



IMPACT STATEMENT

The Case for a Permanent Campus

An investment in the young people who will grow up to be Williamson County's neighbors.

A childhood measured in moves.

Imagine being nine years old and learning that home is a place you will be asked to leave. Not once, but again and again. A new bedroom, a new school, a new set of rules, a new face at the breakfast table, and just as you start to trust it, another move. For thousands of children in Texas foster care, this is not the worst case. It is the pattern. Each move resets a child's sense of safety, sets back their learning, and follows them into adulthood. Stability, it turns out, is the intervention.

The problem, and why it belongs to the county.

Nearly 300 Williamson County children are in foster care each year, and roughly three out of four are under the age of 13.¹ They are younger than most people expect, and most are not headed for a stranger's home for good. For the majority, the goal is to heal and go home, and most do. Among local cases closed in the past year, about half ended in reunification with parents and nearly a third in permanency with relatives.² But the system these children move through is strained, and with every change of placement a child loses continuity, a school, a bedroom, a sense of safety.

Here is the part that is easy to miss. These young people are Williamson County's future residents. The nine-year-old moved again and again becomes an eighteen-year-old with no address and no one to call. When support disappears overnight at the moment a young person ages out, the result is not independence. It is a slide into homelessness, unemployment, emergency rooms, and courtrooms, and those costs land squarely on the community that could have caught them first. This is the choice in front of the county, stated plainly. We can invest now in the stability that lets a child grow into a working, contributing neighbor, or we can pay far more, for far longer, to manage the crisis that instability produces. One is a fraction of the other.

The solution: the place that stays.

Central Texas Table of Grace exists to be the stable village these children do not otherwise have. We were founded in 2014 by Stacy Johnson, who spent her own childhood, ages 2 to 16, inside the foster care system. She did not build this from a textbook. She built it from experience, and from a clear understanding of what a young person actually needs in order to feel safe, heal, and believe in a future.

Over five years, from 2020 to 2025, 244 children have come through our under 18 home, and we have given them more than 16,900 nights of safety.³ In our home, a child is not a case to be moved. They have a bed that is theirs, a school they get to keep, friendships they get to keep, therapy to work through what they carry, and adults who stay. We watch children arrive guarded and exhausted and, over time, let their shoulders drop, catch up in school, and begin not only to picture a future but to plan one. For the young adults who have aged out, our Grace365 program provides housing and the real-world skills, employment support, and coaching that turn the step into adulthood into a bridge rather than a cliff. From 2021 to 2025, Grace365 has supported 50 young adults through that transition.⁴ The thing that changed Stacy's life was not a program. It was an adult who believed in her. We build that, on purpose, for every child who comes to us.

Why the campus, and why now.

For years we have done this work in rented and scattered space, which limits how many young people we can serve and how long we can promise to be there. We are building a comprehensive campus in Round Rock that brings our programs together on one owned site, and that changes everything. We are not just building programs. We are building a place these young people can come home to, permanent and theirs, so that stability is not only what we offer a child, it is what we are.

On one campus we can serve more children, keep more siblings together, and hold the door open from a young person's first night of safety to the day they can stand on their own. The campus expands our Grace365 apartments for young adults, adds

¹Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Children in DFPS Legal Responsibility During the Fiscal Year by County (Williamson County), FY2016 to FY2025, Texas Open Data Portal, data.texas.gov. The under age 13 share is from the same dataset, FY2024 and FY2025.

²CASA of Williamson County, Texas, 2024-2025 Annual Report, covering September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

³Central Texas Table of Grace, Under 18 Home Children in Care Analysis, 2020 to 2025.

⁴Central Texas Table of Grace, Grace365 program records, 2021 to 2025.

dedicated programming in the under 18 home for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who are among the hardest to place, anchors a Child Placement Agency that recruits and supports local foster families so more of the county’s children can stay close to home, adds support for pregnant and parenting teens, and creates a transitional living program for ages 13 to 17 so younger teens are prepared for independence before they are asked to live it. Fewer moves, better futures. That is the whole design.

The community has already shown up.

This is not a plan waiting for someone to believe in it. Of the \$14.3 million construction cost, \$11.7 million is already committed. The plans are drawn, the cost is known, and the work is sequenced and ready to begin. What remains is the catalyst that turns a funded plan into a building rising out of the ground.

COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO DATE



\$11.7M committed

\$14.3M total construction cost

Where Williamson County fits.

We invite the County to fund the foundation of the under 18 home. Pouring that foundation is the official start of construction, the point at which years of planning become concrete and steel for the children of this county. Of the \$11.7 million already committed, \$4 million is released the moment the foundation is poured, which makes it the single most important milestone in the entire project. A focused investment in the foundation, released against verified, completed work, is what reaches that milestone and starts the village rising. The accompanying Scope and Milestones document lays out the exact scope, the milestone schedule, and two ways the County can participate.

An invitation.

Every child who comes to us is the hero of their own story. With a permanent campus, Williamson County helps make sure no child has to write it alone. A focused, early investment in the foundation is the moment construction begins and the village starts to rise. We would be honored to build it with you.

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