



## 2015 END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER & REPORT

Run Free Texas is a running program designed to positively impact the lives of our community's youth by promoting physical and mental wellness. Our running program was developed to provide at-risk youth with the second chance that we all deserve.



# From the Founder: Sabine Medrano



On September 12 we celebrated our 3rd anniversary as a nonprofit and even though this year seems to have been the most challenging yet we continue to be hopeful and eager to grow our organization to impact more youth in the years to come.

We have seen some changes this year. Co-founder Miranda Villareal resigned in November 2015 in order to focus on her family and nursing school.

***Pull Quote.***

*Sabine*

# Programs

All groups had a combined attendance rate of 90%, which we are extremely proud of given that our program runs over the course of multiple weeks and we meet with the youth twice a week. We have youth who voluntarily return to the program to become a mentor to the incoming youth; and we also have youth who have been released from probation prior to the start or the completion of the group, but who decided to join our group anyways for the needed support and encouragement.

## Areas Supported:

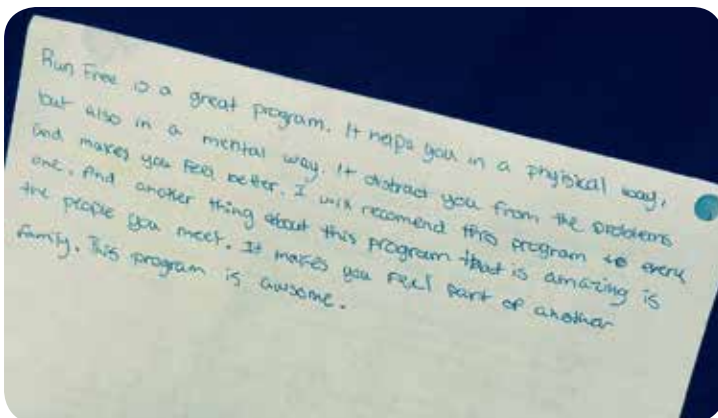
Round Rock

Hutto/Taylor

Cedar Park



## What our Youth are Saying:

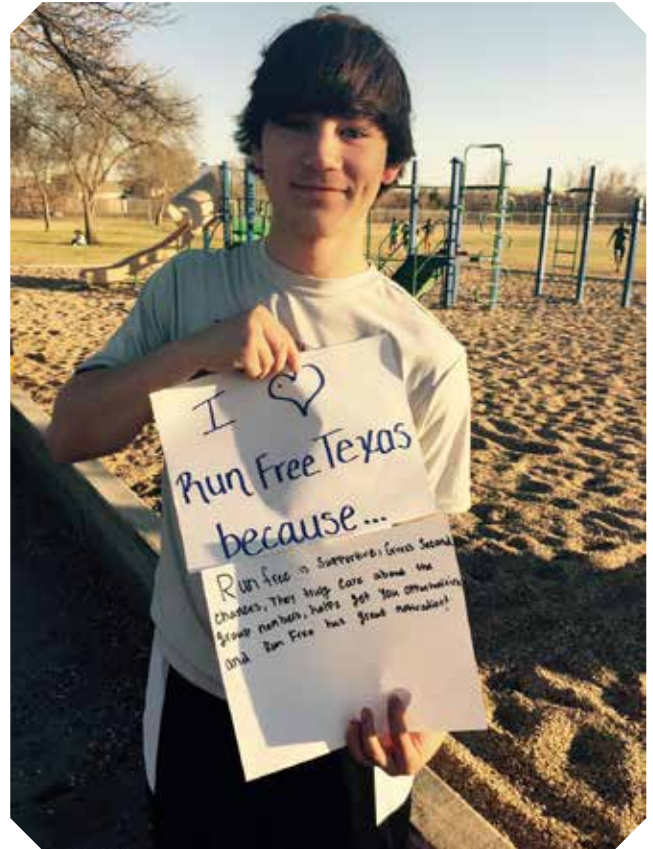


“Run Free is a great program. It helps you in a physical way, but also in a mental way. It distracts you from the problems and makes you feel better. I will recommend this program to everyone. And another thing about this program that is amazing is the people you meet. It makes you feel part of another family. This program is awesome.”

# Success Stories

## Garet

We are especially proud of Garet, who has been with Run Free Texas for the past two years. He went full circle with our program by initially being referred to the program by the probation department to voluntarily returning to the program three more times as a mentor to the incoming youth and finally to become a staff to the Round Rock team lead. Since Garet's initial program he has entered the Varsity football team during his senior year, graduated high school and is now enrolled in College and works at Sonic. We are so proud of Garet and all the hard work he has been doing over the past years to turn his life around and enter a new successful path.



## Austin Marathon

On February 15 our Round Rock group along with some of our volunteers supported the Austin Marathon by hosting a water station for the runners. It was an early brisk morning that was filled with laughter, joy and inspiration. We are extremely proud of all of our youth, who reported at 5:00AM with a big smile on their sleepy faces ready to serve water to hundreds of passing runners.



### FACT:

This year more than 10 pairs of sneakers, running shirts, pants, socks and gloves were handed out to our deserving youth this year to help them be successful and injury free in our program.



# Fundraisers

## Third Annual 80s 8K — Raised over \$20,000

On 9/26 we held our 3rd Annual 80's 8k presented by JustGoGirl and we could not be more excited to have yet again beat last year's participant numbers. Over 1000 runners, volunteers and spectators came out to help us make this another successful fundraiser for our organization. We could not be more proud to have kicked off the Austin Distance Challenge yet again and are looking forward to next race on 10/2/2016. If you are interested in giving back and staying fit in the coming year this might be just the right event for you! We are currently running our early bird special and you can score your entry for \$19 until the end of December. For more information about the event, sponsorship options and registration please visit our race website at <http://www.rft80s8k.com>.



## Kendra Scott Event — Raised over \$700

# Grants

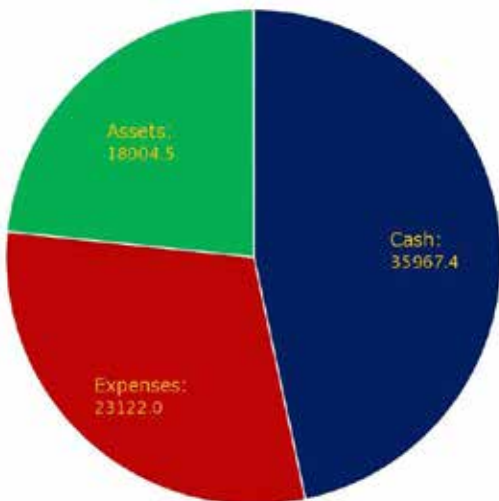
Ebay Giving Foundation — \$5,000

Austin Gives Miles Program with the Austin Marathon — \$2,200

Hochheim Prairie Insurance — \$500



## 2015 Financial Statement



**Cash and Equivalents Received: \$**  
**Expenses: \$**  
**Total Assets: \$**

# Goals for 2016

- Even though we received a matching pledge by the Georgetown Health Foundation our prevention program at Tippit Middle School did not become reality for 30 GISD students. The program was scheduled to launch this fall but fell short due to some staff restructuring and lack of financial commitment by GISD. Even though we are disappointed about the decision made by GISD we are hopeful that we will be able to partner with AISD, RRISD or LISD in the near future. If you are interested in learning how you could bring our prevention program to your school district please let us know at [runfreetexas@gmail.com](mailto:runfreetexas@gmail.com)

# New Board Members

## Mae Coffman

Mae has over ten years of experience as a teacher and administrator in Texas public schools. She has taught in special education resource and inclusion settings at both the middle school and high school levels, and served as the special education department chair at a large suburban high school before moving to a position in a district central office. As a district administrator, Mae was responsible for supporting teachers and programs geared towards high incidence disabilities, specifically resource and inclusion supports. Through her work with academic interventions, Mae realized the need for improved behavior knowledge and training for teachers in these settings due to the reciprocal relationship between academics and behavior. After pursuing a graduate degree in Educational Psychology with a concentration in learning disabilities and emotional and behavioral disorders, Mae partnered with Stacy Morgan to establish Emergent Tree Education, Inc. The mission of ETE is to provide guidance, training, and materials to implement tiered systems of behavior support in the education setting.

## Chris Hartley

Chris is a Strategic Partner Manager for ebay Inc, the world's largest online trading community. Chris is the co-chair for ebay Inc. Social Innovation Team in Austin committed to creating economic opportunity, enabling greener commerce, and powering charitable giving throughout the local community. Chris has a diversified background within the financial sector, specializing in project, product and account management. Prior to his role at ebay Inc, Chris spent nine years at Fiserv, a leading global provider of information management and electronic commerce systems for the financial services industry. Chris has a BA in Business Administration from Saint Leo University and an MBA from the University of Florida. Chris has been running for the past 15 years. He is a member of the Austin running club and founder of the ebay Inc. Austin running group. Chris enjoys challenging himself by continually setting new goals and putting in the work to achieve them.

## Darren Daugherty

Darren has over 20 years experience in various sales and marketing leadership roles in the IT industry. Upon completing his degree in Electrical Engineering from UT Austin, Darren began his career at Dell where he led their product marketing efforts as they entered into the enterprise server and storage market. He has since worked for smaller storage companies leading teams and developing go-to-market strategies through channel and OEM partners. Darren grew up in Austin playing soccer, but eventually discovered the joy of running in 2007 and has been a mileage junkie ever since, completing 12 marathons and 3 ultramarathons (so far). He is passionate about the perspective and character that running builds and excited to share that with kids. He is currently the coach of Team Rogue Prep – the youth running program at Rogue. And when not working or running, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his wife and two boys.