



Children in the agency's programs participate in a variety of activities.



Willie and Korie Robertson, Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, John Paul and Eloise DeJoria

Helping, Healing Hands

Quasiquintennial Agency Champions Kids Needing Families

What began with an effort to help one baby has now some 125 years later changed the lives of thousands of children in the Austin area.

Helping Hand Home for Children is Travis County's oldest continuously operating residential childcare agency. It began in 1893 when a group of women came together to share the parenting of a newborn girl found at Austin's railroad station. As more babies were brought to them for care, the women bought a cottage for housing and caring for the children until they could be united with biological or adoptive families.

Today, the organization not only operates foster care and adoption programs but is also a safe haven for kids healing from trauma by offering residential therapeutic treatment and family support programs. Each year it places some 145 children into homes through its foster care and adoption programs. Children in its programs participate in a variety of activities, including sports as well as music, art and language lessons. These opportunities not only help the kids learn and enjoy being kids but also help advance their recovery and help them learn to trust adults.

"I would not be the person I am today without the love and support of the men and women who sacrificed their time and gave financially out of an abundance of the heart,"



Activities help kids recover from trauma and help them learn to trust adults.

says Cheryl Young Rottman, who lived at the Home for 10 years when she was a child.

For the past 20 years, Helping Hand Home has honored volunteers, caregivers, community leaders and philanthropists at its annual Champions for Children Awards Luncheon. The organization recognized John Paul and Eloise DeJoria as its 2018 philanthropic honorees. Austin residents since 2000, they are long-time supporters of a variety of charitable efforts that share their aim to help people lead healthy, fulfilled lives. The 2018 community honorees were Stacy Johnson, founder and CEO of Central Texas Table of Grace; Julie Kouri, founder and executive director of Fostering Hope Austin; Lance White, founder of Lift Brigade; and Jersey Mike's Subs Austin.

Learn more about Helping Hand Home for Children on its website, helpinghandhome.org.