

HEALING HAPPENS *Here*

WRITTEN BY
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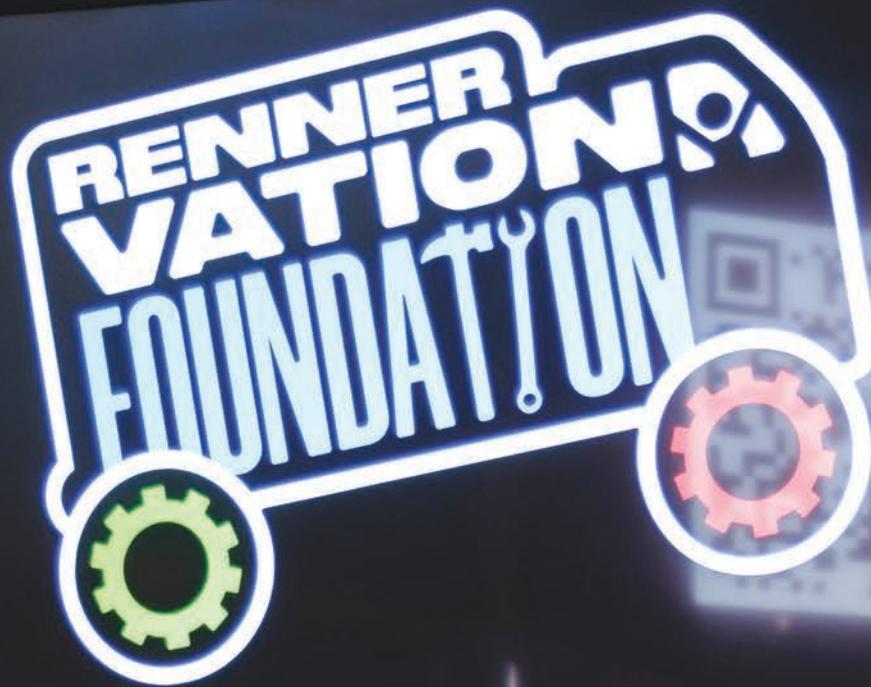
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RENNERVATION

For siblings **Jeremy Renner** and **Kym Renner**, giving back is shaped by family, recovery, and a belief in showing up when—and for who—it matters most.

A few years ago, Academy Award–nominated actor Jeremy Renner was a quiet giver.

He would contact Reno’s mayor, Hillary Schieve, and ask about community needs he could help with, often making donations without any public acknowledgment: He helped the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada acquire a new fire engine and contributed to a youth program in his hometown.

But a freak accident on January 1, 2023, changed his priorities. That day, Jeremy was using his industrial snowplow at his Lake Tahoe home to help pull his nephew’s truck out of deep snow. When the plow began sliding toward his nephew, Jeremy tried to get back into the cab to stop it. He was pulled under the machine and crushed. Forty-five excruciating minutes later, he was rescued by emergency teams. He suffered more than 30 broken bones, a collapsed lung, a burst eye socket, liver damage, and other severe injuries.



But he survived. Months of surgeries, rehabilitation, and sheer will led to his recovery—and a new perspective.

“After going through some of the toughest moments in my own life, my idea of philanthropy changed from something good to something essential,” Jeremy says. “I realized it’s about being part of someone’s moment, being there in a way that actually makes a difference.”

In April 2023, while he was still recovering, Jeremy and his sister, Kym, established RennerVation, a foundation dedicated to providing support and opportunities to children in foster care and at-risk youth in Nevada. Of all the causes the siblings could have focused on, this one felt the most natural.

“My entire career has been centered on youth who are navigating challenges far too early. I’ve seen firsthand how much potential is lost when kids don’t get to be kids,” says Kym, who currently serves as a deputy director with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. “Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) are important and play a major role in childhood development. We created RennerVation to give kids space, resources, and joy—things that every child deserves, but far too many don’t have access to. And yes, I think people are finally recognizing that childhood is not a luxury; it’s a protective factor that shapes long-term outcomes.”

Jeremy agrees, pointing out the massive impact of helping upstream and getting involved early. The ripple effect from those first moments of support can change someone’s entire life—early intervention is where the biggest and most lasting differences are made.

“I’d heard my sister on work calls for years, so I understood the big-picture challenges,” he says. “But once we launched the foundation and got closer to the work, what hit me were the basic needs and the sheer volume and variety of them. Kids will normalize going without, so it doesn’t always show up as an obvious crisis. Then you see a child genuinely grateful for deodorant or a warm pair of socks, and it stops you. You realize how far we still have to go—and how much a single moment of stability or kindness can shift the trajectory for a kid who’s never had either. Seeing that up close has been incredibly humbling.”

Through RennerVation, foster children and

at-risk youth are given empowering, safe opportunities to build confidence and skills to help them thrive despite difficult circumstances.

Its Youth Camp welcomes 100 children ages eight to 13 to the wilderness of Lake Tahoe, where they form friendships, find solace, and make lasting childhood memories. Kids experiencing complex emotions related to their family situations receive attention, affection, and coping strategies. And siblings separated within the foster system are reunited.

In 2025, Jeremy and Kym launched a separate camp for teenagers, which has been met with wide success. They recognized that teens differ from younger children—their social, emotional, and developmental needs are distinct, as is their desire for autonomy and belonging. Kym points out that for adolescents to thrive, they need spaces designed for them, not retrofitted from younger programming.

“Teens tell us they feel seen and respected, and that alone makes it worth every effort,” Kym says. “They love the opportunity, and they also see ways to give back and become leaders for the younger camps through our Counselor-in-Training program. That’s our goal: to help these kids develop the emotional intelligence, empathy, and confidence they’ll need as adults to give back.”

Career development opportunities were integrated into the Teen Camp programming, allowing campers to gain hands-on experience.

“You could see them picturing themselves there, doing the job—really seeing their future,” Jeremy says.

Another initiative the siblings are proud of is the Pave Your Way program. In 2023, Nevada passed Senate Bill 380, a child-welfare law focused



Jeremy Renner with Camp RennerVation participants

on improving support for young people as they age out of foster care. The legislation advances the state's Extended Young Adult Support Services Program, allowing foster youth to continue receiving services and support up to age 21, as they transition into independent adulthood.

In response, RennerVation launched Pave Your Way in 2025, providing foster youth with case management, housing assistance, education, and career support as they transition into adulthood.

"SB380 has opened a door by recognizing that young people exiting foster care still need support and time to transition successfully," Kym explains. "A core part of our Pave Your Way program is helping transition-aged youth navigate the system—completing paperwork, understanding eligibility, and accessing available resources. It's encouraging to see the state expand what's offered, and our role is to ensure these young people can actually tap into those benefits in a meaningful way."

Pave Your Way has quickly become one of the foundation's strongest programs, connecting young people to

career paths, housing, education resources, and mentorship at a critical moment. In just a few months, the program has already expanded to include housing for foster youth who have exited the system.

"We must ensure these young people have the support and housing they need so they can stand on their own two feet and build a life," Kym says. "Right now, we have four apartments, but our waiting list continues to grow—which tells us there are many more young people who need help."

The siblings are quick to credit local partnerships and donors for what RennerVation has been able to accomplish. The Nevada communities impacted by the foundation have helped shape its programs and reinforced that the best solutions are often the simplest—and that consistency and presence matter more than perfection.

"Local partnerships are everything. We cannot do this alone—that's very clear," Jeremy says with a laugh. "We never come in with a blueprint; we come in with open hands. We know we're better together, and we're here to work alongside people to serve these kids the best way we can."

The foundation's annual Christmas on the Comstock event is a prime example of community support in action. Supporters from around the world come together to create a memorable holiday experience for at-risk youth, with a day filled with festive activities and gifts. The third annual event, held in December 2025, celebrated more than 450 at-risk and foster children.

"We want every child and teen who walks in to feel celebrated, valued, and surrounded by community," Jeremy remarks. "A lot of our kids carry heavy stories. For one day, we want to rewrite the script with magic and laughter."

The event also presented the opportunity for a partnership to flourish. With AT&T and Human-I-T, RennerVation helped bridge the digital divide in education by distributing 270 refurbished laptops to foster and at-risk teens in Northern Nevada at Christmas on the Comstock in December. Another 200 laptops were distributed at Clark County's GIVE JOY Holiday Toy and Gift Card Drive. The effort is

part of AT&T’s initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability, and safe adoption.

“Access to technology is no longer optional—young people need reliable computers for schoolwork, research, and postsecondary and job applications,” says Kym. “This kind of support directly impacts their ability to succeed.”

“AT&T is proud to collaborate with the RennerVation Foundation and its mission to support Nevada’s foster youth and to help close the digital divide,” added Omar Saucedo, the director of external affairs Nevada for AT&T.

Overall, RennerVation has been a learning experience for Jeremy. Admitting he’s wired to do everything himself, he says his biggest challenge has been learning to ask for help. Donors have been invaluable to him and Kym, helping build programs that provide children with stability and joy. Through this work, he’s seen just how far support can go—how a single donation can create tangible change in a child’s life trajectory.

“I’m eternally grateful for every person who chooses to stand with us,” he says. “This work is only possible because of them.”

The siblings hope the foundation will continue to grow. Kym envisions expansion into new jurisdictions over the next decade—deepening program infrastructure and building legacy initiatives that will outlive them both.

At its core, RennerVation reflects how Jeremy and Kym work together—with intention, balance, and a shared sense of responsibility.

“We’ve learned that our strengths complement each other in ways neither of us expected,” Jeremy says. “Where one sees strategy, the other sees heart. Where one sees immediate needs, the other sees long-term vision. It’s made the work stronger and more grounded.”

That balance is echoed in Kym’s experience.

“I have never been happier working with my brother and doing great things,” she says. “We’re able to combine his platform with my experience in a way that genuinely strengthens the work. Our roles are distinct but mutually supportive, and our collaboration has become one of the foundation’s real assets.”

Together, they have built RennerVation around practical support, trust, and long-term commitment—creating a foundation rooted not in attention, but in steady partnership and the belief that foster youth deserve both stability now and opportunity for the future. **LM**



TOP: Jeremy Renner and Kym Renner;

BOTTOM: Kym and Jeremy addressing Camp RennerVation staff

To become a sponsor or a donor, please visit rennerivationfoundation.org/sponsorship and rennerivationfoundation.org/donate.