

April is the Spiritual Care Director at Krause Children's Residential Treatment Center in Katy. We are a center run by Lutheran Social Services. She serves teenagers from child protective services and juvenile probation. Our kids live with us for 3 months to a year. At the center her duties with the kids include: leading them in Bible studies, doing one on one spiritual counseling with children, recruiting local churches to lead chapel services, supervising church groups who lead crafts and sports and music for our kids, coordinating prayer ministries, and overseeing Christian day camps and holiday events. Through serving the kids she serves the community. The purpose of Krause is to provide help, hope, and healing to our kids in the name of Jesus Christ. By caring for them emotionally, physically and spiritually she helps the kids to know they are people of value and they can have a part in society with out falling into drugs, gangs, abuse or self harm. If she can reach just one of our kids with this message then that is one less child our community loses to violence and fear. As a part of her job she also speaks with local churches and communities to make them aware of our mission. This aides the community because it reminds us all that our children need us. It educates people about the reality of abuse in our society and the reality of the rising juvenile delinquency issues. Both these circumstances can be combated with love and knowledge.

Krause has accomplished so much in the last year and she is excited to have been a part of it. Our accomplishments are best told through the stories of our children. Not that long ago one of her probation girls was baptized. When she came to us she had some knowledge of God, but it was limited. In her time with us April watched her grow not just in faith but as a person. She became fascinated with Scripture and learning how to apply it. As she did her interactions with her peers improved. Cursing and fighting were replaced with an attitude of humility. She became a kid who welcomed the new kids and taught them the ropes. April can remember once a new child commenting how at first she thought Krause was scary until one of the girls came and sat down with her and told her it would be okay and offered to pray with her. After being baptized with us the child was discharged and in the time since leaving us has returned to her mom and gotten back to school and has been meeting the conditions of her probation. She also became involved in church. This is just one of many stories that she count as successes for Krause. Another success is that Krause gives people a chance to use their gifts and talents. Last year a local girl scout was able to achieve her silver award by helping to create quilts for our kids. Upon admission to the facility quilts are given to each child as a way to say welcome to your home. Likewise a boy scout received his eagle Award by helping build shelving for one of Krause's training rooms. Also, recently a local FBLA group came out to our facility and played sports with our kids. This gave kids in our community an opportunity to reach out and serve other kids who are going through a rough time. It also let the community kids be reminded of how choices in life can lead to consequences and that their freedom should be valued and not taken advantage of. April feels Krause is a vital part of our community because it helps us make a difference in the life a child- and their is no greater gift than this. After all Jesus said the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.