

## State of Gill

By Peyton Salavarria, Executive Director



Tarrant County experienced the sixth-largest population increase in the United States last year. As this rapid growth continues, the resources available to local families will shift. Our job at Gill Children's Services is to identify new gaps in services and respond.

In partnership with local nonprofit organizations, Gill Children's Services has identified service areas where local children are falling through the cracks. Access to

transportation, mental health services, and timely educational testing continue to be issues for local families. In the coming year, our staff and Board of Directors will consider how Gill Children's Services may address these gaps while honoring our mission.

It is our privilege and duty to respond to the needs of our changing community. If you would like to be part of the conversation, please contact the office.

“Our job at Gill Children's Services is to identify new gaps in services and respond.”

### Match your Gift with Birdies for Charity

It's that time of year again! Gill Children's Services is honored to rejoin the Dean & Deluca Invitational for their annual Birdies for Charity campaign.

Colonial Club Charities will match the first \$20,000 raised by 15%. All you have to do is send in your pledge before May 15th.

**Here's how it works.** Choose an amount to pledge for every birdie the pros make during the competitive rounds of the Dean & Deluca Invitational. If you pledge a penny and the pros make 1,500 birdies, your total donation will be \$15.00. You may simply make a flat donation as well.

**Donations received by May 19 can be matched by Birdies for Charity.**

Make your check payable to Gill Children's Services. Checks may be sent directly to the Gill office.



### A message from our Board President



Marilyn Berry

Change is inevitable. The warm spring follows a cold winter (except this winter!). Life continues after the death of a loved one. Children grow into responsible young adults. One thing we can all count on is continued change in our lives.

I have been a part of Gill for almost 10 years. What a joy it has been to work with the amazing staff and board members over the years. I have learned from the best: Martine and Ginny. Dealing with the change

and the impact on Gill Children's Services in their absence has been challenging and rewarding. They planted the seeds, and now the roots have taken hold. A strong team has been built to continue their mission.

The change we make in children's lives is something to behold. We help one child at a time, initiating positive changes in their lives. Be it a mouth full of bad teeth (from bottle mouth) or the need for a birth certificate so a child may enroll in school, we are here to help those who cannot manage on their own. A slight hand up to lead them on the road to success.

Gill partners with health care providers and parents to bring positive change in children's lives. Health care providers grant us special rates, allowing Gill to perform more transformational work. By having parents participate financially, no matter how small their contribution, they are more apt to take an active role in the change happening in their child's life.

Witnessing the impact Gill has on a child's life is so very rewarding. Thank you to our donors for your continued support, allowing positive change to take place in our community.



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Spring 2017 Newsletter

## Meet Letycia!



Letycia, age 8

with at least three months remaining on its expiration date. However, her family's insurance benefits would not take effect for another three weeks. Without benefits, her EpiPen would cost over \$700. "With the cost of clothes and school supplies for Letycia and her two siblings, we could not get together enough funds on short notice," said her mother, Bethany.

While at the pharmacy, Bethany voiced her concerns to the Walgreens staff. They recommended she seek out Gill Children's Services for assistance. "Gill's staff was very compassionate," Bethany said. "They were happy to help and were very prompt." Gill provided payment for Letycia's EpiPen the same

day, allowing her to enroll in school with her classmates. Letycia was eager for her first day of third grade. She was excited to meet her new teacher, her new classmates, and begin a new year. However, Letycia couldn't enroll in school.

Letycia suffers from multiple anaphylactic allergies. She must carry an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen) with her at all times to avoid a life-threatening reaction.

Her EpiPen was due to expire four days after the start of school. In order to start school on time, Letycia would need a pen

day, allowing her to enroll in school with her classmates.

Letycia is now eight years old and in the fourth grade. Bethany says, "She made the most of her third-grade year. She was able to join cheerleading, participate in an after-school program, and win both the school art and science fairs. Letycia is now working on her new science fair project: testing plants' response to liquids other than water.

"My prayers were answered when she received help from Gill Children's Services for her EpiPen," Bethany explains, "because any interaction with one of her many anaphylactic allergies could cause death and an unbearable loss for our family."

"My prayers were answered when she received help from Gill Children's Services."

## Diapers Needed

At Gill Children's Services, one of the resources we regularly supply to Tarrant County families is disposable diapers. Last year Gill provided 223 packs of diapers and wipes for local infants, a value of \$3,407. Parents can pick up diapers once every three months until their child reaches age four. Gill carries size newborn through pull-ups (1-6).

Gill is in need of disposable diapers, especially sizes 3 and 4. Donations can be dropped off at the Gill Children's Services office at the corner of Hemphill Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Call (817) 332-5070 for information.

### Diaper Stats

- 1 in 3 mothers have had to choose between diapers and basic needs like food.
- Moms struggling with diaper need are likely to keep their babies out of day care, which requires a full day's supply of diapers.
- 2% of mothers have had to reuse soiled diapers.



Statistics gathered from the 2010 Huggies® "Every Little Bottom" Study

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 The Richard K. and Lois B. Craig Family Fund  
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 The Ryan Foundation  
 The T.J. Brown & C.A. Lupton Foundation, Inc

## Special Thanks

Gill Children's Services is honored to receive support from many community events, awareness campaigns, and local groups. We would like to thank those who have contributed to Gill's mission in unique and special ways!

### Design Inspirations



The 24th annual Design Inspirations fundraiser, benefiting Gill Children's Services and Child Study Center, was held March 1-2. Guests experienced elaborately designed tablescapes and heard from keynote speaker, Jane Scott Hodges of Leontine Linens. Gill Children's Services' table was designed by Christy Hill of CHI Designs. Special thanks to CHI Designs, the Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association, and the dedicated Committee Chairmen.

### Art in the Square



Gill Children's Services has been chosen as a beneficiary of the 18th annual Art in the Square. The festival will be held April 28-30, 2017 and is hosted by the Southlake Women's Club.

### Nature of Giving



The Fall 2016 Nature of Giving class at TCU's John V. Roach Honors College provided \$10,000 to Gill. The students deliberated for an entire semester to choose local beneficiaries.

### Greatest Gift



The Greatest Gift Catalog Ever helped Gill and other charities raise funds during the holiday season.

## 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.

“ Thank you for the gifts. They were wonderful. I always wanted one of those dolls. That was the best part. ”  
 -Samantha, age 10



The Corvette Club of Texas selected four Gill families to receive extra cheer during the holidays. Club members specially shopped for each child using a wish list written by the families. The Corvette Club has supported Gill in this way for over a decade. In addition to the club's lovely gifts, Speedway Children's Charities also donated bicycles for the kids. Thank you to these groups for making the holiday season brighter for deserving families!

## Your Gift at Work

**Our year is off to a great start!** Since the beginning of Gill's fiscal year, we have provided 908 services for local children. This represents a 10% increase over last year, and we expect to see continued growth. In addition to Gill's routine services (such as diapers, medications, birth certificates, etc.), we have also funded unique last resort needs including a seat belt buckle guard, bed bug treatment, car seats, and more.

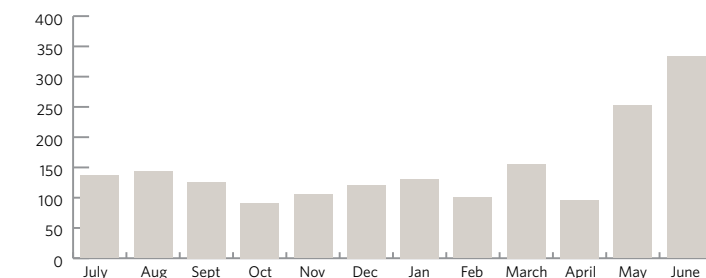
Gill experiences changes in local needs each year. Some of this year's trends include:

- 325% increase in emergency day care cases
- 50% increase in orthodontic cases
- 24% increase in birth certificate cases
- 50% decrease in special therapy cases

Gill has approved \$189,605 in services this year, which is an 11% increase. A child's need can range from a \$23 birth certificate to \$1,500 towards a dental surgery. However, the average cost per service is \$209. To manage expenses, Gill partners with over 500 service providers at a reduced rate.

As the needs in our community grow and transition, Gill Children's Services looks forward to providing innovative and efficient solutions. Your support allows us to be the safety net for Tarrant County families.

### Applications Received by Month: FY 2016



### Cost per Service by Category: FY 2016

