

Marketing and Communications Tour

TLC Garden Centers

Founded in 1980 by Charles and Linda Shackelford, TLC Garden Centers has grown to become one of the most complete independent nursery, greenhouse and landscape retailers in the country. From day one, TLC's mission has always been to offer the highest quality plants and supplies at reasonable prices, knowledgeable experts and a unique shopping adventure. That mission still rings true today and is the driving force behind everything we do. Our flagship store in North Oklahoma City started out as a humble plant shop and greenhouse, but today has grown into a large twenty-acre operation including a nursery, greenhouse and horticulture production operation serving Oklahoma City, Edmond, Norman, Nichols Hills, The Village and the surrounding area. As the company grew, the need for a second location became apparent. In 1991, TLC Garden Centers opened a second store in Northwest Oklahoma City to serve this growing part of the metro area.

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, a member of the Feeding America network of Food Banks, is the largest private domestic hunger-relief charity in the state - providing enough food to feed more than 126,000 hungry Oklahomans every week, 37 percent of which are children. One in four children and one in six adults struggle with hunger, never certain where their next meal will come from or if there will even be a next meal. In fiscal year 2016, the Regional Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food through a network of 1,300 charitable feeding programs and schools throughout 53 central and western Oklahoma counties.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum is America's premier institution of Western history, art, and culture. Founded in 1955, the Museum, located in Oklahoma City, collects, preserves, and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of the American West. More than 10 million visitors from around the world have sought out this unique museum to gain better understanding of the West: a region and a history that permeates our national culture. The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum features a superb collection of classic and contemporary Western art, including works by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, as well as sculptor James Earle Fraser's magnificent work, *The End of the Trail*. The exhibition wing houses a turn-of-the-century town and interactive history galleries that focus on the American cowboy, rodeos, Native American culture, Victorian firearms, frontier military, and Western performers. Outside, beautifully landscaped gardens flank the Children's Cowboy Corral and interactive children's space.

Oklahoma State Capitol

Located on more than 100 acres in NE Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma State Capitol is the only capitol in the world surrounded by working oil wells. One is even named Petunia #1, because it was drilled in the middle of a flower bed. The architecture is Greco-Roman and the structure comprises 650 rooms and 11 acres of floor space with murals, restored stained glass, tribal flag plaza and changing art exhibits. The current site was chosen in 1915 and construction was completed in 1917. Construction of a dome was completed in 2002, a feature that was included

with the original design plans of the building but never completed. The Oklahoma Veterans Memorial is also located on the North side of the capitol complex. Four walls depicting the scenes of WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars are featured, along with a bronze statue of "The Big Guy" who stands eight and a half feet tall on a three-and-a-half-foot pedestal. His bronze face has the features of a Native American and he wears the gear of a Vietnam soldier.

Express Clydesdales

In 1998, Bob Funk, owner of Express Ranches and CEO and Chairman of Express Employment Professionals, visited the longstanding Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan. While visiting, he met and fell in love with the rare and beautiful black and white Clydesdales. Mr. Funk saw an opportunity to bring something entirely new and different to his home state of Oklahoma, a state steeped in its own rich equestrian history. Each year, the Clydesdales star in some of the world's most famous parades like Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Tournament of Roses Parade, The Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade, just to name a few. They've also had the extreme honor and pleasure of chauffeuring the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate, during a visit to Calgary in Alberta, Canada.