



Jessica, age 18

Gill Prepares for Largest Case

"I always knew, as a mom, that something was wrong," said Norma. She had noticed that her 12-year-old daughter, Jessica, could not bite down properly. Jessica was in pain and having trouble eating, so Norma took her to the JPS Dental Clinic. Knowing that Jessica would need extensive orthodontic treatment, the JPS dentist referred Jessica to Gill Children's Services. When the Ortega family arrived at Gill, they began a long journey to improve Jessica's oral health. It would take six years, two dentists, two orthodontists, two oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and three nonprofit organizations to pull off.

When Gill's Dental Case Manager, Alice Espinoza, encountered Jessica's case, she knew the perfect orthodontist for the job. Dr. John Kelley has been a trusted partner of Gill for many years. "I first met Jessica in June 2011," says Dr. Kelley. "I knew from the initial appointment that we could help make a transformational change in Jessica's life." Dr. Kelley quickly formulated a treatment plan that would combine orthodontics in conjunction with orthognathic surgery, or corrective jaw surgery. First, Dr. Kelley fitted Jessica in braces to prepare for upcoming treatment. Dr. Kelley graciously discounted his services for Gill, and we were able to provide braces for Jessica.

In 2013, Dr. Kelley suggested Dr. Gregory Scheideman to carry out the second part of his plan; Jessica needed three molars extracted before proceeding. Dr. Scheideman also reduced his rate, allowing Gill to provide the procedure for the Ortega family.

The final part of Jessica's journey will be the most difficult. After years of preparation, she will undergo corrective jaw surgery in the summer of 2016 after she graduates. Not only

is Jessica's case the first of its kind at Gill, but it also is the largest.

Alice has worked tirelessly with local doctors, facilities, and charities to reduce costs for the procedure. Dr. John Stella will perform surgery at a significantly reduced rate. Baylor Surgical Center has also offered a discount. Additionally, Gill partnered with Masonic Home and School of Texas and PMR Charity, who will be contributing towards Jessica's surgery. Without their generosity, Jessica's procedure would have cost the Ortega family \$43,000. Norma

shared, "If Gill could not help, we could not do this for Jessica." While an amazing network has surrounded Jessica, the remaining balance of the procedure will cost Gill at least \$13,500.00.

In high school, Jessica served in a student teaching program, competed on the wrestling team, and was a dedicated volunteer. She will recover just in time to begin a teaching degree at UT Tyler this fall. On behalf of the Ortega family, we thank the doctors and organizations who are helping make Jessica's dream a reality!



Jessica, age 12



Before Dr. Kelley's treatment

We need your help now more than ever. Dental requests like Jessica's are Gill's most demanded and most costly services. You can support us by texting "Gill" to 50155.



State of Gill

By Peyton Salavarría, Executive Director

Gill Children's Services operates like the fire department.

We respond quickly, extinguish the flames, and move on to the next emergency. While our services are critical, a crisis cannot be managed by emergency responders alone. Who makes the 911 call? Who rebuilds? Collaboration is key when walking a family through a tragedy, and we are grateful to count on Tarrant County's finest organizations to get the job done.

We rely on our partnerships with local nonprofits, community groups, and government programs to identify the children who need saving. In fact, 73% of our cases this year were referred by a partner agency. 583 children received transformational help this year simply because a school nurse, case manager, or social worker was paying attention and acted. Without these partner agencies, the needs of hundreds of children would be unknown and unaddressed.

Once we get the 911 call, our team goes to work. Gill's case managers walk families through our application process, learning about their children's individual needs. Our two case managers collect information from the referring agency, the family, and the service provider to process over 90 applications a month, on average. Once an application is approved, we hand the case over to a service provider.

Gill has created a network of over 500 service providers, including dental practices, hospitals, nonprofit programs, etc. to serve each child's unique need. Many of these providers give Gill a reduced or pro bono rate.

Tarrant County has a special

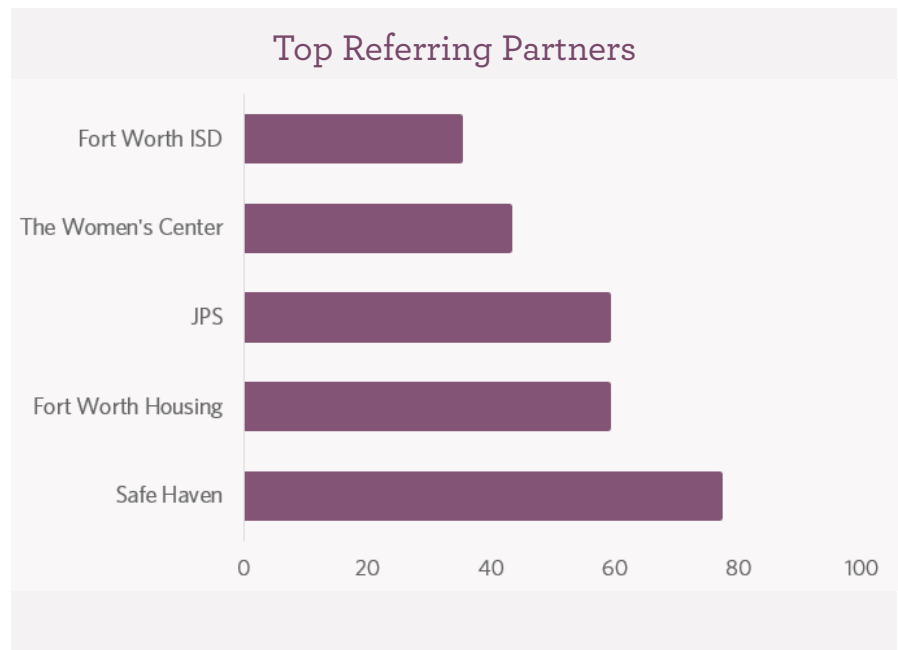
network of nonprofits that are willing to collaborate for the betterment of the community. We see this collaboration at work every day at Gill Children's Services. The impact of these partnerships is reflected in Gill's outcomes.

So far this year, we have allocated \$201,385 in critical goods and services to 961 children. We have provided 10 times more Applied Behavior

Analysis, "ABA" Therapy than last year, thanks to our partnership with the Child Study Center. We have also served more children in need of hearing aids thanks to referrals from Early Childhood Intervention Services.

I am proud of Gill's work with families in crisis, but we certainly do not act alone. Thank you to all who support us as we fight fires across Tarrant County!

“Tarrant County has a special network of nonprofits that are willing to collaborate for the betterment of the community.”



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.

A message from our Board President...

Charles Dickens said that **no one is useless** in this world who lightens the burdens of others. At Gill Children's Services that is precisely what we strive to do everyday. Through the generosity of dozens of donors, an active board of directors, and a relentless office staff we seek to serve children in need and lighten the burden for them and for their families.



Megan Boschini

In many past Gill newsletters we have featured a number of stories of children that have been helped at Gill. While the stories we presented are often told in two or three paragraphs, the real stories have involved months, or maybe years, of pain and hardship for children and their families. Much like the story told in this newsletter, many kids go through challenging obstacles to get the assistance they need.

It has been my privilege over the last two years to preside as chair of the Gill board. Over the past two years, I have received much more than I have given. I have been awestruck by the generosity of foundations, businesses, and individuals who have given of their treasure to help the children of Tarrant County. I have come to appreciate the time, talent, and financial contributions given to Gill by our board. For a small non-profit, a working, active board is essential to the health of the organization. We rely heavily on board involvement for legal issues, healthcare concerns, and financial stability, to name a few. The office staff is second to none. Our Executive Director, Peyton Salavarría, provides strong leadership for Gill with the assistance of Maria Ramirez, Alice Espinoza, and Michelle Martinez. With over forty years of combined experience, they are at the front line of the services we provide.

“Over the past two years, I have received much more than I have given.”

I would like to say thank you to all of you very useful people who “lighten the burden” of Gill clients. We could not serve the children of Tarrant County without you. Through our collective action we have worked and will continue to work to better the lives of children in need.

The Nonprofit Finance Fund's annual State of the Sector Survey confirmed what we know to be true: a shocking number of individuals go unserved in communities across the U.S. 76% of nonprofits that participated in the survey reported that they were unable to meet the increased demand for services. Of those, 71% reported that clients' needs go unmet when they cannot provide services. Jennifer Chandler with the National Council of Nonprofits stated, "...historically nonprofits have been reluctant to turn people away or cut services, but the NFF data reported in 2015 illustrate that indeed the majority of nonprofits experiencing an increase in demand for their services simply did not have the capacity in 2014 required to serve all potential clients."

Our Founders identified this problem 37 years ago and dedicated themselves to creating a local solution. Gill Children's Services continues to be a resource to Tarrant County children when other agencies are unable to help. When programs are defunded, at capacity, or tapped out, Gill can fill the resource gaps. Thank you for allowing us to be the solution!

Match your Gift with Birdies for Charity

Gill Children's Services is again teaming up with the PGA Tour and the Dean & DeLuca Invitational at Colonial for a very unique and fun fundraising opportunity called *Birdies for Charity*. The idea is easy: individuals and businesses pledge a certain monetary amount for every birdie made at the tournament, which will be held May 23-29. After all the

scores are tallied, Colonial Club Charities will contribute an additional 10-15% to the total amount of the pledges collected.

This program has been a significant benefit to Gill throughout the years and the children we serve. Thank you, *Birdies for Charity!*

A Special Thanks to Design Inspirations

The 23rd year for *Design Inspirations*, a joint fundraiser of the Fort Worth Kappa Kappa Gamma and Pi Beta Phi alumnae groups, raised \$36,500 for Gill Children's Services. It also benefited Child Study Center. Guests viewed the tables at the Preview Party on Wednesday, March 2nd and enjoyed a presentation from guest speaker Markham Roberts at the luncheon on Thursday, March 3rd.

Markham Roberts is an accomplished interior designer whose sought after firm is based out of New York. His work has been featured in top publications such as *Architectural Digest*, *Domino*, *Elle Decor*, *House Beautiful*, *House & Garden*, *Southern Accents*, *Town & Country*, and *The New York Times*. He is known for his inventive combination of layered pattern and color as well as its bold juxtaposition of fine furniture and works of art. He regaled the guests with successful projects and projects gone wrong. He shared that "too much perfection can be off-putting" and a space should be inviting.

Gill Children's Services has benefited from Design Inspirations for many years. The hard work of the Committee has made an everlasting impact on the children we serve.

A special thank you to Christy Hill and her team at CHI Interior Design for designing Gill Children's Services' "Safety Net" table at this year's event.



Kappa Kappa Gamma & Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Present
Design Inspirations

How it Works:

If the pros make 1,500 birdies (a score of 1-under par on a hole) and your pledge is a penny, your total pledge amount is \$15.00. Of course, you can pledge more if you like, or make a flat contribution. All contributions and donations will go directly to last resort needs for Tarrant County children.

Previous Crowne Plaza Invitational Birdie Totals:



2015.....	1,290
2014	1,218
2013	1,381
2012.....	1,143
2011.....	1,200

Donations received by May 20 can be matched. For flat donations, please make check to Gill and memo: "Birdies for Charity."

Play A Round Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars! The second annual Play A Round Golf Tournament will be hosted on Friday, May 13th at Southern Oaks Golf Course in Burleson. The tournament is presented by Fat Daddy's Sports & Spirits Cafe and House of Hotrods & Classics. Last year our sponsors raised \$60,000 for Gill Children's Services!

Register a team of four for \$600 or sign up individually for \$125. Sponsorships are still available, so check out www.fatdaddyslive.com/playaround for more details.



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Give from your phone!
Text "Gill" to 50155

Do you work with kids?



Are you a case manager, school counselor, or social worker who works with children? Remember, Gill Children's Services can be a resource for you and your kids! 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.