

Cumberland

Presbyterian Children's Home

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home Receives Grant Award *First-ever grant Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation to Support Pilot Program*

DENTON, TEXAS – The Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home (CPCH) announced it has been awarded \$25,000 from the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation to support long-term residential care and treatment for children in foster care who need a specialized level of services.

This is the organization's first King Foundation award. The Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation funds a range of social service needs across Arkansas, North Texas and West Texas.

Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home President and CEO Courtney Banatoski, said funding will directly support CPCH's efforts to meet the growing Texas Department of Family Protective Services' need for foster care placements that help youth transition from residential treatment centers to traditional foster homes.

"This grant enables us to provide therapeutic care and services to children in foster care who deserve the opportunity to thrive in the least restrictive environment possible," Banatoski said.

The CPCH pilot program offers long-term residential care and treatment for youth in foster care, ages 11 to 17 who have difficulties with behavior, a history of unpredictable, non-violent acts, exhibit anti-social or isolationist behavior or have a history of self-injurious ideations.

CPCH's program pairs a safe, less restrictive housing with therapeutic services, case management, access to medical and dental care, life skills training, social and cultural programs, and spiritual guidance. The goal is that children in care will demonstrate progress toward treatment goals and ultimately be better prepared for either a traditional foster home or life beyond foster care.

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"The need for intensive, wraparound services to help this population is critical," Banatoski said. "We are so honored that the King Foundation believes in our kids as much as we do."

According to the 2017 TexProtects Foster Care Report, 38 percent of Texas children in foster care are between the ages of 10 and 17. The report indicates that children in this age range have greater difficulty with long-term placement overall. Children with a history of placement in a residential treatment center are among the least likely to be placed successfully in traditional foster home or thrive in care.

Banatoski said the pilot program funded, in part by the King Foundation is "about more than bridging a gap and filling a need." "This program is about giving children the care, support and love they deserve."

In 2018, CPCH served 68 children in foster care through the Children's Residential Program, which includes emergency shelter and long-term residential care. Through its Family Residential Program, CPCH served 12 vulnerable single-parent families.

To learn about CPCH's programs and services, volunteer opportunities or ways to give visit <http://cpch.org>

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Founded in 1904 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home (CPCH) was established to provide housing to widows and orphans served by Cumberland Presbyterian congregations. In 1932, CPCH moved to Denton, Texas where the organization continued its work, adapting to changing needs of vulnerable children and families. What was historically considered an orphanage is now a holistic program serving both children and families in an effort break cycles of abuse, neglect and poverty. CPCH provides long term and emergency residential care for children in foster care and transitional housing for single parent families, all while ensuring each child and family in our care receives counseling, case management and other supportive services. Our 17-acre facility is home to programs and services providing hope and healing to the most vulnerable children and families within our community.