

BOATHOUSE

ministry



ANCHORED FOR THE FUTURE

YEAR-END REPORT & VISION CAMPAIGN

2026



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ABOUT

Boathouse is a non-denominational, para-church gathering for college-aged adults (18–25). We exist as a supplement, not a substitute, to the local church—creating space for young adults to grow in faith, community, and purpose.

Rooted in Scripture, we believe the Bible is the true Word of God and that we are called to be His witnesses in Tyler, throughout Smith County, across Texas, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

We meet on Tuesday nights for worship, teaching, and authentic community. Boathouse is a place where everyone is welcome and lives are transformed by the gospel and to provide an environment for students to encounter Christ and grow as leaders who carry His message wherever they go.

MISSION

Boathouse Ministry exists to see God transform the lives of college-aged young adults through God's Word, worship, discipleship, and community.

VISION

We desire to see any and every college-aged young adult anchored in Christ and transformed for life. Boathouse isn't just a Tuesday night gathering — it's a movement of God. It's a place where students encounter the truth of God's Word, experience His presence in worship, and learn to follow Jesus in everyday life. Our prayer is simple: that this generation would be rooted in Christ and ready to live for His glory wherever He sends them.

BEHIND THE MISSION

Over the past few years, we've watched God move in ways only He could. We've seen hundreds of college-aged young adults encounter Jesus, find community, and begin walking with Him in everyday life. Every story, every salvation, every baptism is proof that the Gospel is still changing lives. Boathouse has never been about the boats, or the lake, or the place we gather — it's always been about people meeting Jesus. We believe God is inviting us to take the next step: to build a home that will serve as a launching point for generations to come. As we close out this year, I want to say thank you — to every person who has prayed, given, and believed in this mission. You are part of the story God is writing here in East Texas. My prayer is that you'll continue to walk with us as we see God anchor a generation in Christ and where students can find community, grow in their relationship with the Lord, and be sent out to change the world.

Executive Director, Boathouse Ministry



OUR TEAM

The Boathouse team is made up of passionate staff and dedicated board members who share one mission—to see college-aged adults grow in faith, community, and purpose. Together, they lead with prayerful vision and servant hearts, ensuring that every aspect of Boathouse reflects Christ's love and truth. From planning weekly gatherings to providing spiritual guidance and organizational oversight, this team works hand in hand to create a welcoming space where students can encounter God and belong to a thriving faith community.



PRESTON REECE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BRADEN BRADY
MEN'S DIRECTOR



TESSA GODDARD
WOMEN'S DIRECTOR



CHLOE BURLESON
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

LANE MURRAY

JIM TRAIL

BRAD BURNS

KELLY BORAH

OUR STORY

“Boathouse Ministry has been God’s work since the very beginning. What started in 2015 with two friends, a boat, and a Bible has grown into a movement of over six hundred college-aged students gathering weekly to worship Jesus and grow in their faith.

When Clay and I first began, we couldn’t have imagined all that God would do. We met on boats, in backyards, and borrowed spaces — and through every season, God kept showing up. Looking back, all we see is His faithfulness: hundreds of lives changed, countless friendships formed, and a generation discovering that Jesus is worth giving everything for.

Now, as we look ahead, we believe the next chapter of this story is to build a home — a place where students can continue to gather, grow, and be sent out for decades to come.

We’ve never had a permanent home, and yet God has continued to multiply the work. How much more might He do if we had a place designed for transformation?”



Brandon Brattof

Founder, Boathouse Ministry



A note from the deck...

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, hundreds of college-aged young adults gather every Tuesday for a free meal, genuine community, and the life-changing truth of God’s Word.

OUR HISTORY

Boathouse began with a simple vision — to create a place where college-aged young adults could belong, grow in their faith, and build lasting community. What started as a small bible study, God has grown into a thriving year-round ministry.

2015

2 guys and a boat



2019

Transitioned from summer-only meetings to year-round gatherings



2021

Filed for federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit



2023

Hired first staff member as attendance grew to 400+ each week



2025, 2026

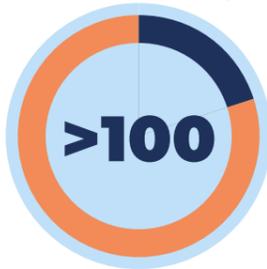
Identifying our long-term home



IMPACT BY THE *Numbers*



Weekly Bible Study Participants



Active Volunteers



Monthly Reach



Baptisms Since 2024

Behind every *Number* is a name.
Behind every story is a *Savior*

“**LEXI** In the fall, a student named Lexi Estrada filled out a connect form after hearing about Boathouse. One of our staff members reached out and invited her to our Thursday night Bible study. That night, surrounded by community and God’s Word, Lexi opened up about her life and shared what she had been walking through. Right there, on the back porch after bible study, she surrendered her life to Christ.

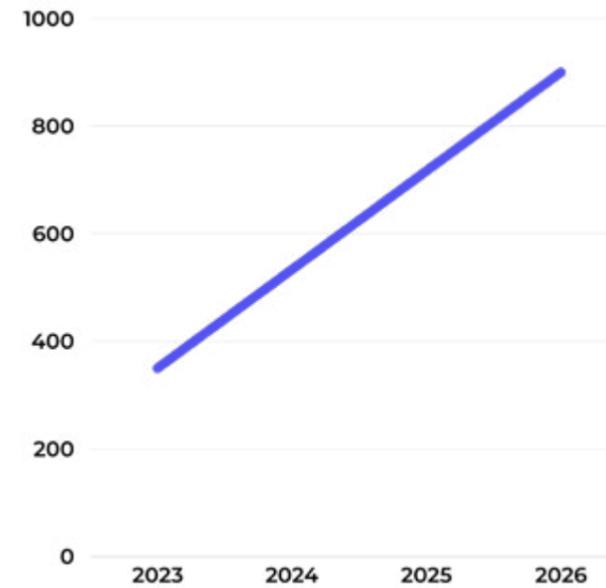
Since that night, her life has been completely transformed. We gave her a Bible, and one of our volunteers has been faithfully walking alongside her — encouraging her, studying Scripture together, and helping her grow in her new relationship with the Lord.

COLBY Colby was invited to Boathouse by an old friend. One Tuesday night, he decided to come—but planned to slip out early. As he headed to his car, one of our volunteers felt prompted by the Lord to follow him into the parking lot. What started as a simple conversation quickly became a divine encounter. That night, Colby surrendered his life to Jesus. Just one week later, Colby returned—this time bringing several friends with him—and ended up leading one of them to Christ. Today, Colby is being discipled by the very same Boathouse volunteer who led him to Jesus and is growing daily in his walk with the Lord.”

IMPACT BY THE *Numbers*

Each season, God brings record attendance and an increasing number of students eager to take the first step in their faith through salvation. The momentum continues to grow as more young adults encounter community, purpose, and a deepening relationship with Christ.

ATTENDANCE



***Data estimated as attendance varies

SALVATIONS



Since 2023



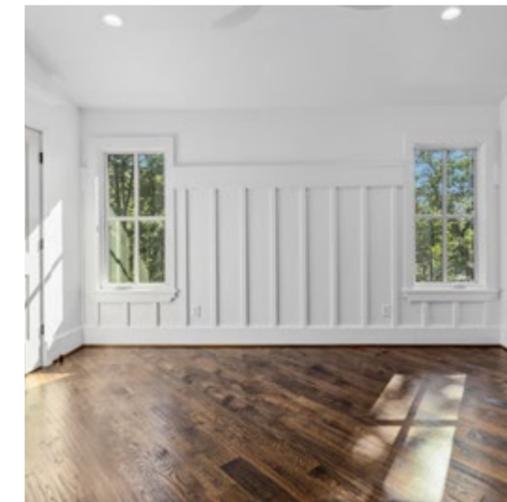
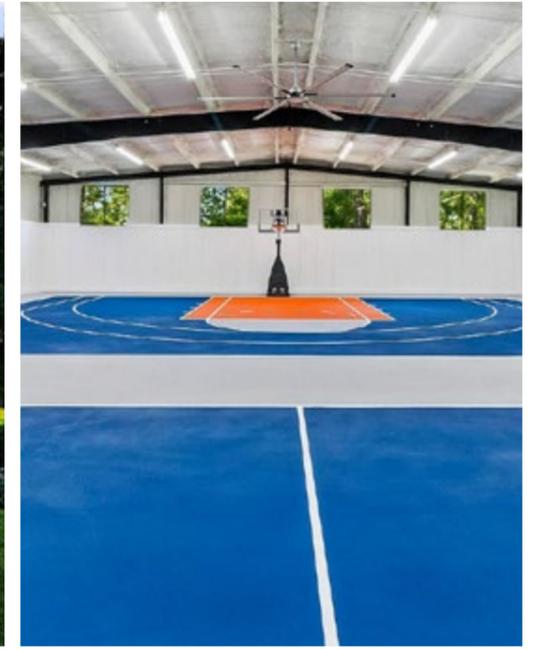
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE INTRODUCING ALTA MIRA

A Critical Location for Impact

To reach the 30,000+ college-aged young adults in East Texas, this property is key. It allows us to create a space where every young adult feels seen, known, loved, and valued.

Timing

We've outgrown outdoor gatherings at the lake. There's no space large enough to host us comfortably or protect us from the elements, making a permanent space essential for growth.



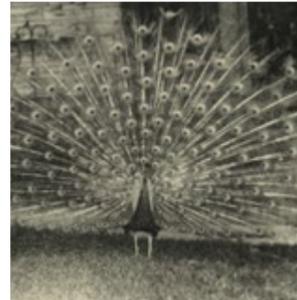
The History of ALTA MIRA

AFTER WWII

Following his Navy service in World War II, Robert M. Rogers moved from Missouri to Texas in the early 1950s to build drive-in movie theaters, including the successful Rose Garden Drive-In on 5th Street.

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Rogers settled in Tyler and purchased the land now known as Alta Mira Heights to build affordable post-war housing. He reserved the hilltop—one of the city’s highest points—for his future family home. After marrying Louise in 1958, the couple built their ranch-style home in 1961, surrounded by gardens, orchards, and animals, using seeds from Louise’s family farm in Arp. Wild peacocks once roamed the property, becoming a memorable neighborhood feature.



THE HOME

The original home featured a detached game room that became the unofficial youth building for a local church youth group throughout the 1960s and '70s—long before churches had their own gyms or recreation centers. For decades, this space welcomed local teens as a safe and welcoming place to gather.



After the couple’s separation, Louise remained on the hill and later married Joseph Ornelas. Together, they added a full-sized gym that hosted countless community events, from weddings and proms to reunions and dances.

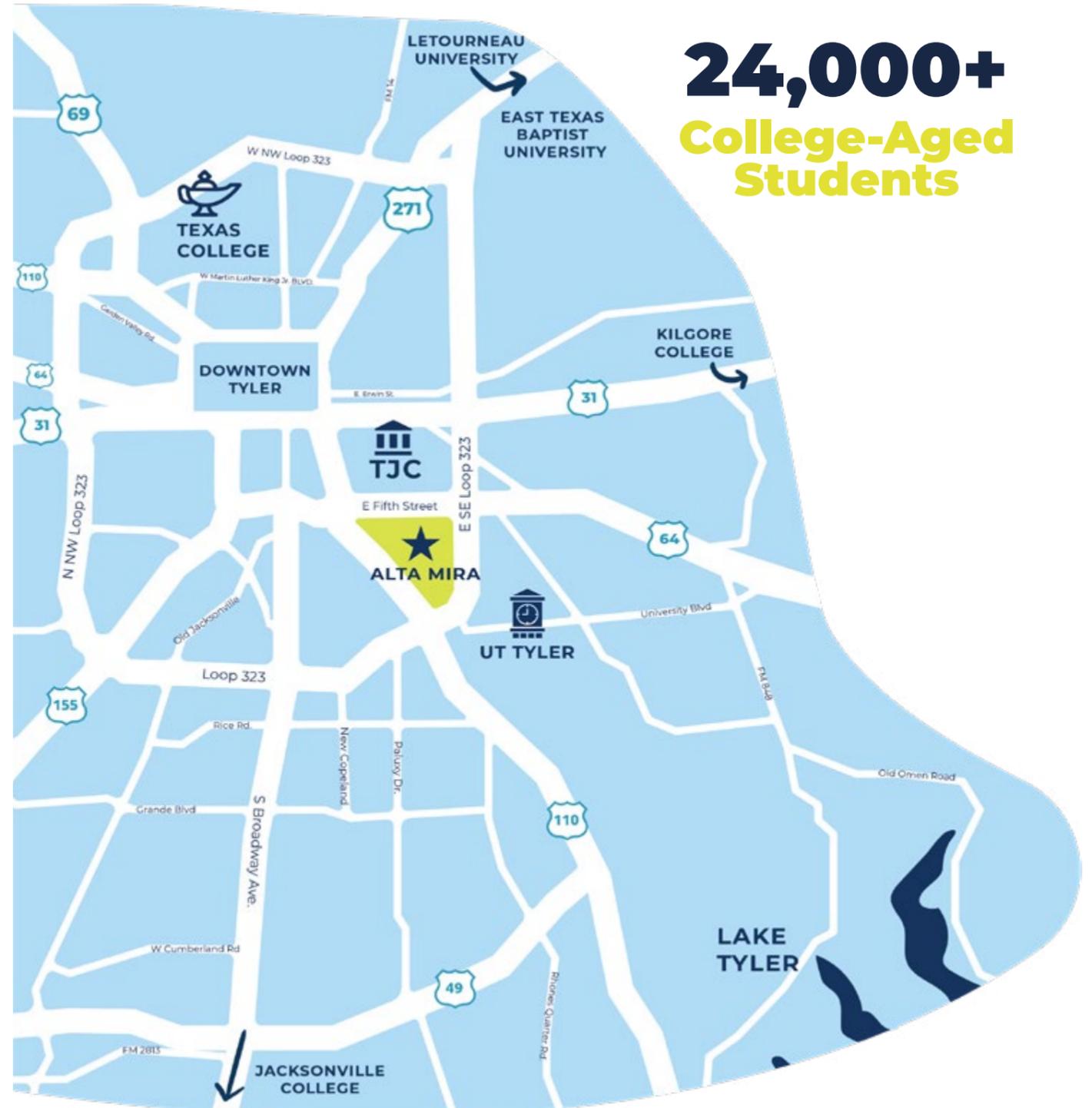
After Louise’s passing in 2018, the property passed to her family, who rebuilt the home around the original living room and stone fireplace. The sandstone from the original exterior was reused as accents, preserving the history and character of the home. The property, now known as Sweetbriar—meaning “wild rose”—stands as a tribute to the Rogers family’s legacy and over 60 years of memories shared on the hill.



LOCATION

Located just 1.2 miles from both UT Tyler and TJC, sitting perfectly between two growing campuses that together represent over 24,000 college-aged young adults (not including other East Texas Colleges & working young adults). This isn’t just another venue. It’s a home for the lost, a refuge for the weary, and a space where every student can find belonging and encounter the love of Jesus. If we want to reach the 24,000+ college-aged young adults in East Texas, this is the place.

24,000+
College-Aged
Students



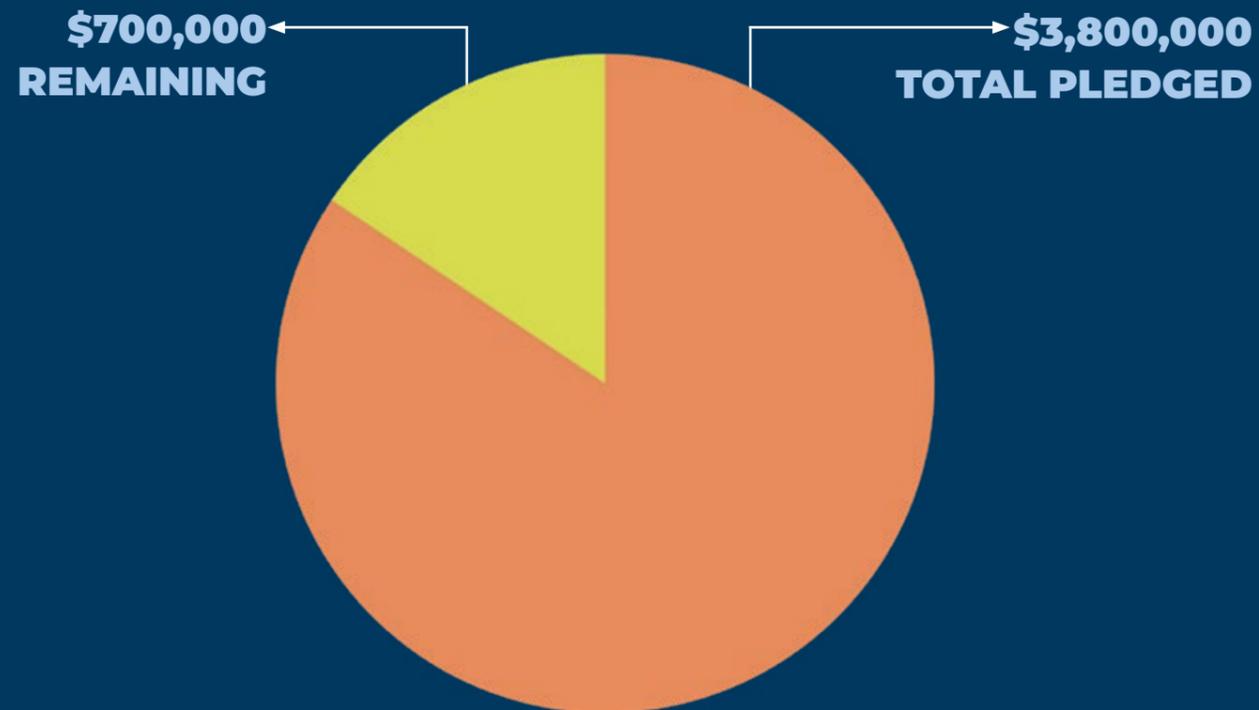
YOUR *Generosity* IS MAKING AN ETERNAL IMPACT

Boathouse has grown faster than anyone could have predicted, and God has provided every step of the way.

WHERE YOUR GIFT GOES

- Facilities (Alta Mira)
- Ministry programs and outreach
- Discipleship resources and scholarships

\$4.5 Million
Total Funding Needed



HOW TO GIVE

📞 903.570.1115

🌐 boathouseministry.com/give

📍 Boathouse Ministry, P.O. Box 131836
Tyler, TX 75713

✉️ Preston Reece at preece@boathouseministry.com



MAIN *Goal*

Phase 1 covers the full purchase price of the property and all costs associated with the acquisition.

Operating Impact:

- Ownership of the Alta Mira property will increase Boathouse Ministry's annual operating budget by an estimated \$72,000–\$100,000, accounting for insurance, utilities, maintenance, and overhead. These costs are projected and have been incorporated into long-term sustainability planning.

Evangelism Alignment & Use of the Alta Mira Property:

- The Alta Mira property will not replace Tuesday night gatherings in Phase 1. Boathouse will continue meeting at the UT Tyler Cowan Center or local church auditoriums. A future Phase 2 or 3 expansion would allow for a dedicated large-gathering space.

Alta Mira will function as a weekday ministry hub, providing:

- A permanent home base for evangelism and discipleship
- Space to train and equip volunteers to share the Gospel
- Rooms for Bible studies, leadership development, and pastoral care
- A safe and welcoming environment for lost, searching, and hurting young adults
- Space for volunteer gatherings
- A coffee shop and flexible meeting space
- Opportunities for ministry partnerships

The Alta Mira property will also allow Boathouse to:

- Provide stability and long term capacity for growth
- Develop strong staff and volunteer leadership pipelines
- Increase effectiveness in reaching and discipling the next generation

*Your Gift Helps Someone
Feel Seen. Known. Loved.*



ANCHORED FOR THE FUTURE

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