

**Christmas Giving Trees at Shepherd of the Hills**  
**Benefitting the Children's Ministries of Upbring**

**BeREAL**

Imagine turning 18 and being ejected from your home with no family, few resources, and nowhere to turn. That's exactly the case for young adults aging out of foster care every year. They often find themselves homeless and lacking the education, job, and life skills required to embrace careers and adulthood to the best of their abilities. Upbring BeREAL helps foster youth successfully transition to self-sufficiency and independence by providing support, education planning, and mentorship as well as Supervised Independent Living (SIL) as they age out of care.

~BeREAL Coordinator for Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, [Kathy Gerhardt](#)

**New Life Children's Center**

All the girls who enter the New Life Center have been severely abused and found on the streets of Houston by police. Most of the girls are sent to live at the New Life Center. At the center, the girls receive a safe environment with good education, in-depth personalized counseling, life skill courses, and spiritual development. Many girls graduate and continue on to graduate from college. They now have positive personal and good job skills which enables them to form functional families of their own.

~New Life Coordinator for Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, [Karen Stern](#)

**Foster Care**

Thousands of amazing children in Texas need a safe, loving home. These children have talents, dreams and incredible potential, but they need a champion to help them learn and grow — someone to encourage their dreams and prepare them for life's many successes. Foster parents have the unique opportunity to give a child a second chance at childhood, helping them to heal and move on from the circumstances that brought them to foster care.

~Foster Care Coordinator for Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, [Linda Roesle](#)