

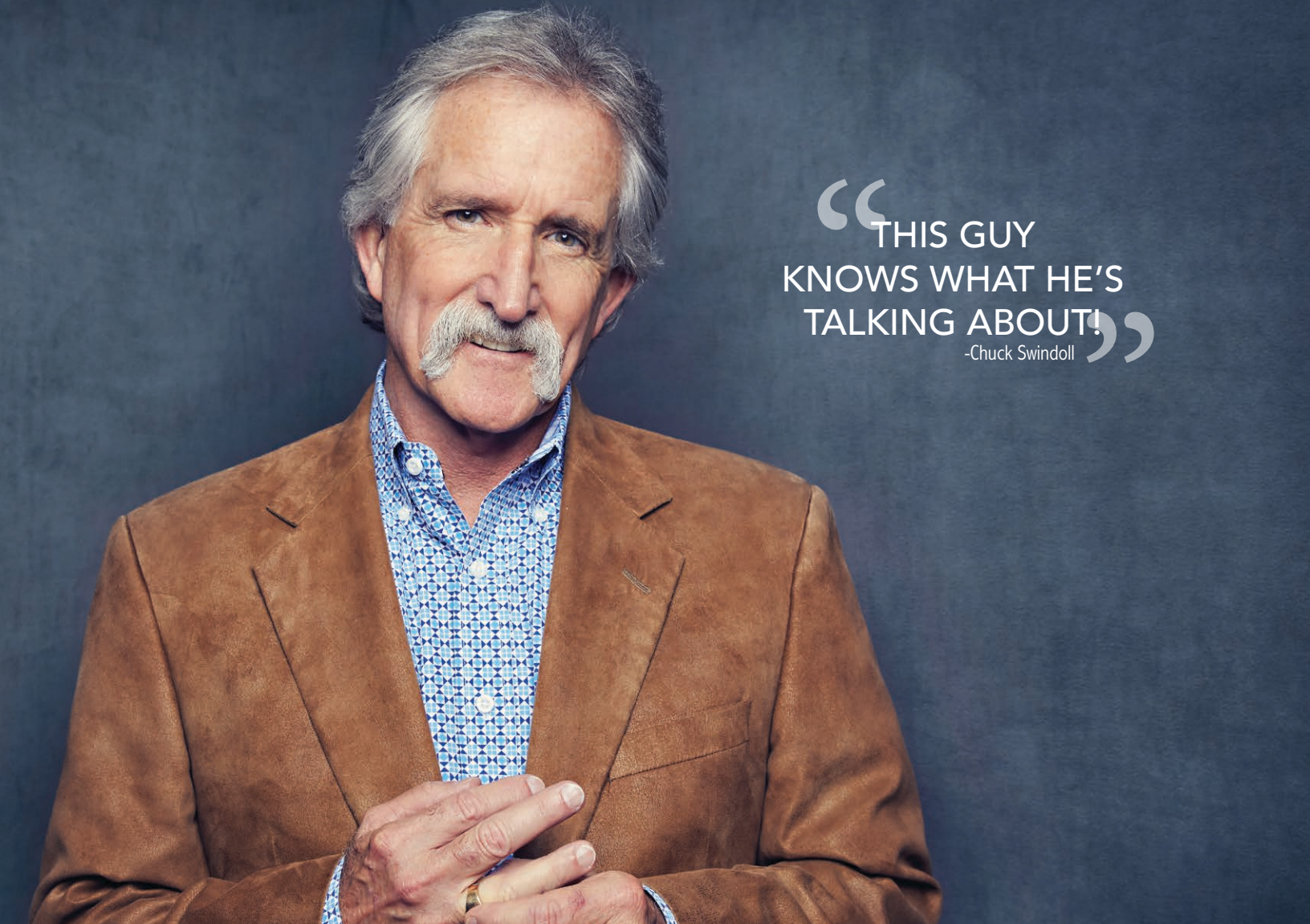


heartlight



TRANSFORMING LIVES...
— ONE TEEN AT A TIME.





“ THIS GUY
KNOWS WHAT HE’S
TALKING ABOUT! ”
-Chuck Swindoll

A NOTE FROM MARK...

When we started out almost 30 years ago, my wife Jan and I could never have predicted our “small idea” of helping kids would one day become a haven of hope and a place of healing for countless families across the U.S. Known as one of the top facilities of our kind in the country, Heartlight is dedicated to excellence, committed to results, and fully structured around the family. It’s the reason we’ve been able to serve so many struggling teens and seen such dramatic turnarounds.

Our facility is second to none, our program is remarkably effective, and our staff are incredibly passionate about our mission - bringing help and hope to parents and teens.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you and your family.



Mark Gregston
Founder of Heartlight Ministries
Host of Parenting Today’s Teens Radio

 parenting
today’s teens
with mark gregston

 heartlight
ministries

A RELATIONAL ATMOSPHERE THAT'S COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE.

Since our humble beginning in 1988, Heartlight has become the country's premier residential counseling center and boarding school for struggling teens.

Located on 150 acres in the beautiful piney woods outside of Longview, Texas, Heartlight is a program that not only modifies behavior, but one that seeks to offer a unique, transformative experience through a relational experience that offers counseling, small group therapy, academics, activity, and relationships with the greatest staff in the country.

Heartlight's boutique approach creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere that offers hope to the hopeless, help to the discouraged, and new life to those who fear theirs would soon be lost. Parents are an integral part of the Heartlight experience. Their involvement through phone calls, participation at retreats, and commitment to having their child finish the program, all work together for a promising return home.

“Every single aspect of Heartlight – the grounds, programming, parent and family events, staff, educational provisions, and resources for parents – is professionally and compassionately offered. We are grateful to God and to His ministry offered through Mark and the staff at Heartlight.”





OUR STAFF

THE RESIDENTIAL STAFF ARE THE BACKBONE AND BLESSING OF THE HEARTLIGHT PROGRAM.

These young folks live in-house with the teens and oversee their daily residential needs. Our staff is creative, fun-loving, active, responsible, and dedicated to forming relationships despite the hardest of situations.

Believing that the Christian life is more “caught than taught”, our staff embraces a life-on-life approach, allowing each member the opportunity to share wisdom and insight through word and deed.



A LIFE-ON-LIFE RELATIONAL APPROACH.

Our residential house staff is composed of single 21 to 28-year-olds who oversee the daily supervision and care of the residents as well as operations of their designated house.

There are three to four staff members in each house, each led by a House Director who is overseen by a more experienced Residential Director. Our Residential Directors are coupled with a Master's level Counselor, and together, are assigned 13 specific residents to oversee. This ensures a steady and consistent person is involved in the life of each resident during their stay. Our staff are passionate, deeply committed to the mission of Heartlight, and are involved in every aspect of the residents under their care.

“Our heavy hearts are now filled with joy as we witness the incredible staff pour their hearts into our daughter while she develops great relationships with many of the other residents at Heartlight.”





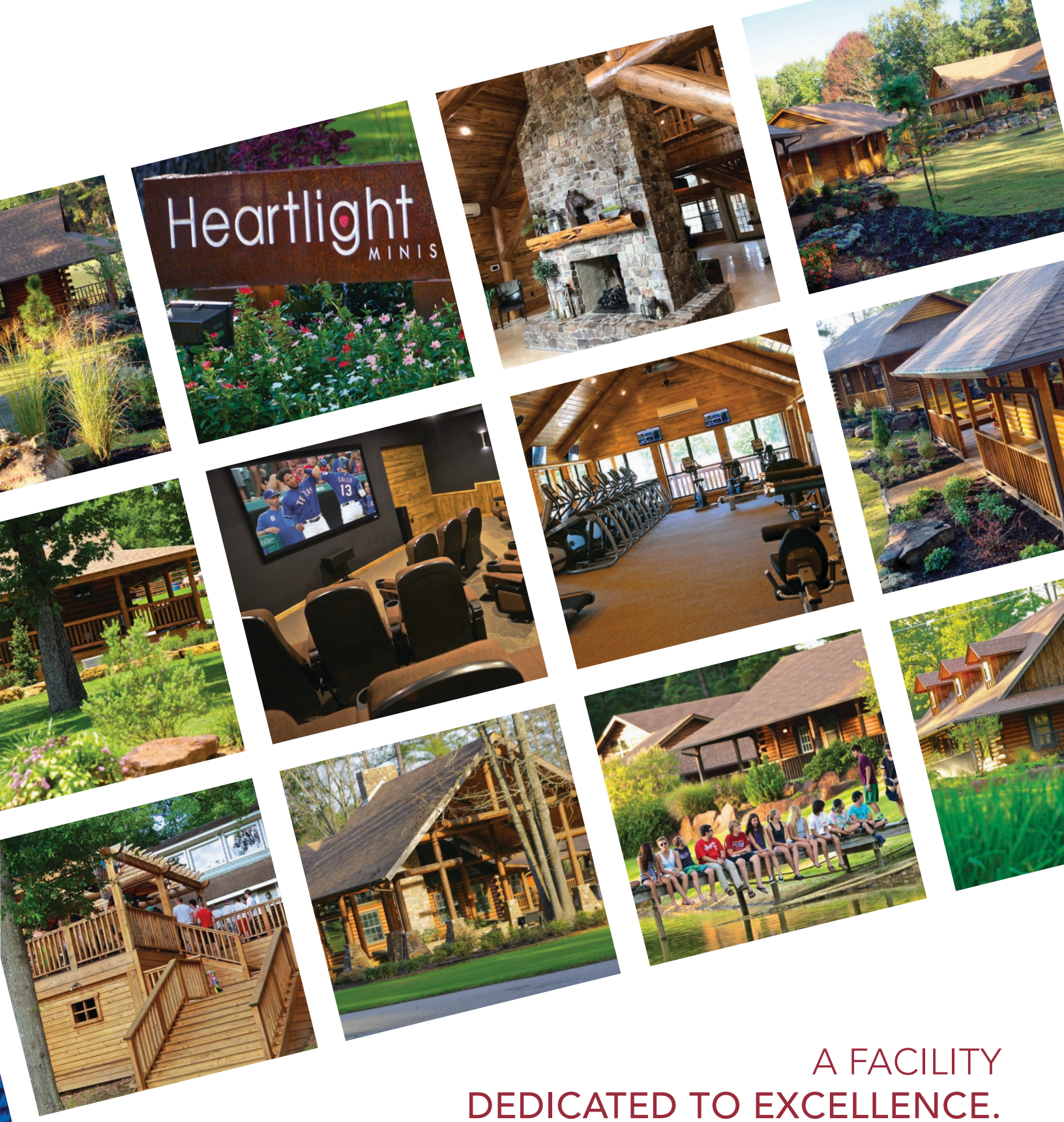
OUR CAMPUS

A TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT CREATING AN ARENA FOR CHANGE.

Heartlight's beautiful campus is made up of log cabins, open spaces, and plenty of room for outdoor activities. Each setting houses 6–8 residents in homes staffed with three to four in-house staff members. Fifteen log homes reside among other administrative and recreational structures, creating an ideal “home away from home” for kids spending 9-10 months with us here in Texas.

Located in the pristine piney woods of East Texas, Heartlight is able to have year-round activities because of the mild winters. Heartlight sits on 150 acres outside of Longview, Texas in the community of Hallsville. It's country (not rural) setting is a perfect environment to get away from the intensity of today's teen culture, and focus on dealing with the issues these teens bring with them.

“Our daughter shared that she might not be alive had it not been for the work of Heartlight.”



A FACILITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE.

The cardio and strength fitness center, horse riding arena and barn, fishing ponds, lake house, theatre, rappelling and rock-climbing tower, library and fire-pits are uniquely designed to offer alternative activities to staff and residents.

Offices are warm and welcoming, the counseling center is inviting, and the manicured grounds are pristine. All of these things reflect a commitment to excellence and a dedication to providing the very best setting for residents and their parents.



ACADEMICS

INDIVIDUALIZED AND SELF-PACED LEARNING FOR EACH TEEN.

Heartlight's accredited school utilizes a unique setting where individual attention and instruction guarantees academic progress and growth. Each of our 5 teachers hold a Master's Degree in their area of expertise, and are versed on each child's educational needs.

Individual attention is given to each student to encourage successful academic progress, measured through weekly performance goals. Residents attend class five days a week and are given the opportunity to attend evening classes should they desire to "catch up" or "get ahead" in their curriculum.

The class day is divided between our residents with girls attending class in the morning and guys in the afternoon, where they follow an Online curriculum of Park Cities or Texas Tech. While academics isn't necessarily the most important "piece" of Heartlight, it is an essential part of a resident's program to catch up on their academics, progress through new classes, and be prepared for their next academic step when they leave Heartlight.

A LIFE-ON-LIFE RELATIONAL APPROACH.

Accredited by Cognia (formerly AdvancED) the Heartlight academic setting involves Online learning coupled with individual instruction from educators that love teaching and have a genuine desire to see their students excel and succeed.

“What makes this place really special is the tremendous amount of support and love that you feel in all the people here. It’s in the faces of the young people who live with the kids. It’s in the faces of the counselors, the administrators – they’re all a part of this. It’s a huge family and they do much to make you feel welcome into their family.”



cognia[™]





COUNSELING

IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTING CHANGE.

Throughout the week, residents attend counseling sessions with their individual counselors, and are also involved in small groups. The relational component of the Heartlight program is clearly seen in the close bonds developed between each counselor and their residents.

Our counseling staff is made up of five individuals who have earned their Master's Degree and the majority are licensed by the state of Texas as Professional Counselors, or in the process of becoming licensed. Each meet weekly with their assigned kids and communicate regularly with parents during their time with us.

Dedicated to help each resident work through difficult situations, our counseling staff work to resolve family conflict and fill the voids created by struggle, loss, and traumatic experiences. Further, our counselors work with each resident to develop new thinking patterns that guarantee a successful return home.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT.

Parents are involved in Family Retreats held throughout the year, and are encouraged to attend three smaller retreats. Each are designed to help parents understand the Heartlight process ensuring an easy transition when the child returns home once their program is complete.

Each of our counselors are assigned 13 residents and become a communication liaison between Heartlight and their parents sharing weekly updates and insights about their child as they progress through the program.

“Heartlight gave us the chance to make some changes in our own lives and hearts that has brought a lot of healing to our family, our life, and our marriage”





PROGRAM

ACTIVITY RICH, LIFE-ON-LIFE RELATIONAL LIVING.

The programmed activity time fills the hours when residents are not in school or going to counseling sessions and meetings. Our program staff ensure schedules are filled with plenty of outdoor activity and make sure residents don't get bored in the process.

One large weekly night activity (called "Q&A") provides an event that encourages each individual house's participation, and is the one time of the week where all counseling staff, their families, residential staff, and all the kids gather for a fun night of laughter and activity.

Over the years Heartlight has developed a balanced approach of activity while dealing with the issues in one's life that brought them to our program. We have found that individual's process of resolving problems and challenges is best when there are equal parts of fun and laughter coupled with the intensity of therapy that challenges thinking patterns and inappropriate behavior habits.

PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES THAT BRING A SMILE BACK TO A TEEN'S FACE.

Each resident participates in our 'Master's Program' where we desire for each to "master" a particular activity. Twenty-five horses, three Nautique ski boats, a rappelling tower, a paintball field, a cardio and weight area, a sports court, and a skeet shooting range all provide a stage for each resident's participation.

On top of weekly Bible studies, house ventures, and special sporting events, Heartlight also hosts three family retreats. These events are designed for residents and their families to rebuild relationships and work together towards a successful transition back into their home environment after graduating the program.



REFERENCES

Michael Blanton

President of Blanton Entertainment

Dr. Jim Burns

Author, speaker, & founder of Homeward

Tracy Byrd

Country Music Artist

Michael Card

Singer & Songwriter

Kirk and Chelsea Cameron

Actors & Speakers

Alan Carter

Director of NBC's "The Voice"

Steven Curtis Chapman

Singer & Songwriter

Ray Davis

Texas Rangers Baseball Club

George Dunklin

President of Ducks Unlimited International

Rory Feek

Country Music Artist & former Heartlight Board Member

Bill & Gloria Gaither

Gaither Music & Gaither Vocal Band

Bob Hurley

Hurley International

Dr. Tim Kimmell

Family Matters

Doug Kindy

President of Lucchese Boots

Steve Largent

Former U.S. Congressman & NFL Hall of Famer with Seattle Seahawks

Bob Lepine

Family Life Today Radio

Brian Luwis

CEO of America World Adoption

Dr. Paul Meier

Meier Clinics

Jessie Minassian

Author & Speaker

Paul Overstreet

Country Music Singer & Songwriter

Gary and Norma Smalley

Longtime Friends of the Gregstons

Dr. John Trent

Author & President of Strong Families

Aaron Watson

Texas Country Music Artist

Joe White

Kanakuk Kamps

William Yinger

Former Chairman of National Board of Young Life





ADMISSIONS

APPLICATION PROCESS

To fill out an Admission Request, you can either go Online to our website and click on “Apply Today,” or you can call the office and request an application directly.

ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT

Once we receive the application, we’ll review it to determine if Heartlight and your child are a “good fit”. If we feel we can be successful given the set of circumstances, an interview will be scheduled. Most times, the child is admitted to Heartlight the same day.

CONTACT

Should you have any further questions about Heartlight, please call our main office at 903.668.2173 and talk to either Melissa Gregston-Nelson or Mariah Blalock. You can also email them at admissions@HeartlightMinistries.org. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Melissa Gregston-Nelson
Director of Admissions



Mariah Blalock
Admissions Coordinator

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is Hallsville, Texas?

Heartlight is located 2 miles outside of Longview, Texas (a 2-hour drive east of Dallas) in the small community of Hallsville. Located in the beautiful piney woods of East Texas, Heartlight provides a tranquil country ranch setting. The closest airport is Gregg County (GGG) services by American Airlines, and is 15 minutes from the Heartlight campus.

What is the average length of stay?

A resident's average stay from their intake to graduation from the program is 9 to 10 months. There are instances where more time is needed; sometimes less.

What age range will we accept?

13–17. Heartlight cannot accept 18-year-olds, but residents can turn 18 while enrolled in the program.

What is the cost of the Heartlight Program?

Heartlight is a boutique ministry that has intentionally chosen to limit its student population to 60 residents. Heartlight is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and seeks to break even with operational costs. For information about tuition, please call the admissions office at 903.668.2173.

Do we offer scholarships?

Heartlight does not have a scholarship fund, but does accept donations to cover the tuition cost for residents. Many times families raise the necessary funds from friends, family, concerned individuals, and other organizations.

Is insurance accepted?

Heartlight does not determine the insurance requirements of each individual resident, as all policies vary on descriptions and definitions. Heartlight does not file for insurance, but leaves that up to families to file on their own. Some families have received insurance reimbursement, and some have been denied coverage. This would be a question to be asked of individual insurance companies.

How involved are the parents?

We desire to communicate weekly with parents with a call from the resident's Counselor and Residential Director on alternating weeks. Parents are also asked to be involved in various retreats held throughout the year; three Family Retreats full of activities geared toward the entire family and three smaller Parent Retreats directed toward helping parents understand the need for changes within the family as a whole and not just the child staying at Heartlight. While Heartlight cannot guarantee a child's willingness to make changes in their life, a parent's participation in the program greatly increases the chances of success in their family.

Why are we co-ed and how much interaction do the residents have?

One of the greatest strengths about Heartlight is the co-ed operation that allows all residents to interact and engage in a 'close-to-normal' social setting. Heartlight believes that it's far better to help residents learn how to mix with the opposite sex in a supervised setting to better prepare them for their return home to a normal environment.

What is your staff to resident ratio?

Staff to resident ratio is 1:4. In addition to residential staff, there is one Residential Director and one Master's-level Counselor for every 13 residents.

How do you measure the progress of each resident throughout their program?

Progress is measured by a Level System where each resident progresses to various levels based upon their performance in house, academics, and willingness to work through their personal and family issues. Movement through the Level System is determined by Heartlight's Treatment Team, which is made up of six upper-level staff members.

Is Heartlight affiliated with any particular Church?

No, Heartlight is a non-denominational ministry and is not connected with any one particular church.

How many kids are at Heartlight at one time?

When at full capacity, Heartlight is home to 60 teens at a time.

How is this ministry connected with the Parenting Today's Teens Radio Program?

Mark Gregston, the host of Parenting Today's Teens Radio program, is the founder of Heartlight. While Mark is the CEO, the day-to-day operation is overseen by Blake Nelson, Heartlight's Executive Director.

Can you refer us to other programs if Heartlight is not a fit for our family?

Yes. We are connected to a number of other programs that might be a better fit for your family whether due to finances, problem issues, or timing.

Do you have any type of alternate options for us as parents if we can't place at this time like resources or retreats?

Through the years, Heartlight has developed parenting resources in the form of books, small group curriculum, seminars and conferences. Heartlight encourages all families to first attend our Families in Crisis Conference held five times a year on the Heartlight Campus.

For More Information, please visit www.HeartlightMinistries.org





HEY FOLKS!

In the 30 years I've worked at Heartlight, I've seen a couple of thousand kids pass through our doors and witnessed parents become rekindled with hope while being given a second chance at developing deeper relationships within their home.

Our hope is that Heartlight will be the opportunity for your family to work through the difficult situations and circumstances that have pushed your relationships apart. It's our desire and intent to face your family's difficulties with you, and together get to a place of restoration.

Our staff are dedicated to helping those families who have trusted their teen to our program and expertise. I promise we'll do all we can to initiate the changes needed to get your child home as quickly as possible.

Please don't hesitate to call should you have any questions.



Blake Nelson
Executive Director

“The healing that a stay at Heartlight brought to our daughter’s life has, in turn, brought renewal to our whole family. Two years ago, we were in serious crisis; today, we feel ready and eager to see what God has next for us all.”



“I pray that the eyes of your heart will be filled with light
so you may know the hope to which he has called you.”

Ephesians 1:18



To learn more about Heartlight visit our website at
www.HeartlightMinistries.org

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