



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Cumberland Youth & Family Services Launches Foster Care and Adoption Program to Recruit, Train, and License Community-Based Foster Homes

DENTON, TX – Cumberland Youth & Family Services, founded in 1904 and located in Denton since 1932, celebrated the launch of their newest program on January 17th with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the Denton Chamber of Commerce representatives, community leaders, board members, local supporters, and staff.

On any given day, Denton County has well over 100 kids in foster care needing placement. Recognizing this great need, several years ago Cumberland executives and their Board of Trustees began planning and creating a framework for a program that serves community-based foster homes. On January 5th, 2024 Cumberland’s first licensed community-based foster family welcomed a foster child placement into their home.

According to Courtney Banatoski, Cumberland’s President & CEO, “Denton County has more children in foster care that need a safe place to call home than we have actual homes for kids. In fact, in Denton County, there are about 150-170 kids in care each month who need placement, and only about 25 licensed family-based foster home placements and about 25 licensed group residential placements in our county.”

With a shortage of licensed foster homes in the community, Banatoski continued, “We end up sending kids outside of our community when we can’t meet the need. Our new Foster Care & Adoption Program will help build capacity for our community. We hope to be able to recruit, train, license and support family-based foster homes for an additional 30+ kids in 2024.”

Jennifer Maddox, Cumberland’s Foster Care and Adoption Program Director said that Cumberland is eager to build foster home capacity in Denton County and other nearby counties.

“The Foster Care and Adoption team brings knowledge and experience in recruiting, training, and supporting foster and adoptive families. In preparation for caring for children with a history of trauma, foster and adoptive families receive training that exceeds the state’s minimum requirement in order to



provide a safe, nurturing environment. We intend to provide unparalleled support to foster and adoptive parents as they are caring for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Foster and adoptive parents are the critical piece in a child’s healing through the connection that is created, which leads to the child developing trust and increasing their sense of self-worth. Through increasing the number of foster homes in our community, children and youth will be able to be closer to familiar surroundings, which lessens the impact of the foster placement and helps them feel safe in the new home.”

Cumberland is currently hosting two information sessions each month that are designed to educate and answer questions about community-based foster care. Whether you're considering becoming a foster parent or interested in adopting, this event is perfect for you. Their team of experts will provide valuable insights, answer your questions, and guide you through the process. To learn more, please visit Cumberland’s [Foster Care and Adoption Program](#) page.

For Cumberland, providing a safe place to call home has been their mission for 120 years. In addition to this newest program, Cumberland provides compassionate, trauma-informed care to foster youth, young adults who have aged out of foster care, single-parent families, and uninsured community members seeking counseling; breaking the cycle of abuse, neglect, and poverty for our residents, their families, and future generations. In 2023, Cumberland Youth & Family Services provided over 15,000 days of care to more than 200 individuals and provided nearly 2,000 counseling sessions to our residents, clients, and community.

For more information about Cumberland, to make a gift, or to inquire about volunteer opportunities please visit: cumberlandservices.org