



**5,440**  
Days of Care  
Provided from  
January-April

**Summer Birthdays**  
Please note we can only accept cards. If you would like to participate by sending a card, please check online & on our social media for the updated lists, as residents can transition in & out of our programs.

**June Birthdays**  
June 5 – Mom celebrating

**July Birthdays**  
July 5 – Young person turning 20  
July 12 – Young man turning 3  
July 23 – Young lady turning 8

**August Birthdays**  
August 5 – Young man turning 16  
August 8 – Young lady turning 13  
August 16 – Young lady turning 16  
August 18 – Young lady turning 20  
August 25 – Young lady turning 18  
August 26 – Mom celebrating  
August 30 – Young lady turning 7

Please address cards as follows:  
April Ziemann c/o (Insert GENDER & DOB for Resident)  
909 Greenlee Street  
Denton, TX 76201

## SAVE THE DATE FOR NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

September 21, 2023, is North Texas Giving Day, an opportunity to amplify your support for Cumberland. You don't have to live in North Texas to participate.

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS  
— NTX —  
**GIVING DAY**  
9.21.23 presented by **amazon**



## Quarterly Donation Needs

We are gratefully accepting donations of the following items to support summer normalcy activities for residents.

- Gas, Kroger, or fast food gift cards
- Movie or sports event tickets
- Cleaning and laundry supplies
- Sunscreen, flip-flops, and sunglasses
- Floats, goggles, beach towels, and outdoor games



Scan the QR Code or use this URL <https://a.co/5jAYexY> to visit our Amazon Wish List to look for additional needs.

For questions, please contact our Advancement Coordinator by emailing [AZiemann@cumberlandservices.org](mailto:AZiemann@cumberlandservices.org) or visiting [www.cumberlandservices.org/inkind](http://www.cumberlandservices.org/inkind)

Visit our website at [www.cumberlandservices.org](http://www.cumberlandservices.org) to learn more about our programs and how you can make a difference.



Cumberland has a nearly 120 year history of keeping kids safe and families together. Each day our 17 acre campus is a safe place to call home for 70 kids in foster care, young adults aging out of foster care and vulnerable single parent families.

Nothing brings me greater pride than standing in our incredibly rich legacy of care while simultaneously recognizing the need to adapt and evolve to meet our community's ever changing needs. We did it in the 1980s during our country's shift of moving from orphanages to our modern child welfare system. We evolved again in the early 2000s to build our Family Residential Program to keep single parents and their children together by providing affordable housing, case management and supportive services. We opened our Emergency Shelter Services in the mid-2000s to provide 24 hour intake for kids possible. In 2018 we saw higher acuity kids and recognized the need for therapeutic services in less restrictive environments, so we opened Treatment Services. Last year we developed a program with housing and a safety net for young adults aging out of care. And the time has come again to expand our programs.

I am excited to announce that Cumberland is launching a Child Placing Agency to recruit, train, monitor and support family based foster homes within our community. I hope you explore this issue of our newsletter to learn more!

Gratefully,

Courtney Banatoski  
President & CEO



Former foster parent and board member Whitney Mai with her adopted children

## CUMBERLAND TO OPEN A CHILD PLACING AGENCY

If you look across North Texas, each month approximately 2,500 kids in foster care need placement, but less than 700 licensed family-based foster care homes are available. And if you drill down to Denton County, there are about 170 kids in foster care each month and fewer than 25 licensed family-based foster homes. When there aren't enough

family-based foster homes, kids often call Cumberland's campus their home, but our residential program can only serve 16 youth each day. So what happens when there are 170 kids in your community that need a home, but collectively there are only 40 or so safe beds for them to land? This is when kids in foster care often have to leave their community... their schools, their friends, their jobs, their sports teams, their church communities, their support networks. Kids in foster care leaving our community are often separated from their siblings, traveling across the state for multiple placements without stability, without security, without the structure, support or setting they need and deserve.

Our Board of Trustees and staff have decided that isn't acceptable. Our kids deserve more; they deserve a family-based foster home in their home community. And we have decided to add to our continuum of care in order to make this happen. Cumberland is building a Child Placing Agency that will recruit, train, monitor and support family-based foster homes. This year we are building the infrastructure necessary and will begin serving families and children in 2024. We plan to support family-based foster homes serving an additional 42 children next year. We will effectively double our community's ability to support our most vulnerable youth.

You have a role in helping us achieve this goal. If you can't adopt, foster. If you can't foster, donate. If you can't donate, volunteer. If you can't volunteer, advocate. Everyone can do something!



## BOARD SPOTLIGHT JENNIFER HAYES

My name is Jennifer Hayes. I am married to a very kind and patient man (who just finished his Ph.D. #humblebrag). Together, we parent two boys who are never quiet and always full of energy.

Ordained in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and endorsed as a healthcare chaplain, I serve as the Director of Spiritual Care for the Cook Children's Health System.

As a pediatric chaplain and mother, I am keenly aware of the unique challenges children and youth face mentally, physically, and spiritually. Serving as a member of the Cumberland Youth and Family Services Board of Trustees allows me the opportunity to utilize my calling and training to help improve the lives of children in North Texas.

# Program Updates



## COMMUNITY COUNSELING

Since opening the community counseling program last fall, we have steadily grown to serve local Denton residents seeking counseling services. As of May, we served 20-30 individuals, families, and children weekly. Counseling clients get support, cope with trauma and stress, and life transitions. This partnership with the City of Denton makes access to mental health services for our community's uninsured and underinsured a reality.



## FIRST TO GRADUATE

One of the Children's Residential Program's residents will graduate from Denton High School this year and plans to transition into our Supervised Independent Living Program. This resident has worked very hard and has overcome some significant obstacles to become the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She plans to attend North Central Texas College in Denton in the fall. Her college plans give her an additional distinction since she will also be the first person in her family to go to college as well.



## IMPROVING HOUSING UNITS AND SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

We have been updating the Family Residential Program housing. When a unit becomes empty, Cumberland's on-site maintenance team deep cleans, makes repairs, repaints, and replaces the flooring with durable vinyl, which makes these spaces better for the children living in these units. Recently one of our moms moved into an updated unit from one that was not updated. Giving families a safe space they can be proud of is one of the many ways the generosity of donors improves lives.



## COLLEGE BOUND

One of our Supervised Independent Living residents has been racking up the college acceptance letters (8 or 9 at the last count) this year. In May he decided to go to Prairie View A&M to pursue a degree in electrical engineering. We are proud to see this resident make some big choices and plan a big move. Especially since he got to choose from so many colleges that had accepted him.



Follow us on social media and more, scan the Qr-code and get connected today!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT  
Devin Coker

### What attracted you to work at Cumberland?

My path to Cumberland is a little different. I was a resident here many years ago before I applied to work here. In my previous work, I had a lot of experience where I had coached others about getting through challenges while having my own, and all of that just kind of led me to be here. I remember when I interviewed, I asked if Mrs. Snow still worked here because I remembered what a great person she was when I was here as a resident.

*\*Christine Snow is Cumberland's Chief Programs Officer.*

### What do you think sets Cumberland apart from other organizations who care for kids in foster care?

From the beginning, we build rapport with the kids. By working with our kids using TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) to build trust with them. We work hard to really connect with our residents and do the best for them.

### What is the biggest misconception the community has about Cumberland's residents?

I think sometimes people think our kids are crying wolf, and it is just them crying for help.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT  
Ginger Gatling



**Occupation:** Retired in 2022 from the software industry

**Years volunteering:** 2 years

### Why do you volunteer with Cumberland?

I started with Cumberland because they do important work and I wanted to be part of it, even in a small way. I continue volunteering there because I really enjoy spending time with the kids, the young adults, and the staff. Volunteering at Cumberland is fun, fulfilling, and purposeful.

### What is your favorite volunteer moment?

One Wednesday evening I brought sugar cookies and decorations so the kids could decorate Christmas cookies. One child was having a blast - he had decorated probably 10 cookies and he came over to thank me. He said, "Ma'am, you can have one of these." He opened what looked like a cherished lunch box that had Band-Aids in it; I could tell it was a prized possession. I was touched he would offer me something that obviously meant a lot to him!



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cumberland Youth and Family Services was proud to sponsor Twilight Tunes on May 18th in Denton. Twilight Tunes is an award-winning free community concert in its 30th series. This family-friendly event brings together the community with picnics while listening to local musicians on the Denton County Courthouse lawn. Cumberland has been in Denton for 91 years, and staying connected to the vibrant community is important to us and our residents.



*Hats & Horses for Hope & Healing Derby Party*  
*Thank you to our 2023 Derby Sponsors*

*Presenting Sponsor*



*Winners Circle*

Linda Creagh &  
Scott Lent



Kristen & Stephen  
McKinney

*Hat Contest Sponsor*



*Bow Tie Contest Sponsor*



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*Healing Sponsors*

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 North Texas Print Solutions  
 Red Door Operations  
 Bonnie & Douglas Robison

Eric Simmons  
 Texas Regional Bank  
 The Chestnut Tree  
 Jack Thomson  
 Crystal Wright

Our 3rd annual Kentucky Derby Party was held on Saturday, May 6th, to raise start-up funds for our new Child Placing Agency. Guests enjoyed a live stream of the derby, a hat and bow tie contest, dinner, and an inspirational program.

*Save the Date of May 4, 2024*

