



children's services



Fall 2024 Newsletter

## Access to childcare offers stability.

**Fahima is 19 months old!** She is growing strong learning her numbers and letters. Lately she enjoys stacking her toys nice and high. Fahima lives with her mother, Fatimatu, in Fort Worth. Recently they have been struggling. Fatimatu shared, "as an asylum-seeker and single teen mother, life was really hard." Fatimatu arrived in the United States in November 2022 when she was 17 and pregnant with Fahima. Coming to the United States was scary. She shared, "I had given up on life. I was placed in an immigration shelter where it felt like prison." Upon turning 18, Fatimatu was released from the shelter with her newborn.

They have been working with Dash Network, a nonprofit that supports asylum-seeking families in the DFW area. They helped Fatimatu secure her work permit and provided assistance with housing. However, there was a strict timeline: once Fatimatu received her work permit, she had just five months to find employment, and her housing support was temporary. After two months of searching, she landed a job, but she lacked the funds to enroll Fahima in daycare. With her start date approaching and no financial means for childcare, she struggled despite applying for government aid and CCMS.



**"If I had not received this help, I wouldn't have been able to work and that could have led me to be homeless with a toddler."**

Fatimatu's case manager at Dash Network told her about Gill Children's Services. Thanks to donors like you, Fahima was able to attend a safe childcare facility for four weeks while Fatimatu began her job. She said, "If I had not received this help, I wouldn't have been able to work and that could have led me to be homeless with a toddler." Their family is now doing well. "My child is happy, she feels safe and she loves it at the daycare," Fatimatu noted. "She gets to experience being at a different environment and she gets to learn."

Fatimatu wants you to know the impact you've made. "This immense blessing will make our lives better. God continue to bless your good heart. Thank you for making me smile, thank you for giving us hope." ●

*Giving Fahima and Fatimatu a chance at a full life cost \$720. There are hundreds of families like them who need emergency aid. Can you give the gift of a safety net to a Tarrant County child?*

**Make a donation to help children like Fahima.**



# State of Gill

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of serving as the Executive Director of Gill Children's Services over the past decade. With the unwavering support of our board, staff, and donors, I have had the honor of leading a mission that is profoundly meaningful to me. Reflecting on these 10 years, I recognize how deeply I have been transformed, as has our mission at Gill.

Amidst population growth, the erosion of Medicaid protections, and inflationary pressures, we are witnessing a troubling rise in the number of children falling through the cracks—something we have not seen in our 45 years of service. The demand for medical services, emergency childcare, and special therapy has surged dramatically. Last year, for the first time in Gill's history, we served over 2,000 children.

Your donation will be tripled!

Because of our negotiated discounts with providers, every \$1 donated last year had a \$3.18 value.

Unfortunately, the increase in requests for help is surpassing the support we receive from our donors. This year, we faced a \$380,000 shortfall between our donations and the cost of running our programs. The primary driver of this gap is the escalating demand for our services. Over the past decade, while our administrative expenses have grown by a modest 15% — compared to a 30% inflation rate — our direct program expenses have skyrocketed by 124%. Despite these significant challenges, we remain hopeful that with your continued partnership, we can meet them head-on. ●



Peyton S. Lehrer, Executive Director

## A message from our Board President...

I am deeply honored to assume the role of Board President for Gill Children's Services. First, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Cliff Condrey for his outstanding leadership and dedication, which have been crucial in guiding us to this point. As we enter this new chapter, we face significant challenges, but also tremendous opportunities to expand our impact and enhance our services.



Gandtt Bumstead, President 2024-2026

My commitment is to build on the strong foundation that has been laid and to lead with a focus on collaboration, transparency, and progress. We will strive to address the pressing needs of our community and ensure that our resources are used effectively. I am excited to work closely with each of you—our board members, staff, volunteers, and supporters—to advance our mission and explore new avenues for growth.

Your insights and expertise are invaluable, and together, I am confident that we can overcome obstacles and achieve our shared goals. Thank you for your trust and support as we embark on this important journey.

Let's work together to make a meaningful difference.

## A Bid Farewell...

Alex Estrada Grady has been our dedicated Case Manager for the past seven years, demonstrating exceptional empathy, passion, and determination in her role. We are thrilled to congratulate her on recently earning her master's in social work from Tarleton State University after two years of hard work. Alex is now transitioning to a new position at Imagine Pediatrics, where she will apply the skills and knowledge she gained at Gill and through her studies to support families in her new role. She will be greatly missed.



Thane Arther has been an invaluable part of our team as our bookkeeper for the past six years. Throughout his tenure, Thane has contributed greatly to our mission with his dedication and unwavering commitment. As he embarks on a new full-time position at First United Methodist Church, we are both excited for him and saddened to see him go.



Alex's and Thane's departures mark the end of a significant chapter for us, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for their exceptional service and contributions. We wish them all the best in their new adventures and bid them a bittersweet farewell, knowing that their presence and impact will be deeply missed.

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 Ms. Shannon Ray

## In memory of:

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*1923-2016*



### 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 Welcomes Three New Board Members

### Tyler Crumley

has been involved in Fort Worth since moving in 2008. She helped launch Fort Worth



Country Day's Junior Kindergarten program as well as Lightening Bugs Learning - a micro school serving young learners integrating literacy and the arts.

### Susan Rutledge

**Mitchell** was born and raised in Fort Worth and has deep roots here.



Susan is a CPA by training and has worked primarily in financial services over the last 35 years. Susan currently serves on the Trinity Valley Alumni Board.

### Blair Walker

is a native of Fort Worth and proud member of the community.



After living in Washington DC and Charlotte, NC for a time, she is glad to be back and serving the community. She directs communication for a financial advisory firm.