

**Belinda Palacios**

*Vice President of Community Based Services  
Cal Farley's*



Belinda is responsible for the Community-Based Services that include three Cal Farley's Family Resource Centers in Amarillo, Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston, intensive in-home services, intake, information and referral, alumni support and scholarships. Belinda joined Cal Farley's nine years ago. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor's degree in psychology. She then earned a Master's degree in education with an emphasis in professional counseling from West Texas State University and she is a Licensed Child Care Administrator. Belinda and her husband, Freddy, have been married 11 years, and they have one son.

**According to Belinda:**  
"I always had my parents to fall back on, and some of these kids don't, for one reason or another."

**BRINGING CAL FARLEY'S TO THE COMMUNITY**

Cal Farley's is a national leader in campus-based residential services. But, with the children in need far outpacing our residential capacity, our Board of Directors recognized years ago that Cal Farley's could extend its reach from our Boys Ranch and Girlstown, U.S.A., campuses into the community. And, that's precisely what we're doing.

In the last few years, Cal Farley's has invested in its Intake, Information and Referral services; its Family Resource Centers; and its Alumni Support efforts, all while building collaborative relationships with other child-and family-serving organizations. As a result, Cal Farley's can do more with children and families who need help beyond the specialized residential care found on campus.

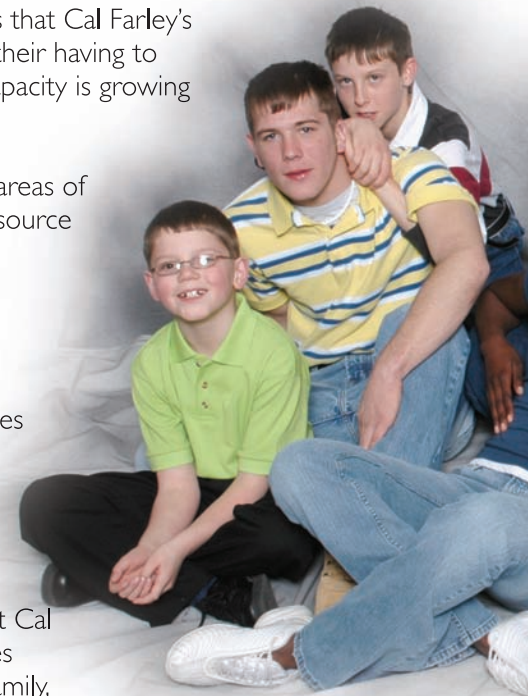
Intake, Information and Referral, often the first point of contact for children, families and other social service professionals reaching out to Cal Farley's, continues to identify children appropriate for our Boys Ranch and Girlstown campuses. But, we also work with thousands of children who do not qualify for placement at either campus, to make sure they receive the help they need from our Family Resource Centers or other service providers in their home town or nearby community.

The benefit of our community-based services is that Cal Farley's is in a better position to help children without their having to come to campus. And our community-based capacity is growing thanks to your support.

Serving Amarillo and the greater metropolitan areas of Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston, our Family Resource Centers are helping more children each year.

Beyond offering information to potential clients, Family Resource Center professional services staff serve as liaisons between campus residents and their families. They also provide direct services such as counseling, goal setting and case management, and ensure referral to other qualified organizations, for kids who might never step foot on campus.

The beauty of community-based services is that Cal Farley's can provide needed care to kids in cases where they don't have to be away from their family, friends and neighbors.



We do this in partnership with an array of other entities, many of which are better suited than we are to help in specific cases. One example is Cal Farley's ongoing work with the Potter and Randall Intervention and Drug Education (PRIDE), a substance abuse initiative operated by Randall County Juvenile Probation. Our residential focus on campus is not suitable for children with drug or substance abuse problems. So, when substance abuse care is indicated, Cal Farley's often works with PRIDE to ensure these children can overcome substance abuse, avoid residential treatment centers and stay away from possible criminal activities.

Finally, Alumni Support is just one more example of Cal Farley's lifetime commitment to the children in our care. Alumni Support helps kids make that transition from campus life to being functioning members of their communities. Last year, we provided continued support to 260 individuals, including 76 alumni receiving financial assistance through Cal Farley's scholarships to pursue college or vocational training after leaving campus. In fact, one scholarship recipient will graduate from medical school this spring.

We take great pride in the success of kids touched by Cal Farley's – be they on campus, at one of our Family Resource Centers, or through our many partner organizations.



## Community-based services offer grandparents hope

A desperate grandfather called Dan Adams, Cal Farley's President and CEO, looking for help with his 12 year-old granddaughter who was living in his home. The child's world had recently turned upside down. She was struggling with her parents' divorce. Her mom had moved out-of-state and her dad had remarried. The stress in her life resulted in argumentative behavior and a defiant refusal to attend school.

The grandfather said that two community professionals suggested that he was not responsible for his granddaughter and encouraged him to leave her at a local homeless shelter. Dan told him to refuse that option. "You are all she has," Dan said. "She is giving you problems because you are available." The grandfather cried and said, "I am glad you said that, because everybody is telling me to take her there and to leave her."

Dan promised that Kristin Ruiz, a case manager with Cal Farley's Family Resource Center, would set up an appointment to visit. Kristin began meeting with the grandparents and the granddaughter regularly. Kristin helped them understand their granddaughter's needs and suggested ways to develop structure, appropriate expectations, consistency and predictable consequences for her. The child responded almost immediately. With minor ups and downs, she began cooperating with her grandparents and completed the school year while earning A's and B's in her classes.

Following the school year, the child lived unsuccessfully with her father, and then lived with her mother. After several months, she returned to live with her grandparents. Her previous behaviors also returned. The respite from structure, consistent expectations and consequences resulted in an attempt to push her boundaries. The grandparents called Kristin, who immediately responded by helping them get back on track.

The grandparents know that Cal Farley's will continue to offer individualized and dynamic services in their home for as long as necessary. More importantly, they take comfort in the fact that Kristin is just a telephone call away.