



Lighting the Way - 20 years of Heart, Hope, Heroes!

Twenty years of families supporting families. Twenty years of connection. Twenty years of hope. This November, Texas CHARGERS invites our incredible community to come together for a very special weekend as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary Retreat, taking place November 6–8, 2026, at T Bar M Resort in beautiful New Braunfels, Texas. Surrounded by the beauty of the Texas Hill Country, T Bar M will provide the perfect setting for a weekend filled with friendship, laughter, learning, and celebration. Whether you have been part of Texas CHARGERS for 20 years or are just beginning your journey, this retreat is for you!

We are excited to welcome three wonderful speakers who will bring inspiration, humor, and valuable insights to our weekend. Kathy Buckley, an award-winning comedian, actress, motivational speaker, and best-selling author, is known for combining humor and heartfelt storytelling to inspire audiences. A five-time American Comedy Award nominee, Kathy has appeared on major television programs and performed at venues including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Her personal journey as a woman who is hard of hearing has shaped her passion for advocacy, resilience, and helping others discover what is possible.

We are also excited to welcome Layne Pethick, a Master Consultant for Behavior and Autism Spectrum Disorder with Region 10 Education Service Center. With more than 16 years of experience supporting educators, schools, and families, Layne brings expertise in autism, behavior support, and brain-based learning strategies.

This retreat is designed with the whole family in mind. Throughout the weekend, we will offer breakout sessions created specifically for dads, moms, grandparents, and new families. Whether you are looking for practical ideas, encouragement, shared experiences, or simply an opportunity to connect with others who understand the CHARGE journey, there will be opportunities for everyone to learn and grow together.

Our siblings are an important part of the Texas CHARGERS family, too! Special activities will give brothers and sisters the chance to have fun, build friendships, share experiences, and celebrate their unique role within their families. We are excited to offer a welcoming space where siblings can connect with others who understand their experiences.

Individuals with CHARGE Syndrome will also have special activities throughout the weekend, led by the amazing Dr. Beth Foster, CAPE, an Associate Professor at West Chester University specializing in adapted physical activity and education. She coordinates the university's adapted physical education programs and directs its Adapted Physical Activity minor. Dr. Foster also directs Camp Abilities, a developmental sports camp for youth with vision loss, and coaches' Special Olympics soccer and basketball. With specialized training in deafblindness and extensive experience in adapted sports, Dr. Foster has presented nationally and internationally on vision loss, deafblindness, adaptations, and assessment. She is also involved with state and national organizations dedicated to advancing physical activity and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We are thrilled to have Beth bringing her expertise, energy,

and passion to our CHARGE community! These activities will provide opportunities for friendship, creativity, connection, and plenty of fun in an environment where our CHARGE family members can simply be themselves.

And, of course, we can't forget about the incredible setting! T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels offers a beautiful Texas Hill Country backdrop for our 20th anniversary celebration. With towering trees, peaceful outdoor spaces, comfortable accommodation, and plenty of places to gather, relax, play, and reconnect, it is the perfect place to celebrate two decades of Texas CHARGERS. Whether you are participating in an activity, catching up with an old friend, meeting another CHARGE family for the first time, or simply enjoying a quiet moment surrounded by nature, we hope you will make wonderful memories together.

For 20 years, Texas CHARGERS has been built on something bigger than an organization—it has been built on family. It is parents finding someone who understands, siblings discovering they are not alone, grandparents learning and loving alongside their families, and individuals with CHARGE Syndrome finding friendship, belonging, and opportunities to shine. Most importantly, it is all of us continuing to move forward together.

As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we invite you to come celebrate where we have been, where we are today, and the exciting road ahead. Save the date for November 6–8, 2026, and join us at T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels for the Texas CHARGERS 20th Anniversary Retreat! Bring your family, your stories, your laughter, and your CHARGE spirit. Together, let's make this anniversary weekend one to remember!

We are family. We are strong. We are CHARGERS!