

# [Spotlight]

## Cowgirl Spirit

[ Trish Lynn ]



Ever wondered what a true Texas cowgirl is like? Meet Trish Lynn. As a native of Fort Worth, a country music performer and a dedicated philanthropist, she represents the Lone Star spirit.

Trish grew up with a love for song, dance and prized Texas showmanship. However, she set aside her childhood fascination with horses to dedicate herself to her music. At the age of 18, she completed her first album and charted four singles on the Billboard's Hot Country Singles Charts.

After the stage life, it was time to take a break from her music and show the world she was a true cowgirl at heart. Lynn formed a 14-member equestrian drill team called the Cowgirl Chicks in 1998, when she saw sparks of her own courage and determination in a group of girls who dreamed of becoming cowgirls.

"This business is rough, but I wanted the rodeo industry to see that when they get the Cowgirl Chicks they are getting a real deal — a fighter," Lynn said. The group performs in precision-based, choreographed patriotic presentations on the pro rodeo tour, and the girls have received a number of honors for their style and accuracy.

After their horse farrier's son, Ty, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in the jaw at the early age of 6, Lynn and the girls decided to use their talent to raise money for the family's cause. Lynn recalled, "Ty's case gave us the encouragement we needed to throw out there what we had been working on for a year, and we were also given the opportunity to help a wonderful family in need." Years later, the Cowgirl Chicks are still riding for children diagnosed with cancer.

The group raises approximately \$5,000 a year for various organizations, including Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund, Cook Children's Health Care System, Make a Wish Foundation and others committed to individuals diagnosed with cancer who are in need of medical assistance. Lynn and her girls are "the real deal," and they've got the hearts to prove it. "