Gill Gives Riley a Bright Smile

Riley is a born leader with a knack for solving problems and a quick sense of humor that lights up the room. She loves getting lost in a good book or exploring vivid worlds through her favorite anime.

Now a high school sophomore, Riley stays busy with a packed schedule of activities. She cheers on the JV squad, sings in the choir, plays flag football, and gives back through Key Club. With her drive and determination, she's well on her way to achieving her dream of becoming a forensic pathologist.

Behind her every step is her mom, Danielle — a proud single mother of three. Her two older children are already thriving: one is in college, the other serves in the U.S. Navy. Danielle has worked hard to give her kids the tools they need to succeed, juggling the demands of parenthood and running her own small business.

So when Riley needed braces, Danielle did what she's always done — she saved up and made it happen. But they hit an unexpected bump in the road. Riley's orthodontist told them she would need tooth extractions and a bone graft before treatment could move forward. While Danielle could manage the monthly cost of braces, the surgery wasn't in the budget.

She searched high and low for an affordable option, visiting multiple offices, but the cost was still out of reach. That's when she discovered Gill Children's Services — and everything changed.

Thanks to the generosity of Gill's providers, Riley's surgery would be discounted by 63%. Danielle worked

hard to cover nearly half of the expenses herself. "This assistance was truly a hand up, not a handout," she shared. "If Gill hadn't stepped in, I would've had to delay her treatment, even though the dentist advised against it."

Now, Riley's surgery is scheduled for this fall, and she couldn't be more excited. "She's thrilled about the smile she'll soon have," Danielle said.

By the summer of 2027, just in time for high school graduation, Riley's orthodontic journey will be complete — and she'll be flashing that confident smile all the way to her future career in forensic pathology. •



"This assistance was truly a hand up, not a handout. If Gill hadn't stepped in, I would've had to delay her treatment, even though the dentist advised against it."

Help children like Riley with a monthly gift.



State of Gill

The numbers are in, and they tell a powerful story. Every June, I take time to dig into the year-end data. There's something deeply rewarding in quantifying the good work of the Gill team over the year. Each request, each case, and each child represent a moment of hope—and your support made that possible.

In the past year, the Gill team received 2,154 applications for financial assistance from families in urgent need. Parents reached out for help covering costs like echocardiograms, antibiotics, hearing tests, eyeglasses, emergency childcare, cranial helmets, cyst removals, and more.

Our two dedicated Case Managers carefully reviewed each request—about 41 each week—and identified 1,587 children whose needs were last resort and urgent. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide \$770,152 in funding for these children when no other options remained.



Peyton S. Lehrer, Executive Director

Funding Allocated

- Dental 66%
- Special Therapy 10%
- Orthodontia 7%
- Educational 6%
- Medical 5%
- Special Needs 3%
- Special Equipment 3%

But our work doesn't end with funding approval. The Gill team actively coordinates with providers and vendors to ensure each child receives the care they need, often at a significant discount. This year, our team negotiated an average discount of 72%, translating to over \$2.5 million in savings.

Perhaps the most striking number of all is 1,046—the number of Tarrant County children who were turned away from other resources but found help and hope at Gill.

Each of these numbers represents a child's story—and you are a part of every one. Thank you for standing with us, and for making it possible to say "yes" when it matters most.

Your donation will be tripled!

Welcome, new board members!



Miles Bratton is a Director at Crestline Investors. Bratton is also a member of the Fort Worth Country Day Alumni Council and the Cliburn 180 Advisory Council. As a Fort Worth native, he is passionate about local children's access to education and success.



Madeline D'Alise is an attorney with McDonald Sanders, P.C. D'Alise volunteers with the Tarrant County Bar Association through their LegalLine service. She is an active member of the Junior League of Fort Worth where she volunteers at the ACH Child & Family Services Residential Treatment Center.





Zac Farrar is an attorney with Wick Phillips. He was recognized as a Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America, a Texas Rising Star by Super Lawyers, and a Top Attorney by Fort Worth magazine in 2024.

Danny Rafati is a gastroenterologist at Cook Children's Medical Center. He has previously served on the Professional Education Committee with the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Rafati has served on several boards within Cook Children's, as well as supported and worked with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America.



Sign up Online at **www.gillchildrens.org** to receive our newsletter by e-mail!

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TCU Students Select Gill for Funding

Students in TCU's Giving and Philanthropy courses deliberated for nine hours this determining which spring, worthy causes would receive \$200,000 of funding. Over the semester, students identified, researched, and interviewed staff at the organizations. Gill Children's Services is honored to have been selected by both classes, totaling \$47,500 in grants support of children with last resort needs.







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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.



Do Gooders

Making monthly gifts to support our children.

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