



Meet Josiah and Nayimah!

Big brother Josiah loves Hot Wheels cars and is already an avid collector. You can often find him watching videos of car races. Little sister Nayimah loves dolls and anything princess. Her favorite shows are Doc McStuffins and Peppa Pig.

Josiah and Nayimah, like many local children, have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their parents, Nicholas and Melanie, have struggled to make ends meet. Both parents' hours were steeply cut when businesses began closing. Not only did this reduce their household income, but it also affected their eligibility for

other assistance programs. The parents were no longer working enough hours to receive the Child Care Management Systems (CCMS) assistance they had relied upon. Melanie says, "We were having a hard time keeping up with all of our bills. We honestly did not know what to do." Nicholas and Melanie were at risk of losing their jobs altogether if they could not find childcare.

Melanie shared her concerns with her childcare facility, which referred her to Gill Children's Services for help. Because of supporters like you, Josiah and Nayimah received four weeks of childcare. Melanie says, "I am so incredibly grateful for being able to keep my childcare for longer. That



have absolutely thrived in childcare!" Melanie says. "In just the few months of being there, my daughter is speaking more clearly and is potty trained. She is getting smarter every single day, and



"I am so incredibly grateful for being able to keep my childcare for longer."

definitely gave me some time to try to arrange other things and get in a better financial spot."

In a season of uncertainty and abrupt change, keeping the family's childcare facility the same eased their worries. "My children

she and my son enjoy being with their friends and doing lots of activities."

Thank you for serving Josiah and Nayimah when no one else could. Now more than ever, your generosity has a deep impact on the children most impacted by the pandemic.

Do you know children impacted by COVID-19?

Remember, Gill Children's Services can be a resource for children who you know who have been affected by the virus! From medications to eyeglasses, we can help pay for unmet needs. If you identify a child in need, ask yourself these questions:

1. Is the child 0-18 years old?
2. Does the child live in Tarrant County?
3. Does the child not qualify for any other assistance?

If you answer **YES** to all three questions, you may refer them to Gill Children's Services. Our application is available to download at www.gillchildrens.org/apply.

A word from the Executive Director



*Peyton Salavarría Lehrer,
Executive Director*

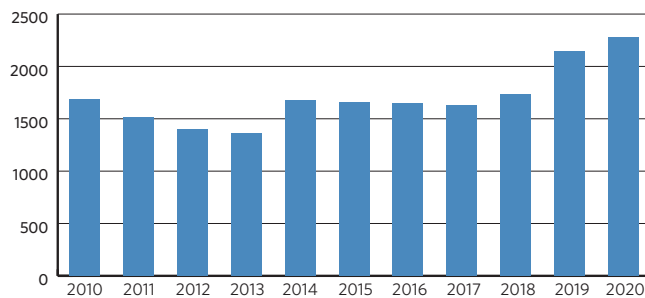
2020 marks Gill's 41st year of providing a safety net to Tarrant County children, even amid the pandemic. Because of you, 1,306 children's needs were fulfilled this year. We allocated \$439,346 for critical services such as dental surgeries, eyeglasses, orthodontic treatment, medication, summer school tuition, and more.

When schools and businesses began closing and families sheltered in place, inquiries for our program declined. For months we experienced what we now know as "the calm before the storm." With Fall upon us and families resuming work and school, applications for financial assistance have increased.

Many applicants are seeking help to pay for childcare as they are continuing work. Childcare subsidies for essential workers have expired and waitlists for programs such as CCMS are months long. Other parents are seeking assistance with psychological testing for their child. When children have been studying from home, parents are realizing and identifying the magnitude of their behavioral challenges. Requests for birth certificates to enroll in school have also increased.

We expect the enormity of the pandemic's impact will be realized in the coming 18 months. With your help, we can offer a safety net to children who have nowhere else to go.

Services Approved



Welcome Jessica!



Jessica Lewis is the newest member of Gill's Board of Directors.

Jessica works in marketing communications for Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains. She earned a bachelor's degree in communication from UT Arlington with a focus on journalism and is an active member of the Junior League of Fort Worth and Women of Email.

Ms. Lewis joins the board after a year serving as a board shadow through the LeadingEdge program of Leadership Fort Worth.

Shopping Online More?

Make it count! When you use **AmazonSmile** to shop your favorite products on Amazon, a percentage of your purchase is donated to Gill Children's Services. You can shop on your browser and even your Amazon app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on **AmazonSmile** and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'.
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.



Wish List

Can you help our children with urgent needs? Here are items that we could use. Items can be delivered to the office or arranged to be picked up.

Size 3-6 diapers



Children's books



Baby wipes



Can You Volunteer?

Gill Children's Services is now a proud partner organization to the newly established Junior League of Fort Worth Diaper Bank at Tarrant Area Food Bank. Gill will distribute diapers collected by the Junior League to children in Tarrant County. Gill collect pallets of diapers from the JLFW Diaper Bank monthly. We could use your help! We need a truck that could assist with transporting diapers to the Gill office during the third week of every month. Sign up to be a volunteer by calling **817-332-5070**.



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Sign up Online at www.gillchildrens.org to receive our newsletter by e-mail!

A message from our Board President...



Tod Miller

The last several months have been difficult for everyone. I am sure you have experienced changing responsibilities and duties. Projects may have slowed or even completely stopped, while others seem to be moving even faster. The same is true with Gill. Early in 2020 we recognized the need to revisit our mission's strategic plan. With the help of The Amon Carter Foundation's generous partnership, we have been hard at work identifying, reviewing, and evaluating needs, priorities, and strategies.

As part of our strategic plan, we want to understand Gill Children's Services' value in Tarrant County. What makes Gill unique? We have spoken to key partners about their perceptions of Gill, our role in our community, and our ability to collaborate and leverage services. Their observations and responses have helped

us shape our strategic plan, often in unexpected ways. I held many preconceived notions about Gill's value. In preparing for these discussions, I was ready to tout our increased numbers served, new referral partners, and success in leveraging resources.

Our partners' comments offered me a new perspective. They are committed to Gill precisely because we help one child at a time. Frankly, my eyes were opened. How often do I lose sight of what is most important? How often do I assume what others value most? Our world places too much emphasis on numbers and scalability.

While we served 1,306 children last year, it is important for me - and for all of us - to remember that each of those children is unique. Each child is experiencing distinct and individual needs. When our case managers build a relationship with a family and discover their unique hardships, we can meet every child where they are. Because no child is the same as any other, no solution can be the same.

In this season of uncertainty, an individualized approach to care is more important than ever. Thank you for offering a safety net to one child at a time.





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Text the word "Gill"
to **50155** to donate.



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.

Alice Celebrates 20 Years

This year marks two decades that Alice Espinoza has served our mission. Serving as our Dental Case Manager, she helps children find the oral health resources they need to be healthy and happy.

Alice joined the Gill team in 2000 after having worked at a dental office for several years. Her knowledge of dentistry quickly translated to her new role, allowing her to work with patients and dentists with care and competency. Alice has also held leadership roles in the Children's Oral Health Coalition led by Cook Children's Medical Center.

Those who know Alice know her as a true friend. She always has a willing ear to listen and a hand to help. She is an absolute gem! We thank her for her dedication and passion for the mission.



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