Meridell opened in 1961 in Liberty Hill, Texas. We started as an emotion-al-growth ranch with one residence for 15 teenage boys. Celebrating our 55th anniversary in 2016, Meridell has evolved into a 134-bed co-ed medical model residential treatment center (RTC). In 1961, Liberty Hill was a rural community on the outskirts of Austin. Today, highways make Liberty Hill a northwest suburb of Austin with an easy commute to the city center and international airport.
Meridell Achievement Center, we recognize that purposeful misbehavior is very different than irritable behavior. The toddler who reaches repeatedly for the hot stove tests limits, is in control. We call this behavioral. The toddler who tantrums or “melts down” is out of control. We call this neurobehavioral. For our youth ages 11-17, we find very different underlying causes for these types of behavior. Therefore, the milieu or clinical environments of our behavioral and neurobehavioral programs are very different.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists direct treatment teams comprised of licensed master’s level therapists, nurses, recreational therapists, youth care counselors (direct care staff) and teachers. Treatment teams are supported by a neuropsychologist, psychologist and registered dietitian, and receive consultation by a pediatric neurologist and neuropsychiatrist.

### Neurobehavioral youth

Neurobehavioral youth experience loss of control, impulsivity and aggressive behaviors. They often have prior hospitalizations along with multiple diagnoses and medications. Their behaviors are not otherwise explained by purposeful choices; they are better explained as out of control behaviors or “emotional seizures” previously undiagnosed.

Meridell’s Neurobehavioral programs are not confrontational. We redirect youth toward what they can do rather than giving them direction on what they may not do.

### Behavioral youth

Behavioral youth behave purposefully and manipulatively. They often have prior hospitalizations along with multiple diagnoses and medications (just as neurobehavioral youth). Although their behaviors are purposeful and in control, they have lost control of their lives due to poor decision-making, often times influenced by peers.

Meridell’s Behavioral programs provide positive peer culture, where youth are given opportunity to understand their patterns of thinking and behaving.

### Our Services

#### NEUROBEHAVIORAL
- Boys ages 11-14 - Eagles, 20 beds
- Boys ages 14-17 - Falcons, 24 beds
- Girls ages 11-17 - Jewels, 20 beds

#### BEHAVIORAL
- Boys ages 13-17 - La Casa, 16 beds
- Girls ages 13-17 - Burk House, 16 beds
- Girls ages 13-17 - Ranch House, 16 beds
- Girls ages 13-17 - Hacienda, 22 beds

What we would like to see a youth achieve at Meridell is to learn to control their life. When they get here, their life has gotten out of control. And the more out of control it is, the more control they then turn over to others: to educational institutions; to psychiatric institutions; to legal institutions. Our job here is to have each child become the hero of his or her own destiny and in control of their own life.