# \$104.8k

In 2022, \$104,868 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

# 150+

Empower 7 relies on volunteers to govern and lead our organization, develop and manage processes and programming, plan for The Empower 7 Ranch, fundraise and advocate for our mission, and serve at-risk teens today. Since formation, over 150 volunteers generously donated over 14,000 hours in the following roles: Board Directors, Advisory Board Members, Committee Chairs/Members, Teen Advisory Council Members, event/project volunteers, and prayer warriors.

### YOUTH IMPACTED

# 313

In 2022, Empower 7's Blessings and Growth Programs directly impacted 313 at-risk kids by providing enrichment activities, great outdoor experiences, self-esteem products, support to stay in school, emergency family support, food, clothing, and Christmas gifts.

### PROGRAM REACH

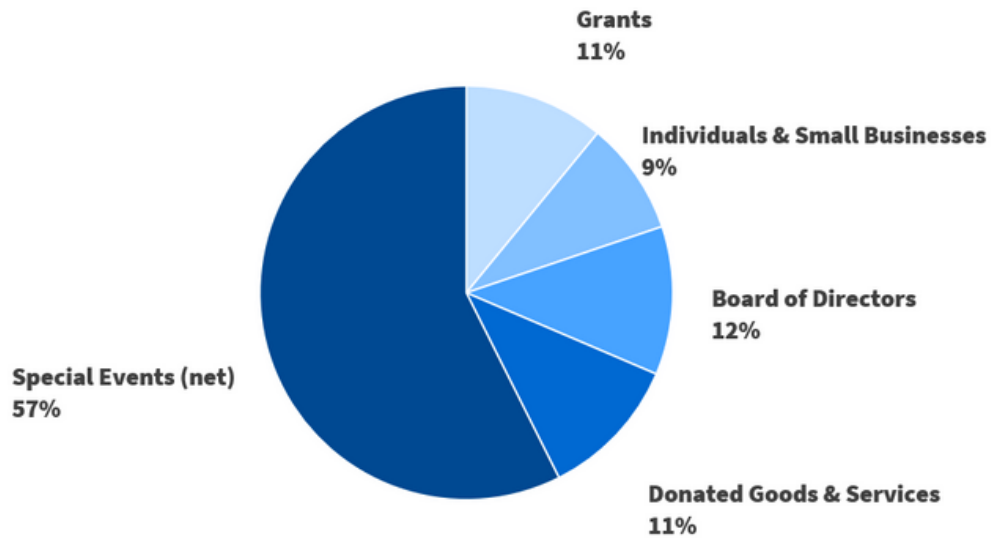
# 7 counties

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

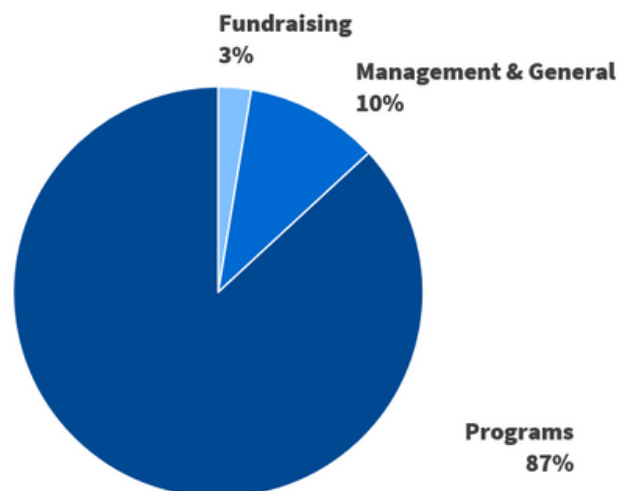


# 2022 FINANCIALS

## REVENUE PERCENTAGE BY TYPE



## EXPENSE PERCENTAGE BY FUNCTIONAL AREA



12/1/2022 - 12/31/2022



## **BLESSINGS & GROWTH PROGRAMS**

While faithfully preparing for The Empower 7 Ranch, we are working to close the gaps that prevent at-risk, under-served youth from thriving. Our Blessings & Growth Programs address vulnerable youth's immediate or emergency needs and provide them with learning experiences to shape their future. Since our founding in 2018, Empower 7's Blessings & Growth Programs directly impacted more than 1,000 youth by providing enrichment activities, great outdoor experiences, self-esteem products, support to stay in school, emergency family support, food, clothing, and Christmas gifts. Last year, we joined other sponsors to celebrate Hunt County's National Adoption Day. As we help youth rise above their challenges, they feel valued, grow in confidence, and are motivated to develop the skills and wisdom necessary to succeed in life.

Special THANKS to:

- AMICA Rockwall, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Glasson Legacy Fund, and Rockwall Women's League for program grants
- The many individuals and organizations that supported our fundraising efforts through online giving and annual fundraising events
- Programs Committee for lovingly managing our program activities

## **CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

Empower 7's 5th Annual Christmas Blessings Project supported six kids and their families who were struggling to make ends meet and needed 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.

Special THANKS to:

- Our liaisons for making it simple to give teens the support they need
- The Treetop Clubhouse, Delta Kappa Gamma Lambda Upsilon Chapter, Teen Advisory Council, and Board of Directors for their significant contributions
- The individuals who donated to this project and volunteered to wrap and deliver the gifts

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

# 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, and other items needed for personal care. Our liaisons at 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, Farmers Electric Cooperative, and Rockwall Women's League for program grants
- Heritage Christian Academy, Rockwall High School Robotics Full Metal Jackets, Rockwall High School Student Council, and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church for hosting box drives and preparing hygiene kits
- Alliance Bank Rockwall North, Dental Professionals of Rockwall, and The Texan Theater in Greenville for serving as box drive drop-off locations
- Girl Scout Troup 6703, Classical Conversations, and the many individuals who tirelessly served in our storage room to prepare care boxes for delivery
- The many individuals who donated hygiene supplies or money for this project
- Our Teen Advisory Council for keeping this project going, year after year



**DON'T YOU KNOW? WHEN YOU CARED FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE, MY LITTLE ONES, MY TRUE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU DEMONSTRATED LOVE FOR ME. MATTHEW 25:40 (TPT)**



BLESSINGS & GROWTH



GLASSON   
LEGACY FUND

 THE TREETOP  
CLUBHOUSE

 DKG™  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

FULL METAL  
JACKETS  
  
1296

 Rockwall  
STUCCO

  
AMICA  
FRIENDS FOREVER AND A DAY

 Farmers Electric  
Cooperative

ROCKWALL WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
THE LEAGUE  
EST. 1973

HCA

 OUR LADY OF THE LAKE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

 DENTAL professionals  
of rockwall

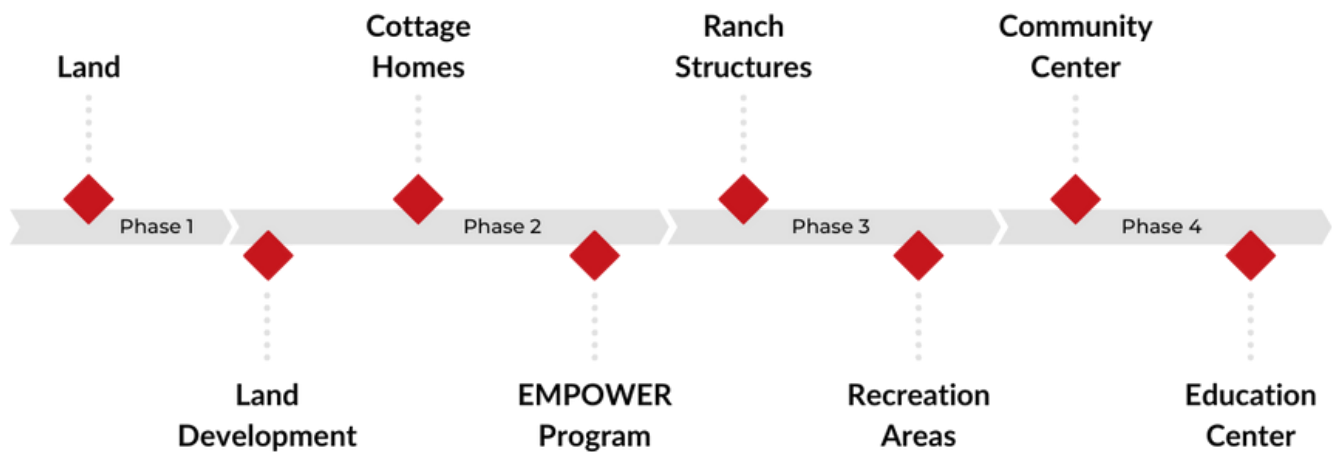
Alliance  
Bank  
Member FDIC

TEXAN  
THEATER  
GREENVILLE

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)

# LIGHTING THEIR WAY

Lighting Their Way is Empower 7's capital campaign to raise funds to build The Empower 7 Ranch and to develop the E.M.P.O.W.E.R. 7-Step Model. Our capital campaign strategy is to develop The Empower 7 Ranch in phases. The first two phases involve land acquisition, land development, cottage homes development, and development of client services that help youth transform themselves into purposeful, thriving adults.



In Spring 2021, we launched the Lighting Their Way Capital Campaign. The majority of the proceeds raised from our signature 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 have raised over \$105,000 for the Lighting Their Way Campaign since May 2021.

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.**



# 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN

Our 2nd annual race to EMPOWER was held on June 25, 2022, 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 179 participants from Costa Rica, Florida, and the Lone Star State of Texas joining in person or virtually. The 5K was professionally timed by PlayTri, and awards were presented by David Sumrall and members from our Board of Directors and Teen Advisory Council. Proceeds from the event supported the Empower 7 Ranch building campaign and programs for at-risk teens in North Texas.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN



Enjoy our recap videos of the FUNdraiser competition by clicking on the videos below.

### Photo Slideshow



### Featured Race Video





# THANK YOU

## 2022 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Because of your support, we were able to host our 2nd annual 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run.  
Thank you for believing in us and helping us make this event successful.



### GOLD SPONSORS

DON & ALMA VALK  
LIV GROUP INC  
ROB MCANGUS



ROB McANGUS, PARTNER  
VERNER | BRUMLEY  
VERNER BRUMLEY MUELLER PARKER  
FAMILY LAW

### SILVER SPONSORS

ALLIANCE BANK  
AM TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS  
BB OUTDOOR ADVERTISING  
BLUE RIBBON NEWS  
STORAGE 365 LLC



### BRONZE SPONSORS

BLACKJACK DISPOSAL  
HANFORD PLANNING & CONSULTING



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

# DEEP IN THE HEART

Our 2nd annual fundraiser and auction, Deep in the Heart, was hosted on October 8, 2022, at The Venue at Boyd Farms in Lavon, TX. Our events chairs, Cindi Garcia, Cindy Sumrall, Makesa Stovall, Melanie Prda, Nicole Smith, and Tiffany Demien, and the Deep in the Heart Committee created an amazing night 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. The evening featured a live/silent auction, dinner and cocktails, and entertainment by country music singer Brandon Bamburg. Montene Bryant lead us in prayer. Founder Melanie Cobb and guest speakers, Claire Bollman, Carly Pennell, Jessica Cawthorn, and Amberly Lago, author of "True Grit and Grace," captivated the hearts of our guests.



Enjoy our event recap video and photo booth pictures by clicking the links below!

## Event Recap Video



[PHOTO BOOTH PICS](#)



# THANK YOU

## 2022 DEEP IN THE HEART SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Because of your support, we were able to host our 2nd annual fundraiser and auction. Thank you for believing in our mission for at-risk teens.

### PLATINUM SPONSOR

HOLY TRINITY BY THE LAKE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### GOLD SPONSOR

BB OUTDOOR ADVERTISING



GLASSON LEGACY FUND

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



FINE PEARLS MEDIA

LIV GROUP INC

STUDIO 16:19



### SILVER SPONSOR

B1 BANK, BLACKJACK DISPOSAL, BLUE RIBBON NEWS

FATTO A MANO, MAXIMIZED MEDIA PRODUCTIONS RICK &



TRISHA ALLEN, ROBERT MOEHLER

TEXAN THEATER, VINE CRAFTERS



Special thanks to our Board of Directors, La Cantera Resort & Spa, The Makhatter, Richey Excavation, Hargrave Foundation Repair, Dental Professionals of Rockwall, Imagine Higher, Diana Grubbs, Marcus Moehler, Chad Bowden, Friendlee Radio, Caleigh Jordan, CausEffects, The Texas Gun Ranch, and Zanata for their significant contribution to Deep in the Heart.



**TOGETHER WE ARE LIGHTING THEIR  
WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE**





# TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL IN ACTION

Empower 7's Teen Advisory Council members are integral in ensuring our mission objectives are relevant to teens today. From program development to supporting events, they show up with hearts wide open to support our mission.





# OUTREACH FOR GROWTH

We are thankful for the individuals and organizations that helped us GROW in 2022. We appreciate your support in strategy, advocacy, promotion, fundraising, and connecting us with other heart-minded organizations!

- 2022 Board of Directors
- AM Technical Solutions
- BB Outdoor Advertising
- Blue Ribbon News
- Fine Pearls Media
- Friendlee Radio
- JustServe.org
- Living Magazine
- Rockwall Herald Banner
- Rockwall Neighbors Magazine
- Soldiers For Faith
- StopHate.com
- 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 Empower 7 Ranch. Together We EMPOWER.





# 2022 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.



Alliance Bank, Altrusa International Lake Cities, Alumni Sports, AM Technical Solutions, AMICA Rockwall, Arrow Grace Designs, b1 bank, BB Outdoor Advertising, Bee Sharp Country Store, Bella's House, Blackjack Disposal, Blue Ribbon News, Bonafide Bettie Pies, Brittix Bubbles, Butterfly Beauty, Caleigh Jordan Photography, Candles by Carol, CausEffects, Chic-fil-a, Delta Kappa Gama Lambda Upsilon Chapter, Dental Professionals of Rockwall, Diana Grubbs Realtor, Eldorado Fine Cigars, Farmers Electric Cooperative Charitable Foundation, Fatto a Mano, Fiddle & Fork, Fine Pearls Media, Friendlee Radio, From Itzie's Garden, Glasson Legacy Fund, Groovy's, Hanford Planning & Consulting, Hargrave Foundation Repair, Hazel & Olive, Heritage Christian Academy 5th Grade Class, Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church, Imagine Higher, J10 Design, La Cantera Resort, Lake Cities Altrusa Club, LIV Group Inc, Maximized Media Productions, Native Garden, Narley and Chikki, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Pool Stop, Ramen Head, Richey Excavation, Rob McAngus, Verner Brumley Mueller Parker, Rockwall Golf and Athletic Club, Rockwall High School Robotics Club, Rockwall High School Student Council, Rockwall Women's League, Rosini Vineyards, Sloanes Sweet Treats, Sterling Tea, StopHate, Storage 365 LLC, Stranz Crossley Inc, Studio 16:19, Sunny HQ, Texan Theater, The Makhatter, Teen Advisory Council, The Texas Gun Ranch, The Treetop Clubhouse, Trinity Architects, VineCrafters, Zanata

Rick & Trisha Allen, Taylor & Martin Aguirre, Brooke Anderson, Chad and Jennifer Arnold, Devon Arcisz, Mary Bierds, David Billings, David and Tammy Bollman, Angelia Bowman, Friendlee Buffington, Mark and Montene Bryant, Matt and Amanda Chance, Lisa Cauble, Robin Chouteau, Dave and Stacey Christensen, Stephen and Melanie Cobb, Raymond and Mary Cobbs, Julia Connel, Lisa Cowgill, Alexa Creel, Santosh and Shail Dave, Marcia Davis, Paul and Justine Deets, Dick and Tiffany Demien, Hope Dobberfuhl, Melanie Dreyer, Amanda Duquette, Susan Edwards, Rick and Pam Evatt, Adam Falero, Breanna Fancher, Danny and Debbie Faulkner, Cindy and Joseph Florez, Jennifer and Chad Fogg, Tanelle and Steve Forgy, Cody Fraizer, Alison French, Mitchell and Zoe Fuller, Cindi Garcia, Raul and Diana Garcia, Stefanie and Joe Gentile, Amy Gillentine, Tim and Wendy Glasson, Danny and Lisa Gonzales, Rebecca Grass, Carol Greenhalgh, Diana and David Grubbs, Saralyn Hanford, Andrea Hauglie, Andrea Hemann, Melody and Samuel Holder, David and Connie Holder, Madison and Thomas Hughes, Grace Johnson, Latrice Johnson, Roy and Stacy Jordan, David Kelbley, Graden Keller, Sylvia and David Kidd, Natalie and Cody Kirkley, Miles and Natalie Kirkley, Wendi and John Kissane, Karen Koepke, Amberly Lago, Ryan and Taylor Leal, April McKenzie, Tori and Bubba Melton, Brenda Meyers, Michelle and Tony Mikulski, Lisa and Mark Misheck, Marcus Moehler, Marlene Moehler, Robert Moehler, Daren and Angie Money, Shirley Moon, Chad and Maegan Morgan, Joy and Bradon Murphy, Yvonne Noel, Mike and Christy Oliver, David and Nancy Parkes, Kevin and Kimber Patterson, Mike and Dana Pettit, David and Melanie Prda, Robin and Billy Railsback, Richard and Dawn Redig, Jarrod Rhodes, J.O. Richey, Cindy Rosen, Scarlett Sebastian, Monika Shah, Raphe and Delamie Shipman, Stephanie Sikorski, Jacque Sillers, Cathy Smith, Nicole and Wesley Smith, Shelli and Chris Snodgrass, Natalie and Cody Sorrells, Andrew and Tricia Steele, Bobby Stovall, Jake and Makesa Stovall, Brad and Morgan Sugg, David and Cindy Sumrall, Bill and Jennifer Tartar, Danna Taylor, Deanna Tucker, Annalyse Valk, Evelyn Valk, Don and Alma Valk, Shawn and Vida Valk, Michelle and Chris Van Parys, Megan and Jeff Vondemkamp, Bob and Kathryn Wacker, Vicki Wallace, Matt Webb, Jane M Williams, Kelly Wolfe, Janet Wright, Lindsey Wynne

**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, 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 2023. Together we EMPOWER!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Melanie Cobb, President  
Cindy Sumrall, Board Chair  
Jacque Sillers, Treasurer  
Cindi Garcia, Secretary  
Tiffany Demien  
Lisa Gonzales  
Yvonne Noel

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

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

## **RANCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

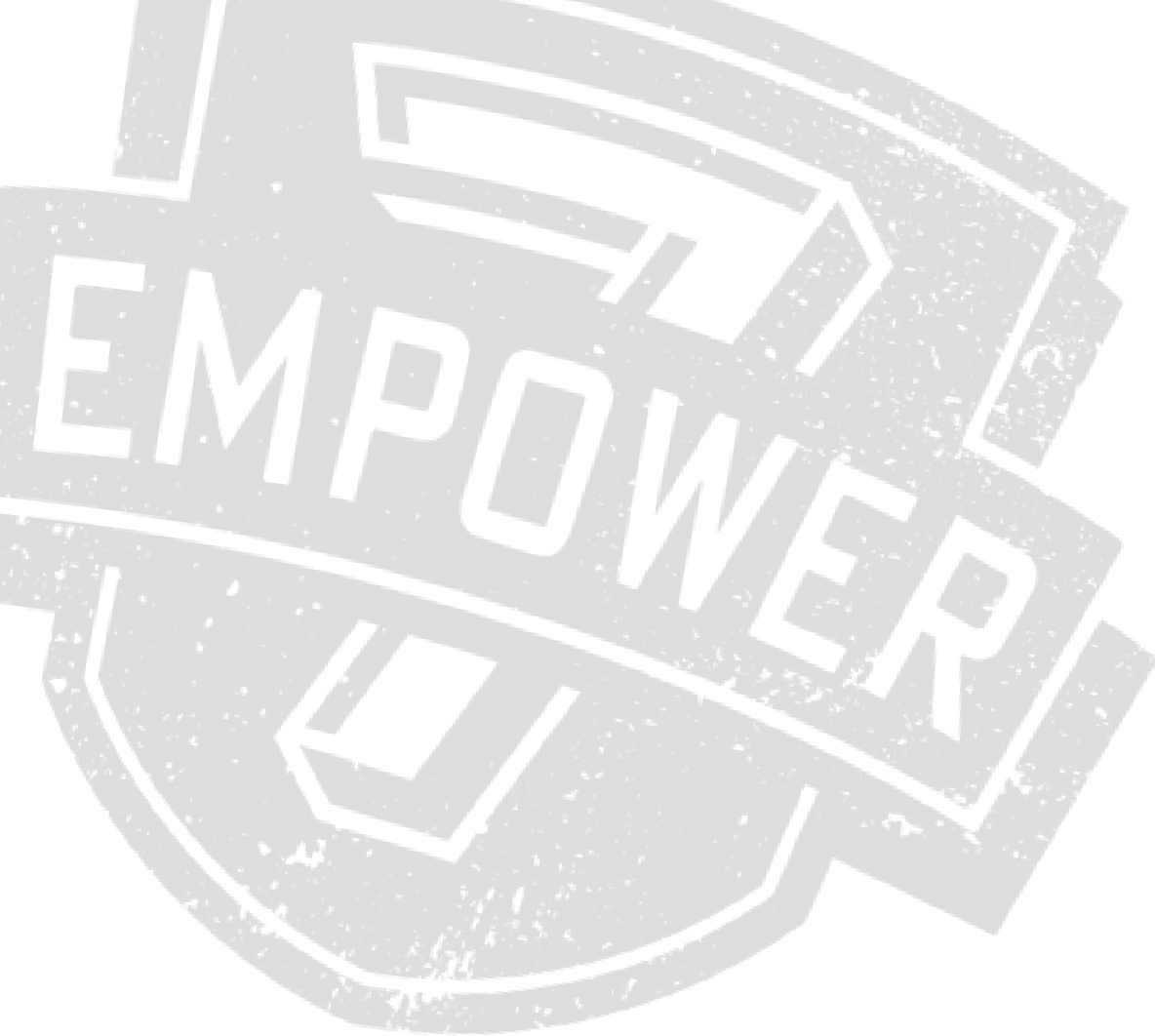
Steve Cobb, Committee Chair  
Brent Baker, Tammy Bollman, Melanie Cobb, Britni Ganze,  
Cindi Garcia, Amy Gillentine, Judith Maisel, Bart Martinez  
Dane Powell, Jacque Sillers, Matt Webb

## **2022-2023 TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Claire Bollman, President  
Anna Cepak, VP of Mission Support Services  
Carly Pennell, VP of Mission Operations  
Carly Braaten, Secretary  
Emerson Chance, Treasurer  
Garrett Cobb, Operations Committee Chair  
Jack Rice, Operations Committee Vice-Chair  
Victoria Giardi, Programs Committee Vice-Chair  
Whitney Sorrells, Fundraiser Committee Chair  
Jacey Kersh, Fundraiser Committee Vice-Chair  
Kelsey Arze, Project Officer  
Jordan Baires, Project Officer

**MISSION-DRIVEN, AUTHENTIC, TENACIOUS, TOGETHER**





## Empower 7

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empower7org

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**TOGETHER WE EMPOWER**