

A Unique Learning Experience



within the Framework of Faith



[www.NorthCentralTexasAcademy.org](http://www.NorthCentralTexasAcademy.org)



# Uniquie



## A Unique Learning Experience

The more you learn about North Central Texas Academy, the more you realize how unique it is. NCTA is a K-12 boarding school, a day school, and an international school, all in one. The student body is composed of children from three distinct groups:

- Families who want a private, Christian education for their kids
- International families who want their children to receive an outstanding American boarding school education
- Underprivileged families with students who are highly-motivated to reach their academic goals

This social blending creates a dynamic, diverse environment that prepares students for success in higher education and careers. At the same time, it teaches them to be outstanding citizens with a Christian Worldview. Although students have different backgrounds, they share common goals: excelling educationally while demonstrating respect, responsibility, integrity, self-discipline, and compassion.

The setting – a 500-acre working farm and campus – is unique, too. Healthy outdoor activities – like FFA/4H programs, agriculture, and horsemanship – complement more traditional schoolwork.

By providing a unique learning experience, the Academy helps create individuals who truly stand out from the crowd.

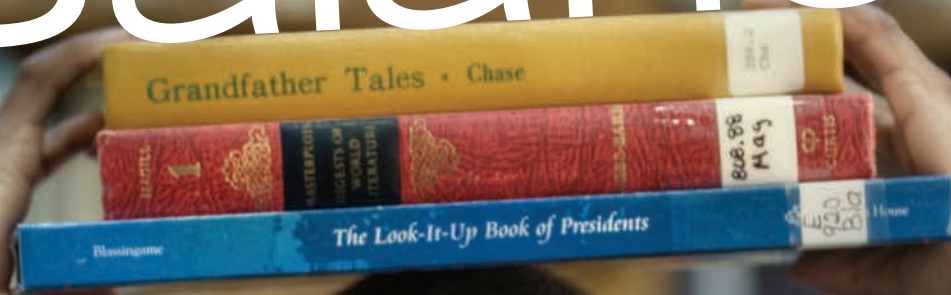


**“I have learned many things at North Central Texas Academy, including hard work, perseverance, and responsibility. These characteristics must be developed in order to be successful.”**

*Ryan C. – Student, North Central Texas Academy*



# Balance



## Our Mission

“North Central Texas Academy’s mission is to equip a unified, but diverse, student body for life-long success by providing a comprehensive education from a Christian Worldview that cultivates the mind, transforms the heart, and develops each student’s character and God-given abilities.” Students are prepared for life as informed, ethical, moral, and productive citizens through a host of opportunities that promote intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

The curriculum provides students with a balanced and strong knowledge base in history, science, government, and economics, as well as core academic skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and technology. Instruction in every class focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, communication, organization, study, and social skills.

The Academy also helps develop social and emotional well-being, deepens spiritual growth and moral maturity, encourages an appreciation for the arts and creativity, emphasizes the value of good work and study habits, and promotes regular physical exercise and healthy lifestyles.

## A Brief History

Around 40 years ago, Gloria and Ed Shipman and their two teenage sons, Chuck and Todd, took some runaway girls into their home, setting in motion what has become one of the finest boarding, day, and international schools in the United States.

Initially, the Shipman family donated a 266-acre farm to the non-profit corporation. An additional 250 acres were added a few years later, bringing the current campus to more than 500 acres. The Academy opened officially in 1975 with a handful of students, little money, and big dreams of building a quality residential school.

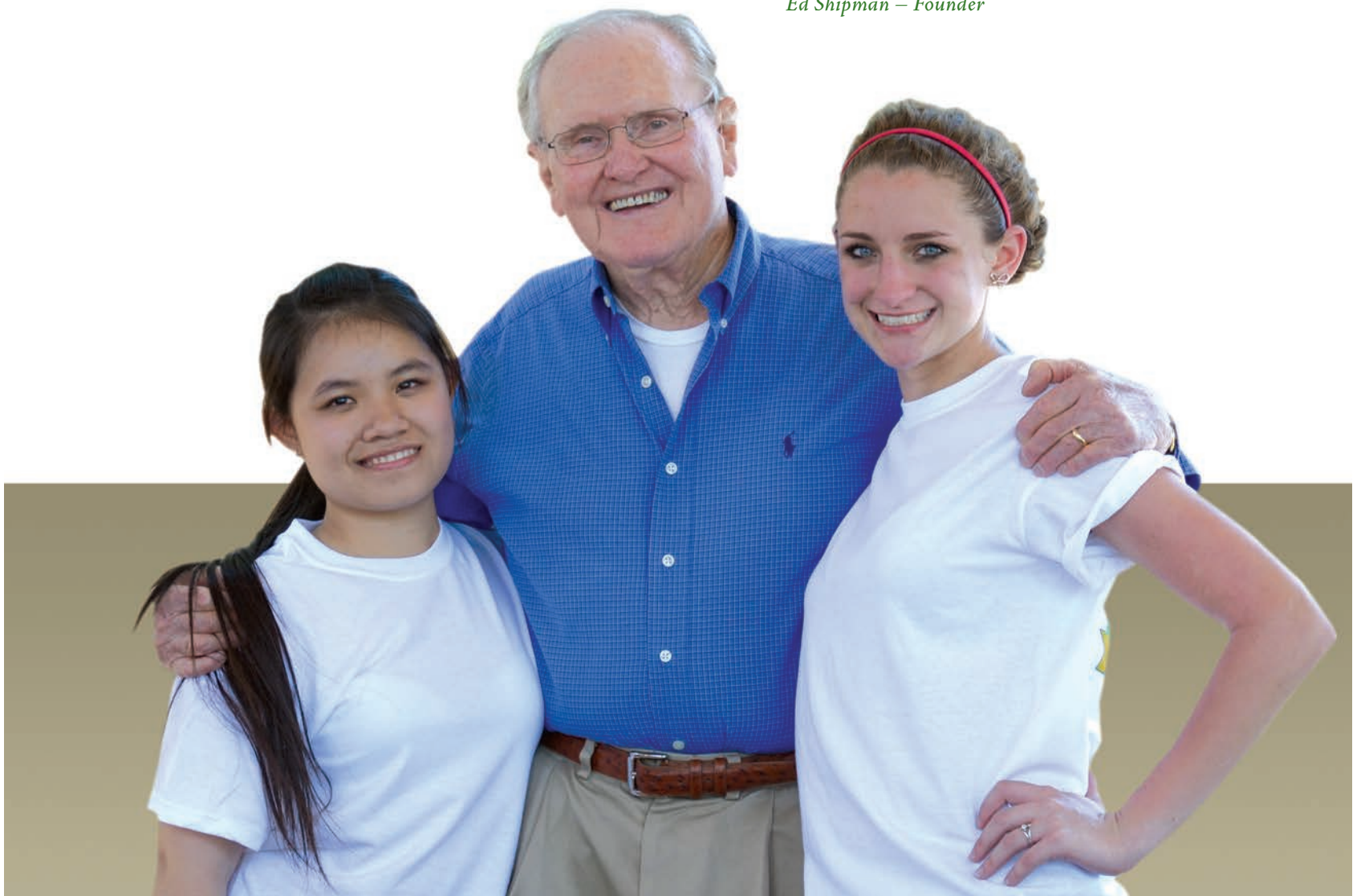
Traditional boarding schools have existed for many years – primarily for wealthy East Coast families – but a residential school that also provided the same opportunities for motivated, underprivileged students was a rarity. From meager beginnings, NCTA has been transformed, over almost four decades, into a premier boarding and day school. The students in its graduating classes, with a few exceptions for those who preferred a military career, have attended many top colleges and universities across the nation.

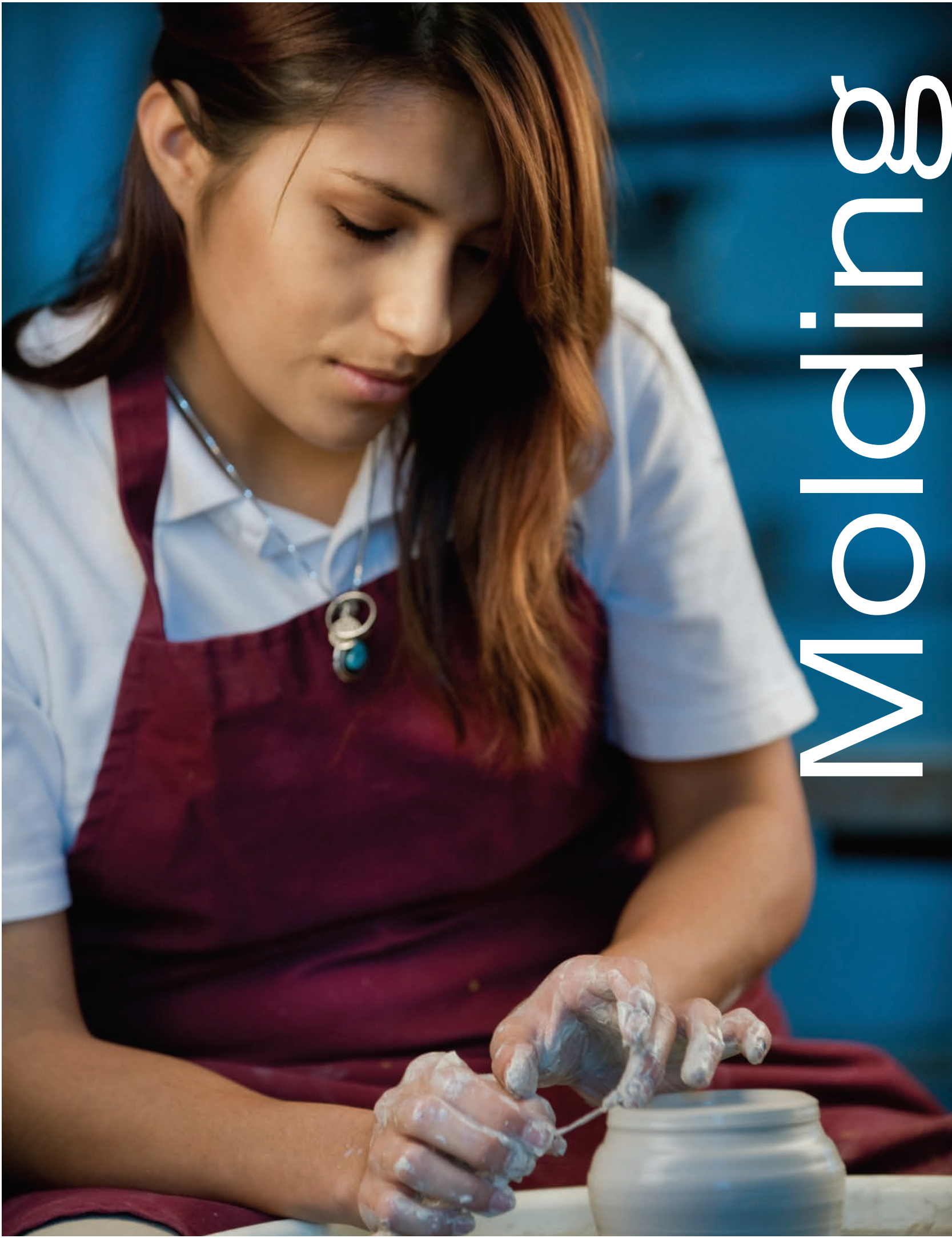
The NCTA dream has been shared by countless individuals, corporations, and foundations – and it is still unfolding and growing, even today.



**“Thousands of caring friends have made the extensive scholarship program at North Central Texas Academy possible through their generous support.”**

*Ed Shipman – Founder*





# Qualifying

## Academics

The academic environment at North Central Texas Academy encourages excellence in every way, in every course of study. With educated and competent leadership, and qualified/degreed staff members in curriculum, educational support, music, art, and athletics, NCTA continues to raise its sights and make ever higher goals available to its students.

## Character Development

At NCTA, character development is vital and taught in numerous ways.

First, character is strengthened through the Academy's overarching mission to instill a Christian Worldview. NCTA strives to equip students to see the world, and all that is in it, through the lens of God's Word. This philosophy allows students to develop a truly Biblical world view – understanding that there is no area of life that falls outside the purview of Christian ethics or morals.



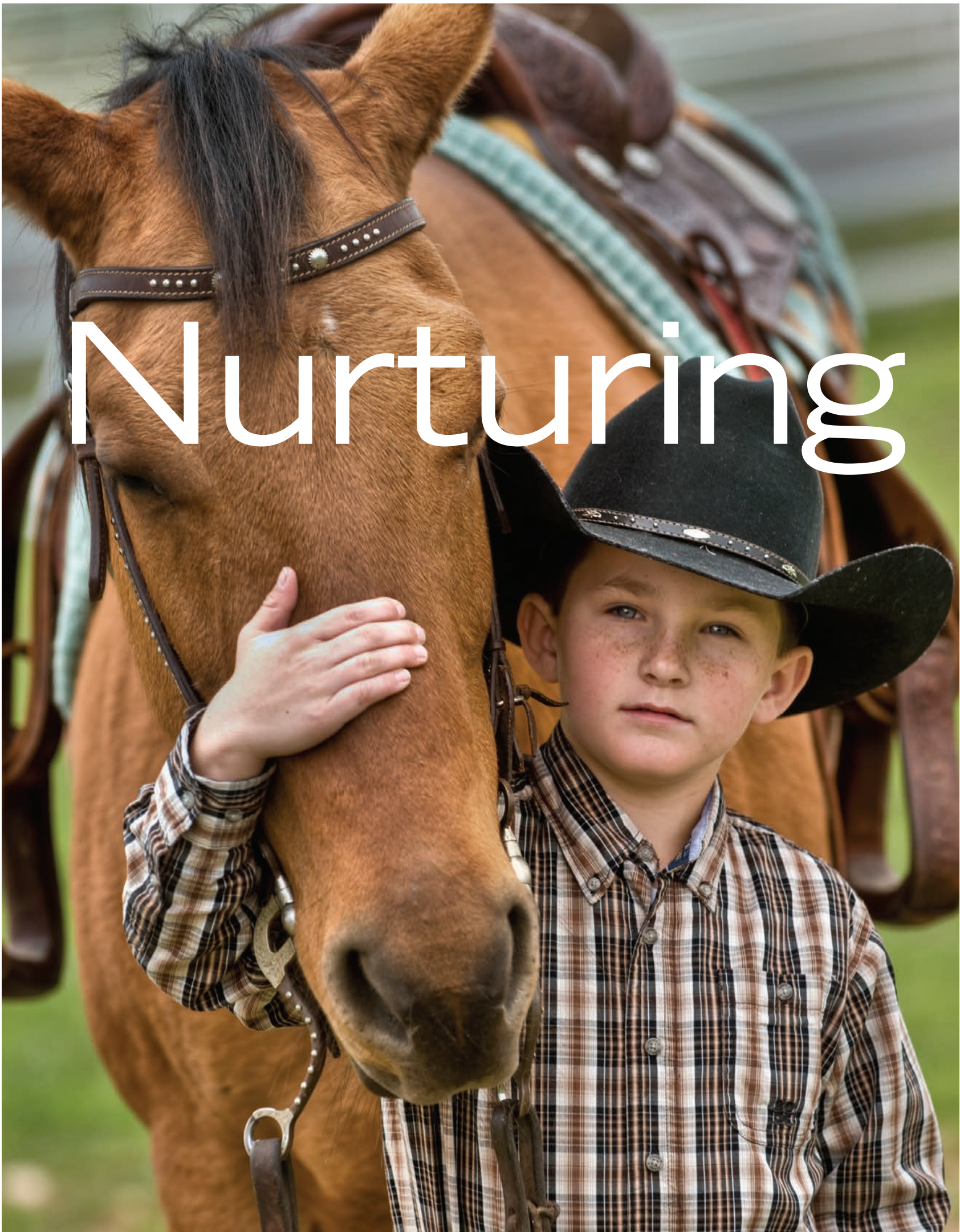
Character is also developed through the Academy's weekly chapel services. Mid-week chapel at NCTA provides each student with an opportunity to sing songs that reflect the Christian faith and hear inspiring messages from regional speakers and community leaders. Through these chapel services, students can observe and be affected positively by various Christian leaders.

NCTA strongly believes that serving the community is an integral component of spiritual development in children. James, Chapter 2, says that the test of true faith is manifest in deeds. God's Word makes it very clear that, to walk the path of spiritual growth to maturity, worship must include service. The primary goal of the NCTA Community Service Program is to help students grow in their understanding of God's call on their lives. This is achieved by:

- Serving the community through ministering in schools, churches, and non-profit agencies
- Increasing student civic-mindedness and learning the basics of leadership and democracy
- Appreciating the diversity of people
- Increasing awareness of one's skills, gifts, talents, and weaknesses
- Developing critical thinking and time management

Finally, character is instilled into the lives of students through deliberate and comprehensive Bible classes.





# Nurturing



Animal Agriculture

Equestrian

Horticulture

Outdoor Education



## A Real Working Farm

One of the most distinctive attributes of North Central Texas Academy is its location: a 500-acre working farm and campus. Situated south of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex near Granbury, Texas, the Academy is within easy driving distance of both cities.

For those students who desire it, there is the opportunity to be involved in the FFA/4-H program. They show their animals – steers, heifers, pigs, goats, and sheep – in all of the major livestock shows throughout Texas, including Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, and the State Fair in Dallas.

Also, roaming the campus, in fenced areas, are llamas, alpacas, buffalo, and camels. Some twelve horse stalls round out the riding stable, and there is a greenhouse, garden area, and orchard. The rural, out-of-doors environment is wonderful for students, many of whom are from the inner city. Here, they have 500 pastoral acres in which to stretch their legs.



**“What are the Shipmans and North Central Texas Academy? Dignity... Respect ... Loyalty.”**

*James T. – First graduate of North Central Texas Academy*





Reaching

## Athletics

Physical education at North Central Texas Academy focuses on teaching students how to become physically fit while instilling in them a love for fitness and exercise. Areas of emphasis include motor development, fundamental movements, cooperative activities, games, relays, and team and individual sports.

Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade programs focus on motor development and fundamental movements. The Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade programs focus on aspects of team and individual sports, such as displaying good sportsmanship and working together.

Health is a very important subject at NCTA. With the obesity rate in children rising, it is very important for students to develop healthy habits. Students learn about healthy food, safety, anatomy, and the importance of exercise.

Every student is encouraged to participate in competitive sports, because character developed from this experience lasts a lifetime. Students who choose not to participate in competitive sports still receive rigorous daily exercise and take part in recreational sport activities. These students learn the basics of weightlifting and conditioning, fundamentals of individual and team sports, and how nutrition affects performance.

The NCTA athletic program has a rich tradition in multiple sports and has been very successful, winning several TAPPS overall athletic State Championships.



Cross country

Golf

Basketball

Softball



Volleyball

Cheerleading

Football

Soccer

Tennis

Track

Baseball

**“I would not be where I am today without North Central Texas Academy. I received the education, discipline, and leadership skills needed to excel in college and beyond. It was a remarkable, life-changing experience.”**

*Jason L. – Chief of Staff for Mayor & City Council/  
Metropolitan Area*



# Creating



## Performing Arts

Choir

Elementary music

Music appreciation

Applied music

Private lessons

Musical theater

North Central Texas Academy is dedicated to helping every student develop academically, and the Arts are an important part of this experience. From K-12, students are encouraged to express themselves through many artistic avenues, including musical instruments, choir, music

appreciation, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and musical theater. This training not only broadens the horizons of each student; it fully prepares those who are interested in pursuing the Arts further through higher education.



The choir at NCTA serves in a very public and prominent role. Talented students have the opportunity to travel throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and around the state to perform at a host of events. Here are few members of the choir with Ebby Halliday at Christmas.

## Extracurricular

Students have many opportunities to develop leadership skills by getting involved in a variety of clubs and organizations at the Academy. Officers are elected at the beginning of the year, and each organization meets regularly throughout the school semesters.

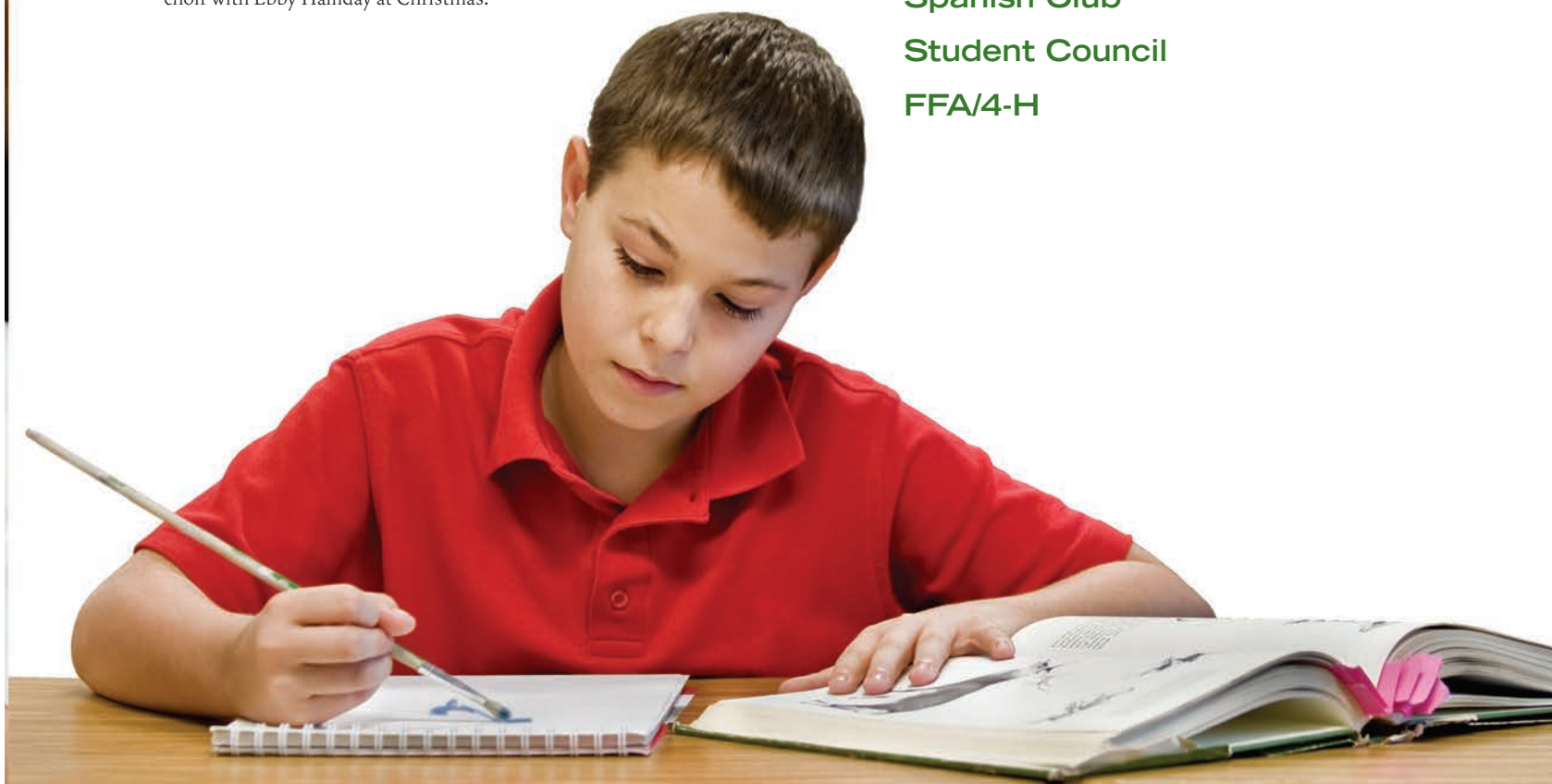
### Youth and Government

### Journalism and Yearbook

### Spanish Club

### Student Council

### FFA/4-H



## Visual Arts

Drawing

Painting

Sculpture

Printmaking

Ceramics

NCTA offers visual arts classes for all levels, K-12. Students learn about artists and artistic styles – expanding their understanding and

exploration of the visual arts – all in a studio setting. Students also experience a variety of artistic media through the visual arts program.



# Living

## Day School Students

They come to the campus in the morning on buses and family vehicles, and share in all of the academic opportunities, sports, and FFA/4-H programs. At the end of the school day, they hang up their football uniforms, take off their work boots, put away their musical instruments,

and return to their homes. Most of these day students live in nearby Granbury, just 15 minutes from campus.

The day school students – most from caring, loving, often Christian homes – help create

a wonderful campus “blend” that enriches the lives of students from international and non-traditional families. This blend creates a multi-faceted and culturally diverse academic environment in which every student can grow and prosper.

## Boarding Students

NCTA has attractive, home-like residences scattered across rolling acreage overlooking the valley. Up to eight boys or girls and their Resident Parents live in each home. The campus is open, and students walk or ride their bicycles to various areas, from the Chapel to the animal barns.

One of the secrets to the success of the boarding students program is the consistent daily routine. The students awake at the same time each school day. After breakfast in their homes, they attend school until approximately 3:30 p.m. After-school activities include sports practices, music practices, and livestock care for FFA/4H students. Lunch and the evening meal are served in the campus Dining Center. After dinner, there are mandatory study times and various programs and activities. Bedtime during the week depends on the age of the students.

Each student is assigned daily chores that contribute to the health and welfare of the group. Television, music, and internet time are limited and monitored for appropriate content.

In each residence of eight boys or girls, students are selected according to their age. The students respond to their fellow residents rather like brothers and sisters in a large family. Strong friendships develop. Cross-cultural relationships are especially rich and rewarding.

Off-campus activities, particularly on weekends, include movies, shopping, musical presentations, sporting events, parks, and cultural events. There are regularly scheduled family visits, and students may leave the campus with their families. Families often attend Chapel with their children, where visitors are always welcome. In addition, there are regularly scheduled holidays.

**“I had the privilege of attending North Central Texas Academy for five of the best years of my life. I now live with my wife and two lovely children. I would like to return to the Academy someday to work.”**

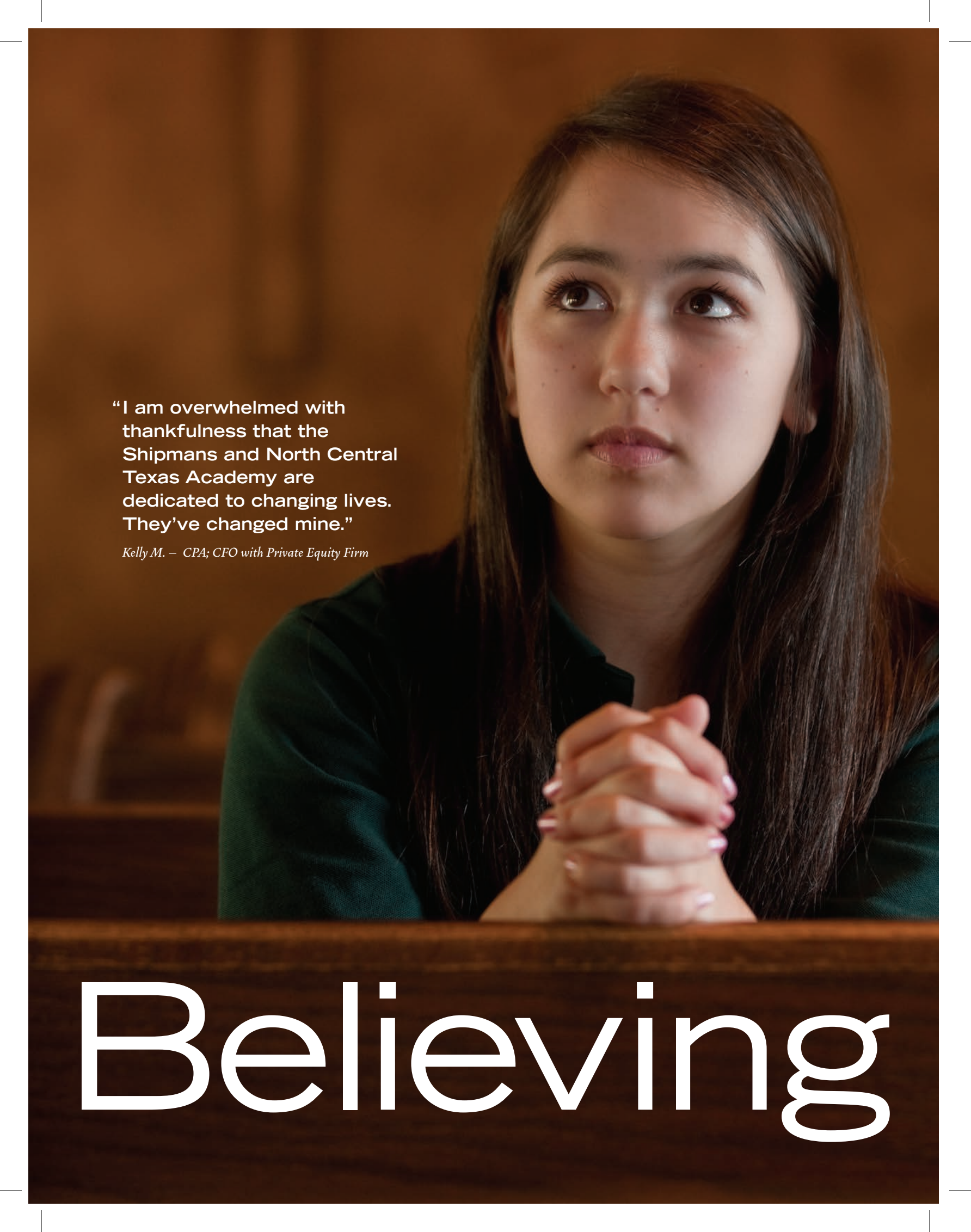
*Brandon L. – Manager, Wireless Telephone Company*



## Resident Parents

Being a Resident Parent is one of the most rewarding positions at the Academy, and can be an exciting ministry opportunity. Resident Parents – both married couples and single males or females – live in a 4,000 – 5,000 square foot home, much like a suburban residence. Up to eight boys or girls live in each home. Some couples are just starting out in their marriage, and others have children who are grown and gone. The couple's apartment is large enough for two or three children of their own. Though the Resident Parents are supported by the professional staff, they are very prominent role models to the students and an important part of the NCTA mission. Job applications can be found on the website.





“I am overwhelmed with thankfulness that the Shipmans and North Central Texas Academy are dedicated to changing lives. They’ve changed mine.”

*Kelly M. – CPA; CFO with Private Equity Firm*

# Believing



## Faith Culture

North Central Texas Academy is interdenominational and works with children of all faiths – or, children with no religious background at all. The program is undergirded by very clear moral and spiritual foundations. Christian services are held each Sunday morning in the West Chapel, which graces a hillside overlooking the campus. Parents and visitors are invited and encouraged to attend with their children. Sunday evening activities include contemporary music, Bible studies, and visiting speakers. These activities are conducted by the Director of Campus Ministries.

There are also weekly programs centered around relevant topics for teens and fellowship. Frequently, inspirational speakers and musicians come to the campus to share their experiences with the students in the Chapel or at the Academy's Fine Arts Center. The Academy wants students to have a moral and spiritual compass inside their hearts, to love God and their fellow man, and to continue practicing their faith after they leave.



**“I can see the change that North Central Texas Academy has had upon my character, my morals, and my walk with God . . . I am no longer a follower . . . I have become a leader.”**

*Kristi N. – Student, North Central Texas Academy*

**HOLY BIBLE**



# as university grow win

What distinguishes North Central Texas Academy from almost all other boarding schools is the dedication to raise scholarship funding for every boarding student who has a financial need. This hard work, and caring in the community, make it possible to offer the same quality education to many students who would never be given this opportunity to make the most of their lives.

Traditionally, for most of the Academy's existence, scholarship funds for underprivileged students have come from the private sector: individuals, corporations, and foundations. The Academy also seeks out underserved students with the same abilities, much like a university, and provides

scholarships in order that these highly-motivated boys and girls receive opportunities to learn, commit, grow, and eventually assume positions of responsibility and leadership in society.

**For admission and scholarship information, please visit [www.northcentraltexasacademy.org](http://www.northcentraltexasacademy.org)**

## Vision for the Future

The Shipman family vision, born almost 40 years ago, is far from complete. The ultimate goal is to enroll 300 students each semester. That means, in addition to raising sufficient funds for more student residences, a larger chapel and auditorium, expanded athletic facilities, and more, there must be an Endowment in place sufficient to provide the major portion of the annual operating budget for the expanded campus. Since part of the Academy's mission is to provide sufficient scholarships for boarding and education, based on student need, raising funds will always be a challenge.

A permanent endowment fund is already in place. There are separate funds within the endowment for athletics, the agricultural program, music, ministries, and others. This means that a donor wishing to make a gift to the permanent endowment may designate where those funds will be used. Gifts to the permanent endowment fund remain in the fund indefinitely; only a portion of the earned, annual interest from the endowment is applied to the operating budget.

"The goal is to continue building the finest boarding, day, and international school of its kind in America," says Ed Shipman, Founder.

"We continue to improve our program," says Chuck Shipman, COO. "We are providing social, cultural, and academic components that are otherwise unavailable to many boys and girls."

"In the process of growth and expansion," says Todd Shipman, President/CFO, "we must continue to find new donors who will catch our vision. We will need a lot of help if we are to continue to assist and educate the many students who come to our door looking for the help they need to grow, study, and impact their world for good."

**Would you like to play a part?  
Please make a contribution online,  
or write or call NCTA and find out  
how you can help make this vision  
a reality.**

**NorthCentralTexasAcademy.org  
254-897-4822**





## NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS ACADEMY

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