

Katherine Youniacutt

Program Director, After Amen NPO | Survivor Advocate | Mental Health Strategist | Humanitarian

Katherine Youniacutt is a nonprofit leader whose life and work are rooted in resilience, cultural pride, and a fierce commitment to social justice. Raised in Wilson, Texas in a family of Mexican descent, Katherine was shaped by the example of her parents, Antonio and Consuelo Villarreal — community advocates who, in the 1970s, recorded interviews for Texas Tech University to fight for Antonio's right to run for the local school board. Their courage and civic engagement laid the foundation for Katherine's lifelong dedication to equity and representation.

A survivor of clergy abuse, Katherine endured a 22-year addiction before reclaiming her life through a spiritual connection with a Higher Power of her own understanding. In recovery, she earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Lubbock Christian University in 2020 and completed her Master of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington in 2022, overcoming a brain disorder diagnosis along the way.

Katherine's professional journey spans both clinical and community-based settings. At Lubbock Oceans Healthcare, she worked in Social Services and served as Director of Intensive Outpatient Services, gaining firsthand experience with individuals and groups navigating complex mental health challenges. Her work emphasized the importance of accurate data, timely documentation, and holistic case management to support lasting recovery.

She also interned with the **Ronnia Langston Foundation Inc. in Plano, Texas**, where she remotely designed programs for students affected by poverty — including youth entrepreneurship, FAFSA and graduation support, and clothing drives — helping them earn community service hours while building confidence and opportunity.

Now serving as Program Director for *After Amen*, Katherine leads with vision and compassion. She oversees Intensive Case Management Services, providing crisis intervention and street-based support to Lubbock's homeless community. Through After Amen's reintegration services, she helps individuals identify obstacles to employment and educates them on the full spectrum of state-supported programs available — empowering them to navigate resources, rebuild stability, and reclaim their futures.

She also developed a Student Intern Program that certifies high school students in Family Centered Case Management (FCCM) through Texas HHSC. These students volunteer at monthly events, working alongside administration to understand and address the needs of families facing homelessness — gaining real-world experience while becoming agents of change in their own communities.

Despite her academic and professional achievements, Katherine faced systemic barriers to licensure due to the consequences of her past addiction. She is currently the lead plaintiff in *Katherine Youniacutt vs. State of Texas*, a case represented by the Institute for Justice that advocates for the rights of Texas social workers seeking to rebuild their lives.

Katherine's story is one of transformation — from trauma to triumph, from silence to advocacy. She brings empathy, strategy, and a deep understanding of marginalized communities to every program

she leads. Her mission is to create spaces where healing is possible, dignity is restored, and second chances are not just allowed — they are protected.