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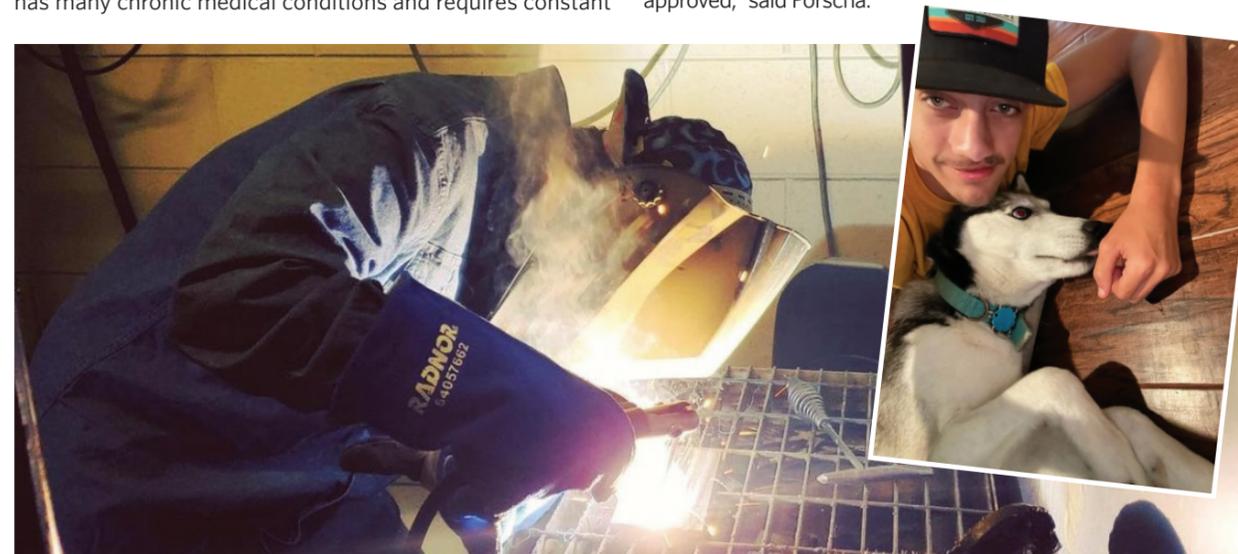
Fall 2022 Newsletter

Meet Kaidyn!

Kaidyn is a senior at Boswell High School. He loves fishing, being outdoors, and his dog Suicune. He recently discovered a passion for welding through the Hollenstein Career and Technology Center in Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD and hopes to pursue it as a career.

Kaidyn is an enormous help to his family. His grandfather has many chronic medical conditions and requires constant

however, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw charged high school students \$200 per summer school class. His counselor told him that Gill Children's Services may help cover the cost of the two classes he wanted to take. "There was absolutely no way that I would have been able to pay the summer school tuition. We applied for assistance and with a lot of prayer, faith, and hope, he was approved," said Porscha.



care. His mother, Porscha, is a single parent. Although trained as a Social Worker, Porscha could not continue her career while raising her children and taking care of her father. She had to make a career change and enrolled in a teacher alternative certification program, and while in the program, her income is very limited. Kaidyn helps provide for his family by working at The Pizza Bistro, a locally-owned business close to his home. He enjoys his job, and the owners are like family to him.

"There was absolutely no way that I would have been able to pay the summer school tuition."

Because of you, Kaidyn enrolled in two courses last summer at no cost to his family. Not only did he complete the courses early, but he received a 91% in Government and an 85% in Economics. "Taking these courses during the summer allowed him to continue working on his welding skills and help our family out more financially."

Kaidyn is also an excellent student. He mastered his STAAR assessment and was exempt from taking all of his final exams last year. He hoped to gain class credits over the summer to allow more time to work and support his family in the fall semester,

Kaidyn is looking forward to his senior year at Boswell High School. "Kaidyn and his best friends have been side-by-side since the second grade," Porscha said, "and they are excited about all the memories to be made at football games, prom, and graduation." ●

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Our Mission

Gill Children's Services is a funding source of last resort that provides a safety net for Tarrant County Children whose medical, dental, physical, social, psychological and educational needs have not been met by other community resources.



Gill Installs New Officers!



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Gill Children's Services



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Gill Children's Services

A message from our Board President...



Cliff Condrey

It is my honor to greet you as the President of Gill Children's Services. I owe a great deal of thanks to those who have preceded me. I especially thank Mr. Tod Miller for his service these past four years. He led Gill Children's Services through the pandemic with great care for the children we serve. It is thanks to past presidents like Mr. Miller that we have served Tarrant County children for 43 years. I can say on behalf of all Presidents, past and current, that the vast majority of the work required for our organization to help support the children and families of Tarrant County is carried out on a daily basis by our wonderful staff led by our incredible Executive Director, Peyton Salavarría Lehrer. Without them, our entire board would struggle to fulfill its mandated because of them we are able to make a difference in our community.

As we look to the future, my hope is that Gill Children's Services will continue to provide a safety net for our local children, one child at a time. With your help, we can deepen our impact in Tarrant County and identify more children with unmet needs. I want all of our readers and supporters to know that little things do make a big difference. The provision of each service is meaningful, impactful and life-improving. Please keep this in mind, those we serve feel the impacts of the current inflationary environment the most. Thank you, our friends and supporters, for ensuring no child goes without. ●

State of Gill

We have anticipated the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic since the spring of 2020. With the squeeze of inflation compounding post-pandemic financial hardship, families have been applying for assistance in record numbers. Certain areas of need have been particularly exacerbated in recent months. Gill has received an increase in applications for assistance with the cost of dental treatment, emergency childcare, and psychological evaluations.

When dental offices closed during the pandemic, children with tooth decay went unidentified and untreated. When a child finally visits a dentist, we are finding that the child needs more extensive treatment. Dentists have been overwhelmed with need, often not able to schedule urgent treatment for weeks. Emergency room closures in the fall of 2021 made matters worse. For children who are uninsured, underinsured, and cannot afford the cost of their dental treatment, Gill Children's Services is their safety net. The average cost of dental treatment increased by 14%, and overall Gill allocated 40% more funding for dental treatment last year.

Prior to the pandemic, there was a persistent gap in affordable childcare in Tarrant County. The waiting list for programs like Head Start were months long. Since the pandemic the issue has worsened. A struggling childcare industry has been forced to raise their weekly rates, putting more pressure on working parents. Parents who have secured a new job often cannot afford the first few weeks of childcare before they receive their first paycheck. Gill Children's Services can fill this gap, providing emergency childcare funding when no other agency can. Gill allocated 81% more funding

for childcare since last year.

Gill Children's Services began receiving an increased number of applications for psychological evaluations when schools closed in the spring of 2020. Parents had the opportunity to observe their children's challenging behaviors as they worked and learned from home. Without an evaluation and a diagnosis, parents are unable to seek appropriate treatment for their child, including classroom modifications, medications, therapy, and more. Even with insurance, all necessary units of testing may not be completely covered. Gill can address the uncovered cost of testing for children experiencing behavioral challenges. Allocated funding for psychological evaluations increased by 31% since last year.

Overall, Gill Children's Services assisted 1,540 children who had nowhere else to go, funding 2,511 emergency services at a leveraged cost of \$710,136. Thanks to the generosity of our service providers, Gill received an average service discount of 50%, saving over \$1,040,000 of critical funds.

Even with our leveraged discounts, we anticipate the rate of service to increase next year. We look to you, our generous community, to help close this gap. Please consider investing in children with unmet needs. Because of you, they will have a safety net. ●



Peyton S. Lehrer,
Executive Director

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1,540
children served

2,511
cases approved

\$710,136
allocated

109%
increase in need since 2017