

Reaching Out... Restoring Hope



COTTON
FOUNDATION

The Cotton Foundation is dedicated to restoring hope to children whose lives have been affected by national disasters and other life-changing challenges.

When I saw what had happened in Greensburg I was amazed. All these people were living in a small town and everything was destroyed. I felt like breaking down and crying for the people. I wish I could do so much for them. I mean, we donated toys but there are millions of things we could do to help. As some of the guys were telling us their stories, I could not imagine losing everything. They had a 20 minute warning for a tornado that destroyed everything. I was so amazed because some building's walls were ripped out but they still had chairs and desks sitting there.

I was so happy to see that even though people's homes were destroyed they still kept their spirits up. At first I didn't really want to see Greensburg at the time, but I am so thankful I got to see something many people won't be able to see. I learned that I should always be thankful for what I have. The people of Greensburg had nothing and they were still thankful and happy! ☺



Makenna, written at age 12



THE COTTON FOUNDATION *helping restore children's lives.*

As the devastation of Hurricane Katrina unfolded, it was heartbreaking to see *children* uprooted from the only homes they had ever known. They were lost and lonely, sad and scared. But out of this national tragedy was born *hope*. A hope called *The Cotton Foundation*.

Founded by Pete Bell, a Texas family man who *felt called to give back*, The Cotton Foundation began as a dream. Pete and Daryn (co-founder) saw firsthand – while providing disaster recovery services following the storm – the overwhelming need to restore lives. And they knew *it had to start with children*, the heart and future of our country. While Pete planted the seed for The Cotton Foundation, *others have come alongside him* to enthusiastically provide nurturing and leadership to grow the Foundation and its vision.

Encouragement and hope have taken many forms since The Cotton Foundation began making a difference in 2005. *Stuffed animals have soothed and comforted* confused children. Popular toys have brought joy amidst life's challenges. *Medical equipment* has delivered optimism to children and their parents. And along with these gifts, our *dedicated volunteers have shared love* and compassion to *help restore children's lives*. Soon to come is Taylor's Place.

Every time our company responds to a national disaster, we are reminded of our incredible blessings. We want to make sure that children – the bedrock of our families and the future of our communities – are not forgotten when they face life-altering situations. Through The Cotton Foundation, we are reaching out, bringing hope and helping restore children's lives.

Pete Bell and Daryn Ebrecht
Founders, The Cotton Foundation







Toy drives are one way that the Cotton Foundation helps children who are trying to pick up the pieces of great loss. Picking just the right toys for the kids in Greensburg, Kansas.





Helping Restore Lives Through Caring

At the heart of The Cotton Foundation are children who face particularly challenging circumstances – the loss of a parent, a life-threatening or life-altering illness, or a natural disaster. These are some of the stories of those who have received newfound hope as The Cotton Foundation has extended hearts and hands to children in need.

 *Residents of Greensburg, Kansas received a 20 minute warning. The F5 tornado left their city flattened. The Cotton Foundation responded with a children's toy drive that brought bright smiles to hundreds of children. The toys also brought vital hope to parents, overwhelmed with meeting their families' most basic needs of food and housing.*

 *Following Hurricane Ike, water-logged furniture floated on Galveston Island. It lined residential streets along with other personal belongings, unsalvageable from the wrath of the storm. The Cotton Foundation reached out to offer hope to families in need, donating hundreds of rooms of furniture to The Salvation Army.*

 *Born with muscular dystrophy, Eric found himself confined to a wheelchair at an early age. Having to rely on others to push him around was especially challenging in middle school. Receiving an electric wheelchair from The Cotton Foundation was a dream come true, giving Eric independence and quality of life.*

 *When the Iowa River crested nearly 10 feet above flood stage, thousands of residents of Coralville, Iowa – a suburb of Iowa City – were suddenly homeless. The Cotton Foundation partnered with the Marriott Corporation to donate hundreds of toys to children. For families who lost everything, this act of kindness delivered more than toys. It brought hope.*

“Thank you for the generous donation of 115 vaults of furniture and household items. It is because of generous donations and community partners we are able to continue the mission of rehabilitation of Harris County.”

Major Larry DeBerry
Administrator, The Salvation Army Houston A.R.C.





*Hope is the pillar that
holds up the world.*



hope for tomorrow



Taylor's Place Inspired by Tom Wallace



Tom Wallace is the beloved friend and colleague who inspired us to dream of a place where families facing terminal illness can make lifetime memories. We call it Taylor's Place. This exceptional place honors Tom's special daughter, Taylor, who is close to our hearts.

Despite a difficult, four-year battle with cancer, Tom never complained. Instead he focused on giving to others and spending time with his family. He wanted to engrave lasting memories on the hearts of his wife and his young daughter. In 2007, Tom lost his battle with cancer. Taylor was only 4. We remember Tom for his determination and positive spirit. We remember him for his caring heart.

To honor Tom, we took up his fight to bring hope to families – hope that is born in making memories in a private place that seems miles away from life's challenges. Taylor's Place is the sanctuary for creating these priceless memories.





Taylor's Place

The Vision of Taylor's Place

A 16-acre ranch on the outskirts of Katy, Texas is home to The Cotton Foundation. It's also the place where we dream of giving families a private retreat where they can make memories together. *This is Taylor's Place.*

Phase 1 will construct an entertainment lodge where families can get away for the day. They can explore the beauty of nature, try their hand at fishing and rock climbing, or enjoy a peaceful picnic in the serene surroundings. Or perhaps it's a trip to the baseball field or standing arm-in-arm watching a brilliant orange sunset. For those who prefer to stay indoors, maybe a private bowling alley or a room filled with electronic games is the way to go. Or maybe it's printing out those photos of the day and creating a memory book together.

Phase 2 will add cozy cabins so families can enjoy overnight stays. Under starlit skies and surrounded by the warmth of an outdoor fire, families can tell stories, laugh and bond.

The retreat-like atmosphere of Taylor's Place is sure to foster love and hope and help families make the most of their time together.





*Hope is a
waking dream.*



helping restore lives through caring

Make a Difference and Help Restore Children's Lives

Children are our future. Help us reach out to them when life delivers them an unexpected blow. Help us bring them hope, encouragement and compassion when those may be the only things upon which they can cling. Help us reach out to help restore children's lives.

Your generous financial gift will enable us to reach these children and bring them hope and encouragement in so many different ways. Your commitment of volunteer time will encourage them and let them know that others care. And because The Cotton Foundation does not retain any salaried employees, you have the satisfaction of knowing your gift goes directly to children in need.

Please make a difference for children today by sending your tax-deductible gift to The Cotton Foundation. Giving online is secure through Pay Pal. Just visit our website and find the link to Pay Pal. Or mail your check to the address below.

Thank you on behalf of the children who benefit from your generosity.

The Cotton Foundation
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www.cottonfoundation.com



*The future belongs to those
who give the next generation
reason for hope.*



help us, help others



*To Laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and
the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and
endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better whether by a
healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeem-
ing social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have Success.*

**With your support we can
make a difference.**

**Donate online at:
www.cottonfoundation.com**





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