

THE GATEWAY

Single Mom is Single Minded: 'I'm on a Mission'

Erin Tracy's neat and tidy apartment, two well-behaved boys and full-time college course load offers few clues to what her life was like only a few years ago. Her transformation is inspiring and due in no small part to her time at Family Gateway coupled with her natural tenacity and resourcefulness.

"Growing up I was never good in school and always felt like an outcast. I acted out, ran with the wrong crowd and didn't have a lot of family support. I got it in my head that school wasn't for me," Erin said. "Then, right before my 18th birthday I made a choice to do well. I earned my GED and started working full-time. I budgeted \$2.00 a day for lunch and saved every penny I could for my future." Erin used her savings for an apartment of her own and tuition. She was independent and doing well when someone changed her life forever.

"I was focused on school, but didn't have many friends or family nearby for support. I was 18 and met a man who was 23." Before she knew it her hopeful new life turned into a nightmare of abuse. "There was nobody to help me. I was pregnant, terrified and alone. It was so bad I would pray that God would just take me and my child," Erin recounted.



When her son Jeremiah was born Erin knew she had to make a change. She arrived at Family Gateway with a bag of diapers and the clothes on her back. "When they told me I had my own room, I couldn't believe it. I knew I would be OK, I knew this was my chance," Erin said. "At that time I was in crisis and not thinking long-term about my future. The staff encouraged me to consider school and getting a college degree. I arrived at Family Gateway in July, and with their help started school in August."



Above: Jeremiah proudly poses with his meticulously constructed creation.
Left: Erin, Jeremiah and Israel at home before bedtime.

Erin's path has been filled with challenges and blessings, including the birth of her second child Israel and balancing motherhood and full-time enrollment at UTA.

"I'm on a mission," Erin said. A mission to be successful, to provide a stable home and opportunities for her boys and to help others. "I used to think about being a missionary, but as a mom, I have to look for other ways to give back. I enjoy volunteering at Family Gateway as an Ambassador and showing other residents that they too can change their life for the better."

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Today was a great day. I met Trazell Bailey, a single dad and former Family Gateway client. In 1990 he was a young father of three beautiful little children, but his life was spiraling downward after he lost his job and his home.

Family Gateway provided housing, food and clothing to his family and helped him to pursue his education. Classes at the Bill Priest Institute and a year of stability at the Gateway Apartments helped him build a foundation for a successful future. "Family Gateway helped me tremendously to get back on my feet," Trazell said.

Today, Trazell owns his own heating and air conditioning business here in the Dallas area. And with two girls in college at Howard University and Grambling State University, and his son working nearby, he couldn't be more proud of his children. Their story is a wonderful example of how your gifts and involvement make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable families here in our community.

Families like these are the reason I'm so excited to join Family Gateway as the third executive director in the organization's 24-year history. And as we near the 25th anniversary, we are looking forward to sharing the next chapter in the agency's development with you. Your support allows Family Gateway to fill an important need; providing homeless families with children a safe, family centered environment with the tools parents and children need to change their lives and make positive choices for their future.

The last 24 years of my professional career have been dedicated to maximizing the impact of nonprofit organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters. Here at Family Gateway, I need your continued support to implement a bold, creative vision to build and expand programs to meet the social and economic challenges families face today.

Together we can break the cycle of homelessness and create many more family success stories with happy endings like the Bailey's.

Sincerely,



Robert Alberts



Executive Director Rob Alberts

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Thank You for Making Lasting Memories

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TOUCHED BY OUTPOURING OF GENEROSITY

The holidays were truly a time of joy and thankfulness at Family Gateway. Volunteers and Secret Santas gave generously to the Adopt-a-Family program and Elf Closet, making sure children and their parents were surrounded by love and caring.

Kindness and inspiration were also provided by a visit from Ed "Too Tall" Jones; a special holiday meal for families at the Arlington Ballpark's Diamond Club, hosted by Texas Rangers pitcher Darren Oliver and his family; a day of beauty and family photo keepsakes by the volunteers of Help Portrait; and delicious holiday meals prepared and served by volunteers from Hunt Oil, Comerica Bank, Congregation Shearith Israel, Zizikis and many more.

Thank you to each and every generous spirit who gave a financial gift, hosted a holiday activity, served a nutritious meal, provided a special gift or topped it with a colorful bow. Your kindness made a joyous difference that will be remembered.



See more photos and videos on our website, familygateway.org.



From top: Thanksgiving arts and crafts added warmth and a festive touch to the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center. New toys provided by generous donations brought the joy of the holidays to children at Family Gateway. Help Portrait photos of children and families provided a lasting keepsake for parents. Ed "Too Tall" Jones shared time and his inspiring life story with children and parents at the Center. Families enjoyed dinner at the Diamond Club and posing for photos with Darren Oliver and his family. Holiday gifts bring smiles from ear to ear.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FAMILY GATEWAY

Currently, there are over 4,500 homeless children in Dallas County and a growing number of homeless families in need of the family focused care offered at Family Gateway. Thank you for your support of our mission and your generosity as we seek to expand our programs and facilities to meet the need.

Celebrities Serve Up the Fun in Fundraising

JOIN US FOR THE 2011 CELEBRITY WAITER LUNCHEON THIS FALL



Celebrity waiters let their personalities shine through to raise funds for homeless children and families at Family Gateway.

The Celebrity Waiter Luncheon, held at the Ritz-Carlton on October 15, was great fun thanks to the no-holds-barred fundraising antics of the celebrity waiters.

Celebrities treated guests to singing, dancing, skipping ... and yes, even a marriage proposal. There was little the celebrity waiters wouldn't do to entertain and compete for the highest tips.

Special thanks to event chair, Kristi Bare; event emcee, Scott Murray; our celebrity waiters and all the attendees for a memorable and successful event. Event sponsors including the Hirsch Family Foundation, Vin & Caren Prothro Foundation, Jessica and Marc Colombo and Ernst & Young allowed us to exceed our fundraising goal for the luncheon.

We anticipate the 2011 Celebrity Waiter Luncheon will be even bigger and better. Event Chairs Shay Geyer and Maggie Kipp have already secured celebrities and silent auction items for the upcoming fall event.

See photos of all the fun in our photo gallery and find 2011 luncheon event participation opportunities on our website, familygateway.org.

Celebrity Waiter Luncheon

When:
Friday, September 23, 2011

Where:
The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas

Sponsorships from \$1,500
Individual tickets: \$100



90 KIDS IN 90 DAYS CAMPAIGN RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDING FOR CHILDREN

The annual 90 Kids in 90 Days campaign offers supporters like you the opportunity to raise awareness and funding for homeless children at Family Gateway.

In 2010, participants in the friends-asking-friends campaign shared Family Gateway's inspiring mission with hundreds of their friends and family from around the corner and across the country.



Fundraising leaders, donors and corporate teams at Reata Pharmaceuticals raised over \$16,000 for homeless children living at the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center.

Thank you to all those who participated in the campaign, and special thanks to Reata Pharmaceuticals for matching the funds contributed by their top fundraising team. Your gifts provided safety and joy to children and families during the holidays, and brought vital attention to the growing problem of family homelessness in Dallas.

Congratulations to the Top Fundraisers

Reata Pharmaceuticals'
Team Point Isabel

Reata Pharmaceuticals'
Team Aransas Pass

Samantha Durst

Reata Pharmaceuticals'
Team Bolivar Point

Jeff Stager

Chris Childress

Picture Yourself at Polo on the Lawn

POLO CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH KENTUCKY DERBY THEME

Mark your calendar for the perfect spring fling, the 10th annual Polo on the Lawn. The event is a fun-filled afternoon of polo with fast-paced action, thoroughbred beauties, champagne divot stomping and side-line socializing. The Kentucky Derby will also be broadcast live from the Polo event.

Children will enjoy activities just for them, including a bounce house, toys and games. Guests can compete to win a variety of prizes for the best dressed: lady, gentleman, couple, child, hat, dog, picnic and tailgate.

When: Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: Prestonwood Polo & Country Club
525 Yacht Club Road
Oak Point, Texas (minutes west of Frisco)

Who: Event Chair, Dena Miller
Underwriting Chair, Kelly Ann Stafford
Silent Auction Chair, Crystal Corwin Smith

Event tickets are \$45 and include event admission, t-shirt, champagne and commemorative glass for the traditional divot stomp. To purchase tickets or find additional ticket and sponsorship information, visit the events page of our website, familygateway.org.



Top: Brian and Shay Geyer enjoy the fun at Polo with a friend.

Bottom: Father and son compete for best dressed in snazzy spring seersucker suits.



THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Dallas Morning News Charities

Special thanks to The Dallas Morning News Charities for their ongoing financial support and advocacy.



"The Dallas Morning News Charities was pleased to continue its support of Family Gateway through the

2010-11 campaign. The Agency provides a vital service to our community by helping homeless families with children move from crisis to self-sufficiency and success."

Elise Longpree, Community Relations Manager
The Dallas Morning News

The Rees-Jones Foundation

Our thanks to the Rees-Jones Foundation for their partnership and generous matching gift in support of Family Gateway's children's programs.

The Real Estate Council

TREC and its members are investing in Family Gateway and the Dallas community by providing architectural planning and feasibility studies to bring critical services and programs closer to the vulnerable families we serve.

Gene and Jerry Jones Family Charities

Family Gateway volunteer, Jeff Stager, was honored with the Dallas Cowboys Community Quarterback Award and accepted a generous gift for Family Gateway's programs.

Katina's Story: Homeless Teen to Beauty Queen

Katina Brooks became a teen mom at the tender age of 16. While many might have written her off as just another hopeless statistic headed for a life of poverty and dependency, her story - like so many others - is one of hope and possibility.

In fact, Katina beautifully demonstrates that the future is not written. Lasting stability and self-sufficiency are achievable when homeless families and children are given the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Katina's Story

"I became a mom to my son, Jari, at only 16 and lived at home until I graduated from high school," Katina said. "My mom believed that tough love would ultimately make me more independent and successful, so she found Family Gateway. My three-year-old son and I left home and moved into the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center when I was 19 years old."

"I was young, scared and didn't know what to do next. My case manager helped me look at my options and decide to further my education at the Bill Priest Institute. The professional office certification I earned and skills I developed at Family Gateway helped me get a job in the personal trust department of a bank. I continued to move up, taking my experience to New York Life Insurance and finally to my current position of administrative assistant in the product development department of Mary Kay."

Like many employees of beauty giant Mary Kay Inc., Katina has over 10 years of service with the company. She has also earned her associate's degree and is continuing her education in political science.

She's always looking for opportunities to better herself, "If I have to get out of my comfort zone (to grow), that's OK," she said.

She beams when talking about her son, now 23 years old. "He is bright, articulate and my gentle giant at 6' 7" tall. He loves to cook and is very good. Culinary school is in his future," she said.



"I am the face of family homelessness. When I tell people that know me now, they can't believe I was a homeless teen."

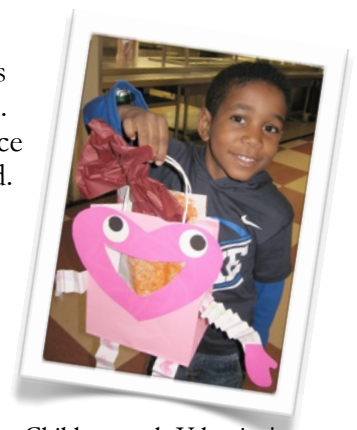
Katina takes time out of her busy day at Mary Kay Inc. to share a smile.

Giving Back

In addition to her volunteer work as an Ambassador at Family Gateway, Katina hosted a volunteer group of her co-workers at Family Gateway as part of the Mary Kay Global Month of

Service. The group shared their kindness and creativity with children and parents during a Valentine's holiday arts and crafts day.

The proud smiles on the children's faces were priceless and fulfilled Katina's mission. "Family Gateway was the place that gave me a start," she said. "I want to share with current residents that I was once where they are, and that they shouldn't let their color, age or anything else keep them from succeeding. It only takes a vision - if I can do it, they can do it."



Children made Valentine's gift bags to share with family and friends.

Thank you for making success stories like Katina's possible with your support. See more photos of Katina's visit to Family Gateway and hear a message from her and her co-workers on the video page of our website.

DID YOU KNOW? A PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE

Family homelessness is a silent epidemic that has potentially devastating effects on children. According to Mark Pierce, program manager for the Dallas ISD Homeless Education Program, "homeless children often change schools up to three times per year. Every time a student switches schools they fall behind academically up to six weeks. Three moves in one year can put them up to a year behind their peers."

Falling behind academically is just one of many challenges homeless children face. Without the stability of a home, they often miss out on healthy meals and suffer from anxiety, depression and shame. Emotional

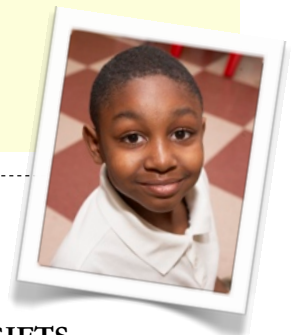
support can be difficult to find as their parents deal with their own stress and work to find a solution to their family's current crisis.

“ **We have seen a huge increase in homelessness. Our office has directly served almost 1,000 students already this year.** ”

**Mark Pierce, Program Manager
Homeless Education Program Dallas ISD
March 2011**

We need your continued support to meet the needs of homeless children today and ensure they can embrace a successful future.

At Family Gateway children receive healthy meals, childcare and counseling to help them deal with the emotional challenges of homelessness. Their parents receive counseling, classes to improve their personal and professional skills and help finding employment to create long-term stability for the family.



Get Involved: Ways You Can Help

FINANCIAL GIFTS

Your donations are deeply appreciated and can be sent by mail or completed online at our website, familygateway.org.

Join the **Children's Champion Club** with your recurring monthly gift to help children throughout the year. Find a membership form online, or call Pam Riggs at 214-823-4500 x 101.



Demonstrate your commitment to homeless children and families as a member of the **Gateway Guild Giving Society**.

Find membership details online or call Emily Santillan at 214-823-4500 x 107.



VOLUNTEER

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available at Family Gateway. Whether working directly with our clients or behind the scenes, you will make a valuable contribution and lasting difference. Contact Shama Shams at 214-823-4500 x 106 for individual and group involvement opportunities.

ADOPT-A-ROOM

Help new families feel welcome at the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center by decorating and outfitting their room.



Room adoption is for a period of one year, and most often offers the opportunity to help three or more families. To learn more, contact Shama Shams at 214-823-4500 x 106.

IN-KIND GIFTS

Family Gateway gladly accepts donations of new and gently used items for the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center and Gateway Apartments.

In-kind donation drives are a fun way to bring your community group, school or congregation together for a common purpose.

Wish List Items

- Twin bed sheets
- Baby bed sheets
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Towels
- Toiletries
- Baby diapers and wipes
- Baby food and formula
- Twin beds
- Living room furniture
- Canned goods

Donations are tax-deductible.



Administrative Office

2910 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
Ph: 214-823-4500
Fax: 214-823-2475

Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center

711 S. St. Paul Street
Dallas, TX 75201
Ph: 214-741-6515

Gateway Apartments

4712 Gaston Avenue
Dallas, TX 75246
Ph: 214-823-4487

www.familygateway.org

03/11

Get connected.

Visit familygateway.org to sign-up for the latest updates through e-news and social media or to connect with our staff.



Family Gateway Kids Korner

BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN



Give Back Birthday Club

We are happy to help! The heartfelt sign at Lee Rodenbaugh's birthday party shares a simple yet powerful message, that she and her friends are happy to give back and help other children. Instead of gifts for herself, Lee asked her party goers to bring gifts for children at Family Gateway.

We're so thankful to Lee and her friends for the thoughtful gifts that will bring happiness and comfort to children at Family Gateway.

Learn more about Family Gateway and the **Give Back Birthday Club** on our website.

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