



SUMMARY

Building the Village Williamson County's Children Deserve

A catalytic construction investment in the young people who will grow up to be our neighbors.

On her first night in foster care, a child arrives with everything she owns in a single bag, not sure whether this place, like the last one, is temporary. What happens next depends almost entirely on whether anyone stays. For most foster youth, no one stays long enough. That is the gap Central Texas Table of Grace was built to close.

The problem. Nearly 300 Williamson County children are in foster care each year, and most are younger than people expect, with roughly three out of four under the age of 13.¹ They will grow up here. Too many lose a school, a bedroom, and a sense of safety with every placement, and when they age out at eighteen with no address and no one to call, the cost of that instability lands on this community in homelessness, unemployment, emergency rooms, and courtrooms. Instability is not only a hardship for the child. It is a bill the county pays for decades.

The solution. Central Texas Table of Grace, founded in 2014 by Stacy Johnson, who grew up in foster care herself, is the place that stays. Over five years, from 2020 to 2025, we have given 244 children more than 16,900 nights of safety in our under 18 home, with trauma-informed care, therapy, school support, and adults who do not leave when it gets hard.² Our Grace365 program has helped 50 young adults from 2021 to 2025 make the step into independence, so aging out becomes a bridge instead of a cliff.³ Stability is the intervention. We are building a permanent, owned campus so we can offer more of it to more of the county's children.

The momentum. The community has already shown up. Of the \$14.3 million construction cost, \$11.7 million is committed. The plans are drawn, the cost is known, and the work is sequenced and ready to begin.

Williamson County's moment. We invite the County to fund the foundation of the under 18 home, the official start of construction. Of the \$11.7 million already committed, \$4 million is released the moment that foundation is poured, which makes it the single most important milestone in the entire project. A focused investment of \$100,000 or \$290,000, released against verified, completed work in the same reimbursement structure the County has used to fund other local nonprofits, is what reaches that milestone and puts shovels in the ground for the county's own children. Full scope and both options are in the accompanying Scope and Milestones document.

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. We would be honored to build it together.

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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.

²Central Texas Table of Grace, Under 18 Home Children in Care Analysis, 2020 to 2025.

³Central Texas Table of Grace, Grace365 program records, 2021 to 2025.