# Meet Claire and Cooper!

**Five-year-old twins** Claire and Cooper are inseparable, always keeping parents Grady and Rachel on their toes. Claire loves drawing and dancing, while Cooper loves building with Legos and playing outside.

Grady and Rachel were teachers when they welcomed Claire and Cooper into the world. The twins were born prematurely and both experienced health challenges. Cooper had two surgeries before the age of two, and Claire suffers from Alopecia Totallis, a condition that causes her immune system to attack her hair follicles. Rachel quickly realized she would have to quit teaching to take care of her babies.

The last six months have been particularly hard for the family. Last Thanksgiving, Claire was hospitalized for a week after contracting a rare infection. Rachel says, "Things were finally getting back to normal over Christmas break when she fell climbing down her bunk bed and broke her wrist. It seemed like bad luck one after another." And



Claire and Cooper, age 5

# Being able to take care of these oral health issues now before they become more serious will lead to better overall health in the future.

during that time, Cooper was in need of two dental fillings. His first dentist tried on four different occasions to treat Cooper, but a sensitive gag reflex made it impossible. In order to perform the treatment, Cooper would have to be out under anesthesia in the hospital. The family began visiting Dr. Deborah Sullivan in Mansfield who referred them to Gill Children's Services.

Even with Rachel running a small business while being a stay-at-home parent, making ends meet is a challenge. The twins' medical concerns have exhausted their limited income. Currently their health insurance premiums cost

more than their mortgage. She hopes to go back to work as a teacher in the Fall. "We know this is not forever," she says, "but we are currently stretched very thin."

Gill Children's Services provided funding for Cooper to get dental surgery. Rachel says, "Being able to take care of these oral health issues now before they become more serious will lead to better overall health in the future."

Because of your help, the family avoided going into serious debt. Rachel shares, "Thank you so much to the donors that made this possible for our family!"

### A message from our Board President...



Tod Miller

I love Gill, and every day I learn more about why you love Gill too. Today our daily lives are turned upside down and we have more questions than answers. We aren't quite sure where to turn and who can help us. Uncertainty is a pretty close relative of fear and despair. For the first time

in years, some of us feel vulnerable and dependent on others. This is exactly how more than 1,500 families feel every year when they initially contact us. What we are experiencing now will only add to the number of families dealing with uncertainty, confusion, and unmet needs.

Gill has seen a dramatic increase in demand for our services over the last two years. With this increase in mind, our Board had recognized the need to strategize to affirm our mission, to identify changing needs in the community, and to respond to those changes. Through the generosity of the Amon G. Carter Foundation, Gill will be developing an actionable strategic plan in the coming months. We are determined to sustainably serve generations to come.

Gill is blessed with the opportunity and financial resources to meet needs as they arise for Tarrant County children. We are equally blessed to have you with us as we meet these needs. •



## Do you know children impacted by COVID-19?

Remember, Gill Children's Services can be a resource for children who you know who have been affected by the virus! From medications and eyeglasses to childcare and diapers, we can help pay for unmet needs. If you identify a child in need, ask yourself these questions:

- **1.** Is the child 0-18 years old?
- 2. Does the child live in Tarrant County?
- **3.** Does the child not qualify for any other assistance?

If you answer **YES** to all three questions, you may refer them to Gill Children's Services. Our application is available to download at **www.gillchildrens.org/apply**.

While our staff is working from home, applications may be submitted via email or mailed to our office. For the latest information about our office hours and availability, call (817) 332-5070 or email info@gillchildrens.org.



Text the word "Gill" to 50155 to donate.

### State of Gill

By Peyton Salavarria, Executive Director

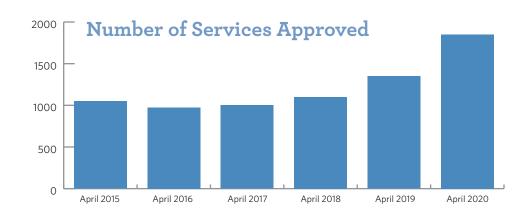


Gill Children's Services has been heavily affected by the Corona Virus pandemic, most notably by loss of funds. Gill has been honored to benefit from two exceptional events that were scheduled for this Spring, Design Inspirations and Art in the Square. Both events have made an immeasurable impact on the community for decades. The events' respective committees prudently cancelled their 2020 events in the best interest of the public. The potential financial loss to Gill's children is estimated to be \$40,000 to \$45,000. The loss comes at a critical time. With an unprecedented increase in applications, Gill Children's Services risks turning away children for lack of resources.

In the first eight months of the year, children's expenses have increased by 35%. Emergency childcare, psychological testing, ENT exams and surgeries, X-Rays, CAT Scans, MRIs, eyeglasses, and special equipment are the fastest growing needs. Childcare can be a

6 Through increased referrals, Gill has assisted more children with daycare than ever: we have approved payment of \$59,893 for 113 children this year.

last resort need when a single parent starts a full-time job and cannot afford to enroll their child in daycare until their first paycheck. Through increased referrals, Gill has assisted more children with daycare than ever: we have approved payment of \$59,893 for 113 children this year. Psychological testing is considered last resort when



the testing cannot be performed in the school district and when insurance will not cover the cost. Gill has developed a partnership with The Telos Project, a nonprofit that provides psychological services to inaccessible communities. The Telos Project has identified children in need of a diagnosis before suitable treatment can be implemented at home and in the classroom. Gill has approved \$37,200 for 41 children to be tested. Medical services and equipment can be last

resort for the uninsured and underinsured children of Tarrant County. Gill has approved \$16,087 for 105 medical services and \$15,896 for 46 special equipment cases this year.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic upheaval that it has caused, Gill expects children's needs to increase even more. With your help, we can continue to be a safety net to children with no other recourse.

### • Follow Us! •









Gill Children's Services

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Gill Children's Services

### Multiply your Gift with Birdies for Charity

**Gill Children's Services** is again teaming up with the PGA Tour and the Charles Schwab Challenge golf tournament for a 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.

Donations received by May 15th are eligible for a 10-15% match from *Birdies for Charity*. Please make your check payable to Gill Children's Services.

### 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 Gill to serve the last resort needs for Tarrant County children.



### Previous Charles Schwab Challenge birdie totals:

2019 1,111	2016 1,211
2018 1,396	2015 1,290
2017 1,134	2014 1,381

### Corvette Club

Members of the Corvette Club of Texas spread holiday cheer to Gill families. The club shopped for each child specifically, filling their stockings with clothes, shoes, and toys. The Corvette Club has been a treasured friend to Gill families.











### The following donors have made gifts to Gill Thank you for your support!

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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.



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Text to Give!

Text the word "Gill" to 50155 to donate.



Thank you Gill



### 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.

#### Wild About Smiles

Gill Children's Services' staff volunteered at the 2020 Wild About Smiles event. Thousands of oral health kits filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, stickers, and a list of helpful resources were assembled. The kits will be distributed to schools and nonprofit organizations in targeted zip codes. The event is hosted by the Children's Oral Health Coalition led by Cook Children's Medical Center.