Meet Felicita!



Felicita is a 9-year-old girl who lives with her three siblings and parents in Crowley. She loves dancing, going to the park, and reading in both English and Spanish.

Felicita is one of triplet siblings, all of whom have cerebral palsy. Felicita's condition is the most pronounced, and she has substantially less mobility than her siblings. The children also have chronic pulmonary disease. For her parents, the children's diagnoses can be difficult to manage. Her mother, Lizdelia, shared, "Unless you have a child with special needs, you don't realize all the extra care they need. We all pray for a healthy child, but when this is the hand you are given, you just do the best that you can." The children collectively have about 15 appointments weekly,

including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and more. For many years, it was impossible for both parents to continue working. Even with insurance, the medical bills are overwhelming.

Felicita's doctor recommended that she use a wheelchair with a stander, which will allow her to be in an upright position. Lizdelia was eager to find a wheelchair for her daughter. "Medical research shows that if immobile people are able to stand one to two hours a day, it will increase their life span," she says. "We wanted to give Felicita the best chances to live a long and happy life. We knew we had to fight hard to get this specific chair for her."

Lizdelia appealed and lost her case for the wheelchair to be covered by insurance. She applied to charities that might be able to help, but she was turned away. "Ours is such a specific need, and many organizations have been bombarded because of the pandemic. So many families are using up all the available resources." Lizdelia turned to a Facebook group of mothers of special needs children. Another parent in the group had sought help from Gill Children's Services for her son who has a similar condition to Felicita's. Lizdelia called Gill as her last resort.

"Gill came in when we had lost all hope in being able to pay for Felicita's wheelchair with the stander," Lizdelia says. "We heard the good news around Christmas, and it was the best news to tell her she can finally get her standing motorized wheelchair in the

bright lime green she wanted!" Since receiving her new wheelchair, Felicita has been more independent, active, and adventurous. She is now able to stand at the sink to wash her hands, to flip lights on and off, and reach things her siblings can reach. In the summer she will be able to continue dancing in her wheelchair dance team named AYITA, meaning "first to dance" in Cherokee. Felicita eagerly awaits her dance classes on Fridays. "We are grateful she has a new chair to twirl around now," Lizdelia says, adding, "Her wheelchair has opened a world of possibilities for her. It is such a blessing to have an organization like Gill to help fill the gaps that many special needs families have."

Your support allows children like Felicita to experience the little joys we often take for granted. Thank you for letting Felicita twirl!



A message from our Board President...

As a banker, I understand the concept and benefits of leverage. I easily recognized the Gill Children's Services' strategic leverage with our generous service providers. On average, our negotiated discounts provide children \$2.19 worth of service for every \$1 paid by Gill. As a donor, I know my investment is being maximized by Gill's staff.

Through my years of involvement on the Board of Directors, I have come to recognize another source of leverage: Gill is tremendously fortunate to have current and past board members carrying their passion for Gill with them everywhere they go. We see them advocate passionately for Gill's mission in their leadership roles across the community. As a result, Gill has been a consistent beneficiary of several organizations' fundraising efforts year after year. Among these organizations are Art in the Square, Birdies for Charity, The Corvette Club of Texas, Design Inspirations, The Greatest Gift Catalog Ever, and more. Our association with these groups expands our reach far beyond what the staff and board could manage alone.

Board membership carries a number of responsibilities.

Serving in leadership roles, participating with committees, volunteering time, and investing in the mission are an important part of being a good board member. However, what has set Gill



Tod Miller, President

apart, and a big reason for our continued success, is our Board members' ability to leverage their love of Gill everywhere they go.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Board President. These past few years have shown me Gill's resilience, strength, and passion for serving local children. As I leave this role, I look forward to carrying the Gill mission in my heart as so many have done before me.



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



Text to Give!

"Gill" to 50155
to donate.



Welcome, Perry!

Gill Children's Services is pleased to announce its newest member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Perry H. Ginsburg. Perry is a Senior Associate with LKCM Headwater Investments. Before joining LKCM, he was a Venture Fellow at Treaty Oak Equity and a Hedge Fund Analyst with Frontaura Capital in Chicago.

Perry received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Economics from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Business Administration with the Dean's

Award for Academic Excellence from The McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas.

Perry has a unique interest in Gill Children's Services because of his grandmother Martine Ginsburg, who co-founded Gill. Perry says, "I have had a firsthand view to Gill Children's Services' remarkable work for my entire life. Gill was a central piece in the legacy of my grandmother. 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." Please join us in welcoming Perry!

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! This matching opportunity has been extended. Sign up for a recurring gift at **gillchildrens.org/donate** by May 31st for your gift to be doubled.



Meet Some Do Gooders!

Marsland Condrey

At 13 years old, Marsland is a budding entrepreneur. She started making jewelry with her friends last summer. When her mother suggested selling her jewelry, she started Jewelry by Mars. She built her inventory and started marketing right away.

Marsland says, "Bracelet making was already something I enjoyed doing, and I thought why not make it even more enjoyable by giving profits to a charity!" Marsland's father, Cliff, has served on the Board of Directors since 2014. He had shared Gill's mission with his family, so Marsland knew exactly where she wanted her proceeds to go. "I loved Gill right away," she says. "I am so happy to have the opportunity to give to Gill while doing something I love."



Serena Ginsburg

When Serena graduated from the University of Texas last spring, she was ready for a big change. She packed her bags and headed for Los Angeles, where she works for an international hospitality company called The h.wood Group. Serena lives close to the beach, which has been a dream!

She remembers her time in Texas fondly. As the granddaughter of our co-founder Martine Ginsburg, she recalls hearing about Gill's mission growing up. Serena says, "I give to Gill to honor the memory of my grandmother. She was a generous person, with a deep love for family, animals, and children. From a young age, she taught me the importance of giving to others."

Serena makes a monthly gift to ensure her grandmother's work is available for generations

of children to come. "My grandmother took pride in being a part of Gill, and I am honored to now be a part of it too!"

Scott Kirk

Scott is a marketing whiz. He recently took his talents to ELERTS Corporation where he serves as their Chief Brand and Marketing Officer. Scott has lent his talents to Gill's mission by serving on the Board of Directors, and celebrated his 20th year of service last year.

Scott loves making a monthly gift. He says, "Life and work can get busy, and it's easy to forget things you really meant to do. The Gill Do Gooder plan takes care of that for me." As a Do Gooder, he knows that his regular donations are making an impact. "I like Gill's Do Gooder program in part because there's a generous match, but also because it happens regularly. It's great to know that every month, some good thing happened because Gill was there... and I got to help!"



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

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State of Gill

By Peyton Salavarria Lehrer, Executive Director



Gill Children's Services offers a safety net for children with all kinds of unmet needs, whether medical, dental, physical, social, or psychological. While many of these needs have been compounded by the pandemic, we are positioning ourselves for high demand in educational need in the coming months.

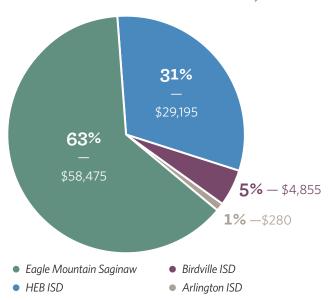
While many children are eagerly anticipating their summer break, others will be investing more time in their education. We anticipate another year of high enrollment in summer school. In the wake of virtual learning challenges, teacher shortages, and stress at home, students have

Last year Gill allocated nearly \$93,000 for students to attend summer school, representing a 945% increase over the prior year's expenditure.

an extensive need for credit recovery. Taking summer school classes will allow students to advance to the next grade, ready to take on a new academic year.

Some districts cover the cost of summer school for their students. Others charge between \$20 and \$200 per half credit. For students needing to recover several credits, the cost can be devastating. Last year it was common for the average student to face more than \$600 of summer school fees. Gill will work with counselors across Tarrant County to identify students who are most in need.

Summer School Tuition Assistance, 2021



Many students are at risk of dropping out should their coursework be delayed.

Last year Gill allocated nearly \$93,000 for students to attend summer school, representing a 945% increase over the prior year's expenditure. We expect the need to persist through this academic year. With your help, we will never turn a child away who needs our assistance. Your support will help keep Tarrant County students on the path to graduation.

Follow Us!









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We can't do it alone!

Thank you to our friends who work hard to advance our mission.









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.