



“Youth Alternatives is not just a place to help abused children learn how cope with the terrible things that they have endured—RMYA is HOME for these children, a place to feel safe and to heal.”

Gloria Berumen Kelly, CEO

RMYA is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has provided counseling & residential care to over 70,000 children since 1976. ***RMYA is committed to caring for children in crisis and it is our goal to give children a foundation of positive values which will promote future success and end the cycle of abuse.*** Our services are designed to help youth cope with issues of abuse, neglect, abandonment and homelessness through a full continuum of programs:

- **The Bridge Emergency Shelter** provides 24-hour care for an average of 17 children between the ages of 5-17 years.
- **TurningPoint** is an independent living program for up to 20 young adults, between the ages of 16-21 years, in need of assistance prior to “living on their own” by preparing them to be independent and productive citizens.
- **The RMYA Counseling Center** provides free Master’s level individual, family & group counseling, crisis intervention, life skills training and parenting classes for at-risk youth and families from the community with children from birth through 17 years old.
- **MeadowLand Campus**, located on 40-acres in Boerne, is home to our long-term programs for up to 80 youth ages 6-17 years and includes a residential treatment program for children with more serious emotional and behavioral needs as a result of their past abuse.
- **MeadowLand Charter School** is an open enrollment public school located on the MeadowLand Campus, serving at-risk youth who reside in the Boerne Independent School District catchment area.



RMYA has a well-deserved reputation in the community for providing quality services and we are proud to have accreditation by the *Council on Accreditation (COA)*, which ensures that best-case practices are utilized throughout the agency. We are honored to be the recipient of the 2008 San Antonio Ethics in Business Award in the Not For Profit Category, and equally proud to be a 2010 and 2011 *San Antonio Express-News Top Workplace*. Currently, 10% of our staff has been with RMYA 20+ years; 23% over 10 years; and 33% over 5 years.

It is imperative that in today’s world the children RMYA serves are afforded every opportunity to learn and improve their coping skills and become productive members of society. ***This continues to be the driving force at RMYA every single day.***

Once a foster child herself, Lana believes strongly in being involved in the efforts of charities whose mission is to protect children and strengthen families and communities through partnerships with businesses, individuals and other charitable groups. Here in San Antonio Lana works with Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives, in Canada with Peel Children's Aid Society and Raintree Children and Family Services in New Orleans. Lana's Ruth's Chris Steak House was named the *Restaurant with a Heart* by the San Antonio *Downtown Alliance* for her work with the children of Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives.

Lana has committed herself to the children of RMYA since 2005, and has made them a part of her family. Lana and her Ruth's Chris Steak House host her annual *Thanksgiving Feast* for the 100+children at Roy Maas the Sunday before Thanksgiving at her restaurant and it is an event the children look forward to all year! Lana and her Executive Chef—a former foster child at Roy Maas—created a *Culinary Job Training Program* for Roy Maas children to encourage them to think of a career in the hospitality field. Lana also hosts etiquette classes for the children so that they will feel comfortable in any fine dining event, and hosts all the Roy Maas graduating high school students to dinner at Ruth's Chris. The *Make a Difference Awards* were inspired by Lana Duke, Ruth's Chris Steak House owner and her commitment to giving back to the community. These awards honor those individuals, groups and businesses that give back to the San Antonio community, and are a way of celebrating the heroes in our community who go unrecognized too often. The event benefits Roy Maas, and has grown each year. Lana was proud to have Harvey Najim, one of San Antonio's most generous philanthropists—and a previous *Make a Difference* recipient—serving as the co-chair of her third annual *Make a Difference Awards*, and together they raised over \$100,000 for Roy Maas.

One of Lana's favorite things to do when she is in San Antonio is to visit the Roy Maas long-term residential programs at the *MeadowLand Campus* in Boerne. She spends the afternoon touring all the cabins and visiting with the children. It is not unusual to have them all end up at the gymnasium for impromptu dancing or to shoot a few hoops! ***Lana Duke and her Ruth's Chris Steak House family serve as a shining example to other businesses in the community to reach out and introduce an abused child to a caring adult—and know that these simple actions will impact generations to come.***