

State of Gill

By Peyton Salavarria, Executive Director



While Tarrant County has experienced tremendous growth and change since Gill Children's Services' founding 39 years ago, our children's needs have remained constant. Children still fall through the cracks, even with our robust and collaborative resource network. As assistance programs are funded and defunded, Gill has consistently provided a safety net for children in an everchanging community.

In the early 2000s, requests for financial assistance for prescription medications were nearly quadruple what we receive today. With more access to online discount programs, diagnosis-related assistance programs, and insurance coverage, the need to cover costly medications has decreased. Gill funding that once covered

medication expenses are now used for new and emerging gaps in local resources. Over the past decade, there has been a persistent gap in funding for extensive dental treatment. There are many local clinics that provide routine dental treatment for families. Organizations like Catholic Charities, Dental Health Arlington, and JPS Health Network all provide affordable cleanings, x-rays, and other preventative procedures. However, for children with severe dental issues, these clinics are not an option. Many cases of this severity require the work to be performed in a hospital operating room under anesthesia. Families with no insurance coverage or high insurance deductibles are unable to afford the treatment. Gill has allocated \$150,467 for 158 children who need this type of dental treatment already this year.

While the dental needs of our community remain consistent, educational needs are beginning to change. Gill has provided funding for 1,345 middle and high school students to attend summer school over the last five years. These students are behind in their coursework due to medical absences, family crises, and other extenuating circumstances. Without Gill's financial help, their successful completion of their education is at risk. Of all the Tarrant County school districts, Fort Worth ISD has been our largest partner, with 157 students approved for tuition assistance last year alone. In an effort to support their students academic success, Fort Worth ISD will cover the cost of summer school tuition in 2018. As this resource gap closes, Gill Children's Services is prepared to address the emerging needs of our community.

Gill Children's Services looks forward to serving Tarrant County for decades to come with your support. Together we will ensure that no child is left to fall through the cracks.



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Spring 2018 Newsletter

Meet Anna!



Anna, 2

The Mitskevich family was ready to relocate to the United States. Paul, Alla, and their daughters, Ruth and Anna, were moving from Russia to Watauga so Paul could study at the Dallas Theological Seminary under a student visa. After months of planning, they packed up their lives to begin a new chapter in the United States.

The night before their flight, their 2-year-old daughter, Anna, broke her leg. In order not to make costly cancellations, Anna's parents took Anna to get a cast for the journey.

During the nearly three days of travel, Anna's cast became loose and fell off. Paul and Alla knew that they would have to take her to the hospital as soon as they landed.

Upon arriving at DFW International Airport, the Mitskevich family brought Anna to Cook Children's Medical Center. Without time to arrange proper medical coverage and the recent costs of their relocation, Anna would have no resources to provide the X-Ray and cast she needed. Cook Children's referred the Mitskevich family to Gill Children's Services. Since Gill funded her treatment, Anna is doing well. Her parents said, "A month has flown by

quickly. Our daughter's bone has grown together well. Thanks to your help, the doctor has taken off the cast and said that her leg is fine."

Since relocating, the Mitskevich family is adjusting well to their new life in the United States. Their 6-year-old daughter, Ruth, is attending public school and learning English. Alla stays home with Anna and is expecting their third child in June. Paul and Alla said, "Thank you for your generosity and may the Lord bless you for your kindness and service to people who are in need!"



The Mitskevich Family

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1916-2012

Virginia H. Richards
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Peyton Salavarria
Executive Director



Give from your phone!
Text "Gill" to 50155

Shop and Support Gill!

Do you frequently shop at Amazon or Tom Thumb? A percentage of your purchases can go straight to serving Gill kids! Here's how:

AmazonSmile

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in using your regular Amazon login information
3. Search for Gill Children's Services, Inc.
4. 0.5% of your eligible purchases will go to Gill

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

1. Go to the customer service counter at your local Tom Thumb
2. Add Gill Children's Services (#11411) to your Rewards Card
3. 1% of your grocery purchases will go to Gill



Thank You, Tarrant County!



The nonprofit organizations included in the 2017 Greatest Gift Catalog Ever have gathered together to say thank you for your support again this year. We continue to help hundreds of thousands of Tarrant County neighbors in need. Your gifts are appreciated!



The Greatest
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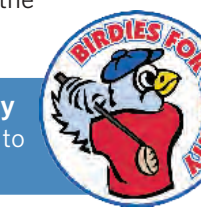
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Match your Gift with Birdies for Charity

Gill Children's Services is again teaming up with the PGA Tour and the Fort Worth Invitational at Colonial Golf Tournament 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 21-27. After all the scores are tallied, Colonial Club Charities will contribute an additional 10-15% to the total amount of the pledges collected.

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 Fort Worth Invitational birdie totals:

20171,134	2014.....1,218
20161,211	20131,381
20151,290	20121,143

Donations received by May 18 can be matched by Birdies for Charity. Please make your check payable to Gill Children's Services: "Birdies for Charity."

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Thank you for your support!

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Pictured Left: Gill Children's Services participated in the annual Wild About Smiles event hosted by the Children's Oral Health Coalition led by Cook Children's. Over 25,000 oral health kits with toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and local resources were assembled and distributed to targeted areas in Tarrant County. (L to R: Elaine Vivens, Children's Oral Health Coalition; Peyton Salavarría, Gill Children's Services; Alice Espinoza, Gill Children's Services; Evelyn Erving, MAXIMUS; and Stacy Shetter, Save a Smile)

Pictured Right: Members of the Corvette Club of Texas helped distribute gifts to Gill families last December. Gill selected eight families who were especially in need this holiday season to receive special gifts. The Club shopped for each child using a wish list that each child wrote with the help of their parents. The children received tennis shoes, games, gift cards, and much more. The Corvette Club of Texas has supported Gill families in this way for over 15 years.



Pictured Left: We thank the Committee Chairmen of the 25th annual Design Inspirations event (L to R: Ms. Laura Rattikin, Ms. Teresa Brownlie, Ms. Taylor Lacy, and Ms. Mary Clay Gupton) for their work in raising funds for Gill Children's Services and Rivertree Academy. Guests of Design Inspirations enjoyed elaborate tablescapes by local designers and a keynote speech by Mr. Marshall Watson. Christy Hill of CHI Designs lent her talents to the design of Gill's table. Thank you to the Kappa Kappa Gamma and Pi Beta Phi alumnae associations for hosting!

Gill welcomes newest team member!



Alex Estrada

Texas at Arlington where she received a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. "My courses in Social Work sparked an interest in working with families as a career," says Alex. After graduating, Alex joined the Therapeutic Family Life team as a Case Manager. She helped guide families through the foster care system, providing support to the parents and resources for the children. In this role, Alex built meaningful, trusting relationships with each family. This experience allowed her to excel in her next role as a Foster Care/Adoption Specialist at ACH Child and Family Services. "I loved being hands-

Alex Estrada joined the Gill family in November 2017. In her short time as Case Manager for the organization, Alex has already made great strides in serving our local families.

Alex grew up in Tarrant County. As a graduate of Fort Worth ISD, she understands the needs of local students. Alex continued her education at the University of

with my kids and being an advocate for their needs. Being a part of reuniting families or helping find a child's 'forever home' was the best part the job."

Since starting at Gill Children's Services, Alex has built strong connections with our families. Establishing trust is the key to understanding each child's individual needs. "When I build relationships with families, I am able to see past their immediate needs and offer help with additional services." Her passion for serving is evident in her interactions and her results; Alex's work has gotten Gill closer than ever to exceeding our goal of providing 1,700 services this year.

In her free time, Alex loves being a "dog mom" to her dachshund, Big Red. She is also an avid Star Wars fan. Alex hopes to return to school to receive a Masters in Social Work so she may better serve local families.

Help us welcome Alex by sending a note of encouragement to aestrada@gillchildrens.org.

A message from our Board President...



Marilyn Berry

children of Tarrant County.

When Martine and Ginny created our organization, they never anticipated that our services would be needed for generations to come. Under their guidance and leadership, Gill Children's Services has fulfilled over 57,000 unmet needs of children in our community.

With the passing of our co-founders, Martine in 2012 and Ginny in 2016, we wanted to honor them in a special way. Gill established

Founded in 1979 with an endowment from the estate of local couple Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith Gill, Gill Children's Services was the brainchild of Martine Ginsburg and Ginny Richards. They were challenged to put the Gill estate to work for the needy children of our community. 39 years old and growing strong, Gill continues to be the funding source of last resort for the

an endowment in their name that would strengthen the legacy of our organization. With your support, our endowment has reached \$350,000! The revenue generated from this fund will serve children for years to come.

In 2019, our organization will celebrate 40 years of service. I hope you can celebrate with us by supporting the Martine Ginsburg and Ginny Richards Endowment Fund. Your generosity will ensure a safety net for future generations of Tarrant County children.

I have truly enjoyed serving as President of Gill for the past two years. Gill has a dedicated board that will continue Martine and Ginny's legacy to serve our community in the future.

When making any philanthropic commitment to Gill, please be sure to include your attorney and/or financial advisor in the conversation to ensure the transaction is arranged with respect to your individual requirements.