



children's services



Spring 2021 Newsletter

Meet Alejandro!

Alejandro is a sweet five-year-old boy, cherished by his older brother, Miguel, Jr., and his parents, Miguel, Sr. and Veronica. They live together in southeast Fort Worth.

We first met the family in 2018 when Miguel, Jr. needed help. After noticing behavioral differences, Veronica sought help for her son. Eventually Miguel, Jr. was diagnosed with Autism. The diagnosis came at a difficult time, because Miguel, Sr. had recently been diagnosed with lymphoma in his eye. Grappling with this news, Veronica turned to Gill Children's Services for assistance. Gill paid for ABA Therapy for Miguel, Jr. until the family could get back on their feet.

Just a few years later, Veronica began noticing that Alejandro's speech was delayed. He was irritable and had trouble expressing how he was feeling. She recognized similarities between his behavior and his brother's, so she knew he should promptly be tested.

The family was under financial strain yet again. Miguel, Sr. is a pipeline worker and was unable to work for two weeks because of the winter storm. They were grateful he had a job to return to, but the family was playing



“We will know if he needs to be placed in special educational classes so he can learn and thrive academically.”

catch up on bills from two weeks of missed pay. Veronica said, “Our health insurance doesn't cover all of the costs for these tests and the cost is too high for us to cover them ourselves.” Veronica remembered the care she received at Gill Children's Services and contacted her Case Manager Alex for help.

Because of you, Alejandro is scheduled for a psychological evaluation at The Telos Project. Veronica says, “We will know if he needs to be placed in special educational classes so he can learn and thrive academically. Thanks to Gill for helping pay for the tests for my son.” ●

A message from our Board President...



Tod Miller, President

Gill lost two of our biggest champions

late in 2020, Susan Doyle and Andy Thompson. As we reflected on the impact these two community leaders had on our mission, I am reminded of a Good Morning Gill event held in the fall of 2019. We host these gatherings to invite old and new friends

to hear an update on our program, discuss community challenges, and take a tour of our humble space. We had a strong group of supporters in attendance that morning, and I especially recall Susan and Andy and their contributions.

In true Andy Thompson style, there was no question he had done his homework - he was known to carefully research financial statements, newsletter articles, and even tax returns. In true Susan Doyle fashion, Susan was ready with responses as we addressed Andy's questions and concerns, without notes or materials of any kind. Our

conversation quickly moved away from a simple update and instead became completely collaborative in nature. How could Gill do more? Who might we partner with to reach more children? What needs are children experiencing today? The 45 minutes flew by. I was elated with what we had accomplished. Good Morning with Gill was already a tremendous success with to-do lists and follow-up meetings and calls to be scheduled. We then went upstairs to meet our staff and tour the offices.

Upstairs is where I learned why they were such great champions. Susan's pride in our staff and their capabilities was matched by Andy's pleasure at meeting those responsible for delivering on Gill's promise: to provide a financial safety net for every Tarrant County child in need - one child at a time.

As we fulfill our promise in the coming years, there are important values to which we have committed: empathy, excellence, integrity, persistence, collaboration, discernment, consistency, and stewardship. I was fortunate to witness Susan and Andy exemplifying these values over coffee that morning. We are humbled to continue Susan's and Andy's work for children. ●

Become a Do Gooder!

The Gill Do Gooders have a silly name, but they are making a serious impact. Do Gooders are people who provide children with a secure safety net by making a monthly donation. Becoming a monthly donor ensures that Tarrant County children will have the financial support they need throughout the year. A monthly gift of just \$10, for example, will allow five children to receive a birth certificate to access affordable housing, healthcare, or enroll in school.

Our friends at The Amon G. Carter Foundation are excited about the Do Gooders. In fact, everyone who signs up to make a monthly gift will have their donations matched by the Amon G. Carter Foundation! Sign up for a recurring gift at gillchildrens.org/donate by September 30th for your gift to be doubled. ●



Meet a Do Gooder!

A word from Perry Ginsburg

I have had a firsthand view of the remarkable work Gill Children's Services does on a daily basis for my entire life. Gill was a central piece in the legacy of my grandmother, Gill co-founder Martine Ginsburg. Throughout her life, she



never missed the opportunity to advocate for the needs of children and to inspire others to do the same. I know she would be incredibly proud of the continued work of Gill and the incredible stewardship of the organization under Peyton and the entire team.



Perry with his grandmother, Martine

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State of Gill

By Peyton Salavarría Lehrer, Executive Director



As I reflect on the past year, I am astounded by our growth as a community. Gill Children’s Services has long been touted as nimble. We were certainly put to the test in 2020. With an outstanding staff and supportive friends like you, we continued offering a safety net to Tarrant County’s most vulnerable children.

When schools and businesses closed last spring, inquiries for our program declined. Families concentrated on filling their most basic needs. In the brief calm, we implemented a technology system that would allow for more efficient, private communication with our parents.

“Gill is poised to assist a record number of students who need to stay on track to graduate.”

We also began designing an online application that will allow families to apply remotely, conveniently, and safely.

As Tarrant County began opening, applications for assistance slowly recovered to pre-COVID levels. We received applications for dental and medical treatments that had been postponed during the pandemic. Parents inquired about psychological evaluations for children who presented behavioral differences during online learning. Parents started collecting their supply of diapers and wipes via curbside assistance.

Now we are actively preparing for summer school. Many of our Tarrant County school districts charge students to attend summer school. Unfortunately, this year will be no different. Many students cannot afford the tuition to recover credits, which can cost up to \$200 per half credit. The districts expect increased enrollment in summer courses because of learning loss. Gill is poised to assist a record number of students who need to stay on track to graduate.

With so much uncertainty, Gill Children’s Services is a reliable safety net for children because of you. Your generosity allows us to continue being responsive to the community’s needs. We thank you! ●

A. Smith Gill Society

When you make a planned gift to Gill Children’s Services, you will be recognized as a member of the A. Smith Gill Society. A planned gift ensures that Gill’s valuable resources will be available for years to come.

Follow Us!



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Gill Children’s Services

Remembering our Champions

Gill Children's Services was fortunate to count Ms. Susan H. Doyle and Mr. J. Andy Thompson among our dearest friends.

Susan was a fearless champion for her community. She served on the Board of Directors for 24 years. Susan took on many roles, serving as Nominating Committee Chair, Personnel Chair, Secretary, and as President from 2007 to 2010. Susan was looking forward to rousing support for our children as the Development PR and Marketing Committee Chair. We are humbly challenged with continuing Susan's work in her spirit of enthusiasm and grit.

Andy was a diligent advocate. He humbly considered his philanthropy to be a duty, and was dedicated to stewarding the next generation of philanthropists. He had a head for the figures and a heart for the mission. Andy and his wife, Nancy, were



Susan H. Doyle, 1950-2020



J. Andy Thompson, 1943-2021

committed to many local causes, and Gill Children's Services is fortunate to have been recipients of their benevolence.

What fierce champions we had in Susan and Andy. We endeavor to continue their legacies of kindness. ●

Design Inspirations

This year would have been the 28th Design Inspirations event, where we gather to view splendid designs from local interior decorators, florists, and boutiques. To keep its patrons safe and healthy, Design Inspirations canceled their in-person event this year. Even though we could not gather in person, the generous women of Kappa Kappa Gamma and Pi Beta Phi wanted to ensure that Tarrant County children had a safety net this year. They hosted two days of giving, raising \$37,000 for the children we serve. At our

current spending level, the proceeds will provide last-resort financial assistance to 192 children. ●



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Welcome, Terri!

Gill Children's Services is thrilled to announce its newest member of the Board of Directors, Terri Sexton. Terri lives in Fort Worth with her husband of 38 years. She is currently enrolled at Dallas Theological Seminary in a non-credit master's degree program. Her career began in accounting and ended in fundraising. She most recently served as the Interim Executive Director at Texas Ballet Theater for six years before retiring.

She is an experienced volunteer, having served at Christ Chapel Bible Church as a 4th Grade Sunday School Teacher, Vice Chair at Rivertree Academy, Ambassador at ACH Child and Family Services, Board Member at Jewel Charity, and Marketing Chair at The Cliburn.

Our Mission

Gill Children's Services provides last resort funding for Tarrant County children whose medical, dental, physical, social, psychological, or educational needs have not been met by other community resources.