Long before housing The Bryan Museum, our building at 1315 21st Street in Galveston served as a refuge to children in need. For almost a century, The Galveston Orphans’ Home served our island community and provided care for orphaned children, as well as those whose parents were not able to support them. In honor of the 6500 children who passed through the Home, as well as the people, organizations, and local businesses that helped to keep it operating, The Bryan Museum is proud to announce the permanent exhibit installation on the ground floor spotlighting their stories. The exhibit includes information taken directly from newspapers, personal accounts of former residents and workers, and records from the former orphanage. These are presented in an engaging timeline of the Home spanning from its founding in 1878 through its permanent closure in 1984.

Featuring interactive displays and video interviews from former residents, this exhibit transcends the factual history of the building by sharing the stories of some of the people who experienced it firsthand.