



Winter 2022 Newsletter

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From an idea to a reality. Eight months ago we began planning Gingerbread Land and on December 4th, the magic happened. Eight Ten Ranch was transformed into a Christmas Wonderland. The festooned balloon arch entrance welcomed children and their families to a joyful event. Tables were waiting with gingerbread houses, and tubs of icing. 56 feet of decorating options were laid out and available for each child to choose their favorites. M and M's, gummies, goldfish, and gumballs were favorites.

Santa was in residence. The Hot Chocolate Bar was popular and the balloon gingerbread men were an added bonus! Haley Jane Pierce entertained adults and children alike. Christmas sing-alongs were popular with the kids.

Thank you to the sponsors and all the volunteers who believe in our mission. Fostering Hope's *Gingerbread Land* checked all the boxes. It was an event that supports our ongoing program and additionally, enriches our community.





Make-Believe Hot Meal Art Center Dress-Up Roku Puzzles

Comments From Our Guests and their Case Workers

A 3-year-old boy- "He was grateful to be a kid and have toys to play with. He had none at home."

3 and 6-year-old sisters- "The girls arrived late at night after a long drive. Being welcomed into a cozy space and having a warm bath seemed to calm them."

A 13-year old girl - "We were heading on a two-hour drive to a shelter. She left with a blanket, snacks, and a pillow for the drive."

A 5-year-old girl- "She enjoyed playing in the ice cream parlor, dancing to music, and doing art."

6-year-old boy- "This place is so fun!"

Purple Bath Bombs - Being Read To -Bubble Baths-Cozy Blankets-
Comfortable Laps



Fostering Hope is delighted to partner with *Fostering Connections*. This dynamic Tulsa-based organization wheels a mobile bus into our parking lot every month. They supply local foster families with needed resources to navigate fostering children in their homes.

December seventeenth we joined *Fostering Connections* as they distributed identified and requested Christmas toys to deserving children. *Fostering Hope* passed out filled stockings and winter coats. Christmas cookies welcomed our guests as they received needed assistance. We also supplied toys for foster families who missed the deadline for a specific request.

Thankful for *Fostering Connections* as they "Foster Joy" with their commitment to foster children in Oklahoma.



Fostering Hope and The Fostering Hope House are delighted with the Birthday Program. We have helped 90 children celebrate their special day with cake, presents, a new outfit, and a special gift.

Every Child Deserves to be Celebrated!

Community Corner

- Meet Muskogee's own Haley Jane Pierce! Haley is a songwriter, performance artist, and poet. She has created her very first album *Red Dirt and Stardust* and has lovingly included Fostering Hope in the creative process. Haley is an amazing gift to the world that should be shared. She has generously decided to give 10% of the album and funding towards Fostering Hope. Thank you Haley Jane.

- Our Fostering Hope House Volunteers are valuable partners. Thirty-one volunteers currently serve as extra hands and extra laps to welcome our guests. We are delighted to welcome our new advocates for children- Randy Strickland, Gay Grandstaff, Dennis Wilhite, Lyndsey Hargrove, Stacy Parker, Kara Hemenway, Gracie and Jenny Jamison. Fostering Hope and DHS will host a training session at the Hope House. If you are interested in volunteering when children are removed and awaiting placement- get in touch!
- Local artists and Okies from Muskogee Leah Payne and Chelsi Wallingford created an incredible mural at The Fostering Hope House. This wall greets foster children as they walk through our doors. Thank you Muskogee Welfare Association for helping ensure a welcoming place for our guests.



Fostering Hope Figures for 2021

Bags of Hope= 325
 Birthday Parties= 42
 Fostering Hope House Guests= 89
 FH Fifth Birthday Bags=33
 Back to School Bags= 63
 Total Served=552

Diapers=5950
 Bottles=4683

Volunteers=614
 Total # of Volunteer Hours Served=1267

Did you know? Fostering Hope and the Fostering Hope House receive no public funds. This *not-for-profit* is totally supported by the private sector.