

Pegasus Schools, Inc.

Education Rooted in Service

By Anthony Collins,
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Since opening its doors in 1990, Pegasus Schools, Inc. has become one of Lockhart's most unique institutions. Part residential treatment center, part charter school, and part community partner, Pegasus serves boys ages 10 to 17 who are facing some of life's steepest challenges.

The young men who arrive at Pegasus often come carrying heavy burdens including trauma, various forms of abuse, behavioral struggles, or mood disorders. For many, school has been a place of frustration, where trust feels like a foreign concept and the future is uncertain. But behind the red-brick buildings and rolling fields just outside Lockhart, something powerful is happening, healing, learning, and giving back.

The heartbeat of Pegasus is providing a safe, structured environment where boys can rebuild their lives. Residents receive comprehensive evaluation, mental health treatment, and counseling designed to meet their individual needs. Therapy sessions, both group and one-on-one, are complemented by experiential learning and life skills training. Pegasus doesn't just focus on "fixing problems", the goal is to nurture confidence, responsibility and hope.

Education is a cornerstone of that future. On campus, students attend Trinity Charter School, a fully accredited program that runs from elementary grades through high school. For boys who may have struggled academically or missed large chunks of school, the staff provides tailored instruction that matches their pace and abilities.

The curriculum covers the basics, reading, math, science, and history, but also stretches into advanced coursework for students ready to tackle more. Small class sizes mean plenty of individual attention, and every lesson is tied to the larger mission: preparing young men to succeed not just in school, but in life.

Graduation days at Pegasus are especially meaningful. For families and staff, watching a boy who once doubted he'd ever finish school walk across the stage in a cap and gown is proof of just how far these young men can go.

What sets Pegasus apart is its deep-rooted

philosophy: "Every individual and every organization should give back to the community that supports them."

This isn't just a slogan. Every boy at Pegasus is required to participate in community service projects throughout Lockhart and Caldwell County. These projects are often tough, long hours outdoors, heavy lifting, or meticulous cleanup, but they are also transformative projects.

Over the years, Pegasus students have logged tens of thousands of volunteer hours, touching nearly every corner of the community:

- **Cemeteries:** From St. Mary's to Old Red Rock, the boys mow lawns, clear debris, and maintain sacred grounds where history rests.
- **Veterans & Civic Groups:** They support VFW Post 8927 with lawn care and cleanup, pitch in with Lions Club service projects, and help local volunteer fire departments prepare for annual fundraisers.
- **Community Organizations:** From hauling tires on Community Dump Day to setting up the community festivals, Pegasus students are there often behind the scenes, but always essential.
- **Churches & Charities:** At First Methodist Church, Pegasus boys serve meals every Wednesday. At other churches, they handle groundskeeping and cleanup, providing quiet but vital support.
- **Festivals & Events:** Dickens on the Square, the Texas Monthly BBQ Festival, the MLK March, and the San Marcos Juneteenth Parade all rely on Pegasus hands for setup, tear-down, and cleanup.
- **Schools & Sports:** After Lockhart Lions games, the bleachers are spotless thanks to Pegasus volunteers.

For the boys, these projects become more than chores. They are lessons in empathy, responsibility, and teamwork. Many say it's the first time they've felt part of something larger than themselves.

Another distinctive part of Pegasus is its outdoor behavioral program. Boys who may once have avoided challenges are suddenly hiking rugged trails, camping under the stars, or working together to solve wilderness obstacles.

These adventures aren't just about physical

endurance, they're about building trust, resilience, and confidence. For teens who have experienced trauma, the wilderness provides a safe space to test themselves, reflect, and grow.

Nature becomes a classroom of its own. Beneath the open sky, lessons about courage, cooperation, and perseverance sink in deeply. Many boys say the outdoor program is where they first began to believe in themselves again.

Today, Pegasus stands as more than a treatment center, more than a school, and more than a service project hub. It is a living example of how education, therapy, and community engagement can work together to change lives.

Boys leave Pegasus not only with diplomas, counseling progress, and new skills, but also with something harder to measure, a sense of belonging and purpose. They carry with them the experience of having given back, of having worked side by side with their neighbors, and of discovering their own strength.

In Lockhart, Pegasus has become not just an institution, but a partner, a helper, and a neighbor. And for the boys who pass through its gates, it has become the first chapter in a new story, one of resilience, healing, and hope.



Photo courtesy of Pegasus Schools.