



INTENTIONAL GIVING. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING. MENTORSHIP.

Austin Angels: Changing the way children, youth, and families experience the foster care system.

Austin Angels is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to walking alongside children and youth in the foster care system, as well as their caretakers, by offering consistent support through intentional giving, relationship building, and mentorship. Austin Angels began in December 2009 when Founder and CEO, Susan Ramirez, decided, along with her friends, to volunteer once a month. In 2010, while working full-time in the real estate industry, Susan was invited by one of her clients to attend a conference called "Together for Adoption." Susan attended the conference and was encouraged by her client to go to a presentation on foster care. After initially telling her client that she wasn't interested because she didn't feel called to foster, Susan decided to attend that workshop, and her life and career were changed forever. At the presentation, Susan heard the words that have now become Austin Angels' mantra: "Not everyone is called to foster, and not everyone is called to adopt, but anyone can make a difference in a child's life."

Austin Angels' programs utilize a trauma-informed, wrap-around service model that strengthens relationships between youth, foster families, and bio families. Austin Angels has several programs that cultivate their core values of community, empowerment, and hope. The Love Box Program provides foster families with community and holistic support so they can continue to do the important and meaningful work of being a foster parent. The Dare to Dream (for youth ages 15-22) and Dare to Dream Jr. (for youth ages 11-14) programs offer an opportunity to individually serve an aged-out or at-risk to age out youth in foster care. Lastly, their Entrepreneur Workshop is a semester-long course focused on equipping and empowering youth in foster care (ages 12-18) with business knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, and financial literacy - real life knowledge, skills, and experience they need to reach their fullest potential.

Founder and CEO Susan Ramirez says, "We surround community and intentional support around the families who are doing the hard work."

Austin Angels' vision is to see every child in the foster care system supported by a Love Box group and every youth supported by a Dare to Dream mentor. They serve just under 300 children in Central Texas through their Love Box and Dare to Dream programs. There are currently over **4,400 children** in foster homes or substitute care services in Central Texas alone. Their dream is to open chapters in every major metropolitan city in the nation so every single child in foster care in the United States will be supported and empowered to succeed.

For more information about Austin Angels, visit www.austinangels.com.