



April 2013

## GILL PRESIDENT HONORS MARTINE H. GINSBURG

**FORT WORTH:** Gill Co-Founder and visionary, Martine H. Ginsburg, passed away in November 2012. Board President and friend, Shannon Ray, remembers her dedication and passion.

“Every nonprofit organization relies on its founders to guide it from inception through the growth process, and then to hopefully ensure its longevity and that it continues to be true to its mission and purpose. Sadly, Gill Children’s Services lost one of its founders, Martine H. Ginsburg, last fall on November 16<sup>th</sup>. At 96 years of age, Martine was actively engaged in the work of Gill until shortly before her death, voting to approve a special request for medical assistance for a child in need.”

“Martine died peacefully in her home that she and her husband, Marcus, built and in which she lived for over sixty three years. It was also in this home, at the dining room table, that at the age of 63 Martine and her dear friend, Ginny Richards, initially created Gill Children’s Services in response to a \$1,000,000 bequest by A. Smith Gill, a relatively unknown benefactor. The original intent was to give the money away as quickly as possible to the children of Tarrant County with unmet needs. However, as they soon discovered, there was a great need for an organization that would be a last resort for children, after all other sources of funding had been tapped. In 2010, as Martine mused upon seeing the new Gill permanent offices, ‘this may really outlive me and continue to provide for the children long after I am gone. That’s something that Ginny and I never even dreamed was a possibility.’ Now, 34 years later, Gill has provided almost \$10,000,000 to approximately 50,000 children in Tarrant County.”

“While Martine was instrumental in founding or guiding several other social organizations in Tarrant County, her greatest community achievement was the establishment of Gill as the only organization in Tarrant County, and perhaps in Texas and the United States, with the sole purpose of taking care of the unmet needs of children. **No child has ever been turned away from Gill as a last resort.**”

“As Gill approaches its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, the Board of Directors reaffirms its commitment to improving the lives of children, in recognition of the wishes of Martine, and with the continued guidance of co-founder Ginny Richards. We thank our donors for their continued support and we look forward to being available to any child who truly needs Gill’s assistance!”

- Shannon Ray, Board President