

Cumberland

Presbyterian Children's Home



**News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT**

Jaime Blanton

Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home

Cell: (469)644-7300

[jblanton@cpch.org](mailto:jblanton@cpch.org)

Facility Photos and Tours Available

**Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home Launches Supervised Independent Living Program to Support Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care**

DENTON, Texas-- Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, a century's old residential community for youth in foster care and resilient single-parent families invites the community to a come-and-go open house and ribbon cutting as they launch a program for young adults aging out of foster care. The event will take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, March 4 at 1015 Greenlee St.

**Event Details**

WHAT: Open House and Ribbon Cutting

WHERE: Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, Parking at 909 Greenlee St.

WHEN: 3 p.m.- 5 p.m., Friday, March 4

Remarks at 3:30 p.m.

Imagine being just 18 years old and aging out of the foster care system with no supportive adult to call when you need help. Add childhood trauma, past abuse or neglect and likely mental health challenges to the equation, and a milestone birthday can quickly become a source of immediate stress and worry.

That's where Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home's new Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Program comes in. Cumberland has refurbished three residences on its Denton campus to accommodate 15 young adults between the ages of 18 and 22. The program, which began accepting referrals March 1, gives those with foster care experience an opportunity to develop self-reliance and independence with the guidance and support of a case manager.

Cumberland will host a public ribbon-cutting and open house to showcase its SIL program facilities from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, March 4 at 1015 Greenlee St. in Denton. The event will feature tours and light refreshments. Remarks will be made at 3:30 p.m. Guests are asked to park at the Parr Administrative Building located at 909 Greenlee St.

Cumberland's President and CEO Courtney Banatoski said the addition of a supervised independent living program in Denton County adds critical infrastructure to support some of North Texas' most vulnerable residents. More than 1,200 youth age out of Texas foster care annually, she said.

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“The statistics for youth who age out of care without support are grim,” Banatoski said. “This program isn’t just about providing guidance during early independence. It’s about preventing homelessness, potential incarceration or other really terrible outcomes.”

“The goal is to offer continuums of care for those we serve,” Banatoski said. “It doesn’t make sense for young adults who have already overcome so much to leave the schools, relationships and communities they have come to know when they turn 18.” “Denton County is a remarkable place to live and work, and this community should be available to more youth with foster care experience.”

Cumberland’s Family and Adult Programs Director Jessica House said Cumberland is excited to offer the only Supervised Independent Living Program contracted to provide extended foster care through the SIL model in Denton County.

“The beauty of our program is that we are designed to meet our residents where they are,” she said. “No matter how our residents identify or what their past experiences have been, our focus will be to help them break down barriers, learn life skills, practice independence and find pathways to succeed.”

Placement into Cumberland’s SIL will require residents to sign an extended foster care agreement. Residents must also provide proof of enrollment in a high school, college, vocational or GED program, or verify employment of 80-plus hours a month. Only youth ages 18 to 22-years of age are eligible. To inquire about placement please email [sil@cumberlandservices.org](mailto:sil@cumberlandservices.org)

For Cumberland, providing safe and relational environments for children and youth in foster care is nothing new. The agency has focused on keeping kids safe and families together since 1904. In addition to the new program, Cumberland operates three programs for youth in foster care--an emergency shelter, a longer-term adolescent services program and a treatment services program. It also offers a residential program designed to help struggling single parent families identify paths to self-sufficiency. All Cumberland programs provide safe housing, access to group and individual counseling, case management and a host of supportive services. In 2021, Cumberland provided nearly 17,000 days of care to more than 100 residents. In coming days, Cumberland is changing its name to Cumberland Youth and Family Services to more accurately reflect the growing scope of its work. The agency became an official Denton County United Way partner in 2021.

Cumberland relies heavily on community generosity to ensure resident success. Financial gifts account for nearly 50 percent of the agency’s annual budget. To make a gift or learn more please visit: <http://cpch.org/give>

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