

THE GATEWAY

Job Loss Spells Disaster for Young Family

Allen and Katrina and their three children were a typical hardworking American family. "Allen was working in construction and I was caring for the children. We managed our money and were doing well."

"We were at the top of our game, and then before we knew it everything was taken from us," explains Katrina.

The economy slowed, construction jobs dried up, and along with it Allen and Katrina's lifeline. "We lived with family off and on and then had to resort to shelters while doing everything we could to get back on our feet. One of us would find work while the other cared for the kids."

While living at an emergency shelter, Katrina was surprised by the way families with children were treated. "Every morning all the residents were told to leave and not come back until 3 p.m. I had to leave and walk the streets with the children because we had nowhere else to go. I took them to

playgrounds, and thankfully found a church that let us come inside. **Sometimes it seemed so hopeless,"** recounts Katrina.

Allen and Katrina were both willing to work hard to



Above: Little AJ, Bryce, Nevaeh, Allen and Katrina smile for a family photo after moving to the Gateway Apartments.

improve their situation, but couldn't find the help they needed. Shelters and family gave them a place to sleep, but did not provide tools for them to significantly improve their future.

Thanks to your support, Allen, Katrina, Bryce, Nevaeh and little AJ found just the help they needed at Family Gateway. At Family Gateway, families are able to stay together and benefit from food and clothing, childcare, counseling, classes and resources specifically designed to strengthen families. Programs for parents and children help families recover from crisis and rebuild their lives.

Katrina and Allen have used their time at Family Gateway wisely, investing in themselves and

their family's future. "Family Gateway made the difference for us. I'm in school working towards my Medical Assistant's degree, Allen has found construction work and we're saving money again. The childcare and support at Family Gateway allowed us *both* to take positive steps forward."

"Providing for the children is our #1 priority. We are willing to sacrifice to make sure they have everything they need – everything is for the kids," explains Katrina.

Thank you for your continuing support of Family Gateway. Your gifts provide a vital lifeline for families experiencing homelessness and a pathway back to stability and lasting self-sufficiency.



Nevaeh at the recent Gateway Getaway event.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I recently spoke with a respected community leader and philanthropist about the challenges of family homelessness. He told me, **“Connie, Dallas just doesn’t see children who are homeless.”** At that time, I was able to share with him the maps we've developed that reveal the true picture of homeless children in Dallas. We hope our maps help bring to life the staggering reality that there are thousands of unseen homeless children throughout DISD and Dallas County. On page 7, you'll see a map that shows the number of school aged children registered in Dallas County school districts. It is an eye opener.



Connie with Elijah at the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center.

According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, every year hundreds of thousands of American families become homeless, including more than 1.5 million children. These children are hidden from our view, living in shelters, cars, motels or “doubled up” with others. They are young and scared, and their parents and families are frustrated and desperate.

Family homelessness is caused by the combined effects of our slowed economy, lack of affordable housing, extreme poverty, changing demographics of the family, the challenges of raising children alone, domestic violence and fractured social supports. As the gap between housing costs and income continues to widen and housing foreclosures increase, more and more families are at risk of homelessness. For extremely poor families and those without a safety net, **even a seemingly minor event can trigger a catastrophic outcome and catapult a family onto the streets.** In this newsletter you'll meet two families who despite years of hard work, became homeless due to life events that we can all encounter.

There are thousands of children and families experiencing homelessness. Family Gateway is putting a face on those who are homeless, especially the children. We need your help in making sure that their needs are met and that they have a chance for a better future in our wonderful community. Please contact us if you would like to help empower families for success. We have many ways for you to be involved.

Sincerely,

Connie S. Boyd

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Gateway Getaway Family Staycation Day

HOMELESS CHILDREN AT FAMILY GATEWAY ENJOY JUST BEING KIDS

Family vacations are filled with great memories of carefree fun and family time away from the stress of everyday. Since many homeless children have never experienced a family vacation, Family Gateway hosts the annual Gateway Getaway, a staycation day for families and children.

Tiny tots to teenagers beat the summer heat and enjoyed cool kiddie pools, water slides, a bungee run, face painting, water balloons and squirt guns. Hamburgers, hot dogs and icy treats made the summer fun complete.

Special thanks to the Getaway sponsors, volunteers and staff who made the day possible. In alphabetical order: Allyn Media, Bank of America Lakewood Branch, Jason Barnes, Jill and Jim Cochran and Family, Murray Covin, David Makatura, Cathy and Greg Mullen, Neiman Marcus Direct, Erin and Kyle Ragsdale, Emily Maduro and Joe Wielebinski, and Mari Woodlief.



Children at Family Gateway enjoy water slides, cool pools, a bungee run and tasty treats at the Gateway Getaway.



Watch a video of all the fun and hear the children's laughter at our Web site, familygateway.org.

The fall season is full of fun family events that you, your company or community group can join. See pages 8 and 9 for opportunities to get involved with children and families at Family Gateway.



Right: Omariya Lewis and Sophie Barnes serve popcorn and icy treats to children. Left: Jill and Jim Cochran along with their family and friends help provide a fun-filled day for kids.

SFUZZI UPTOWN HOSTS MIX, MINGLE AND MATTER EVENT FOR FAMILY GATEWAY

On Thursday, September 16th, old friends and new faces gathered at Sfuzzi Uptown to Mix, Mingle & Matter for Family Gateway. The lively group enjoyed cocktails and a delicious sampling of the best appetizers and entrees from Sfuzzi's menu. It was a great opportunity for guests to learn more about Family Gateway and hear the latest news and announcements. Thank you to all those who attended and to Sfuzzi for donating the food and drinks.



Look for details on the next Mix, Mingle & Matter in our e-newsletter. Subscribe to get the latest news and events at familygateway.org.

Join Us for 'Dining with the Stars'



Join former Dallas Cowboy, Marco Rivera; Coach Wade Phillip's better half, Laurie Phillips; Good Morning Texas' Shay Geyer; WFAA's Amy Vanderoef; country music singer Brittnee Lee and many more celebrity waiters who will be serving up fun at the Celebrity Waiter Luncheon benefiting Family Gateway.

The event is a lively affair with silent and live auctions featuring celebrities from local business, media, politics, sports and entertainment industries as waiters. Waiters seek tips in eccentric ways and go to great lengths to raise money during 90 action-packed minutes.

Come prepared for fun and the opportunity to learn more about how your attendance and support are helping children and families experiencing homelessness.

Who: Kristi Bare, Event Chair | Scott Murray, Emcee

What: A fun, celebrity-filled afternoon

When: Friday, October 15, 2010
Registration begins at 11:00

Where: The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas
2121 McKinney Avenue

Why: Families with children are the fastest growing homeless group

How: Individual ticket - \$100
Patron ticket - \$250
Sponsorships starting at \$1,500

Purchase tickets by contacting Emily Santillan at esantillan@familygateway.org or 214-823-4500 x 107.

Above: Marco Rivera, Brittnee Lee and Amy Vanderoef

Reservations will be held at the door.

Event Chair
Kristi Bare

Event Emcee
Scott Murray

Silent Auction Chair
Jessica Colombo

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Need Some Inspiration? Meet Zach Bonner.

He's almost too good to be true. Zach Bonner, 12, spent his summer walking from Tampa, FL to Los Angeles, CA to raise awareness about the growing number of homeless children. His stop in Dallas included a trip to the library to read to children living at Family Gateway, as well as an exciting trip to Build-a-Bear where children were able to create their own comforting, cuddly bear.



Zach recently ended his journey in California where his walk was celebrated by singer Elton John and others. See videos of Zach's inspiring visit to Family Gateway on the Video page of our Web site, familygateway.org.



Zach Bonner stopped at Family Gateway during his 2,478 mile Walk Across America to spend time with homeless children in our community.

"It's Not About Me, It's All About My Daughter"

When William became a single dad to his beautiful daughter, Alika, he knew his life would be dedicated to her from that moment on.

Alika was only six, and as she grew William depended on help from his sister to juggle work and her school schedule. "I worked 12 hour shifts at a box manufacturing company to make ends meet. I would drop Alika at my sister's house at 2 a.m. and pick her up from school in the afternoon," recounted William.

Like William, many parents depend on extended family to balance the demands of work and the needs of children. And the arrangement worked well until his sister became ill unexpectedly and passed away.

Without a support system, William had to move closer to Alika's school. "The apartment was expensive, but worth it because we were near her school and in a good neighborhood. My mind was at ease because I knew she was safe and that the neighbors always kept an eye on her. **Education is the most important thing. I want to give her the best education I can afford,**" said William.

Father and daughter were doing well in their new apartment and neighborhood. William was respected at his job where he had worked for seven years and life was good. "I kept things running smoothly at work," he said with a smile filled with pride.

And then, two common yet unexpected events resulted in crisis for their little family.

Alika developed allergies and asthma. When she had an attack or became ill, William had nobody else to care for her. "I had no choice, I simply had to leave work a couple of times to take care of her." After seven years of service, working the night shift for his company, William was laid-off from his job. "I cried. I'm not a quitter. I kept asking what did I do wrong," he remembered.



Above: William and Alika smile as they prepare to leave the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center.

Next, their car broke down and needed repairs. As we all know, our cars are a lifeline and repairs are a must no matter what the cost. But now, with no job or cash reserves after repairs, they couldn't pay the rent.

William went to a family member who helped them for only two weeks. And then, after a couple of days in their car, William and Alika found Family Gateway.

"The Lord has blessed us. Here I know Alika is safe and I don't have to worry about anything. Since coming here I have found a job and am saving money for an apartment and bills so we can be on our own again. I'm willing to work 24 hours a day to build up some savings," said William.

William and Alika's story is not unusual. Without a support system of family and friends and the resources to weather unexpected expenses, a minor event can become catastrophic for any family.

Thankfully, your support offers hope and help to families working to regain their self-sufficiency.

SUPERBOWL HOST COMMITTEE DOCUMENTARY TO INCLUDE FAMILY GATEWAY



Look for Family Gateway kiddos in an upcoming documentary produced by Slant 45 and the Superbowl Host Committee. We're honored that the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas chose Family Gateway as their service project, and will host a fun-filled talent show to be featured in the film screened at the Angelika theatres January 28, 2011.

"The teens for Down Syndrome Guild picked Family Gateway because they wanted to do something fun and help other kids like themselves. Sometimes it's hard to just be a kid who may be different from others and have fun, so they wanted to have a party for the kids at Family Gateway to forget about their troubles for an afternoon. After

touring the facility, everyone was so moved by the wonderful services offered there, they decided to do a drive for backpacks and other supplies to donate to the center also," shared Program Specialist, Cara Prentice.

IS YOUR PERCEPTION REALITY? TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

When you hear the word 'homeless' what image first enters your mind? Is it a mother with a small child, or a person with a cardboard sign? Do you see a person with an overflowing shopping cart, or a family who lost their home after a job layoff? Is it someone who is mentally ill or a single dad trying to make ends meet and care for his daughter?

Q: What is the fastest growing homeless group: families or the chronically homeless?

A: While chronically homeless individuals are the most visible on the streets and in public places, families are the fastest growing homeless group. Women with children make up 53% of the homeless population.

Q: I never really thought about families being homeless. What are the leading causes of family homelessness?

A: Families and children don't choose to be homeless. Often the loss of a job, an illness or divorce can be the event that leaves families without the resources to survive and ultimately leads to homelessness.

Q: There are over 4,300 homeless children in the DISD school system alone, so why don't we see them? Where do homeless children sleep at night?

A: According to the most current DISD records, 69% of homeless children live doubled-up with friends or other families, 25% live in temporary shelters, 3.4% live

in motels and 2% are unsheltered in cars, parks or campgrounds.

Q: What exactly is 'doubled-up' and is it really that harmful to children and families?

A: Families often 'double up' or live with other families or friends to avoid becoming homeless. Studies show, however, that this is not a long-term solution and many families do lose their shared housing and become homeless. Per capita, Texas has the highest number of doubled-up households due to economic hardship of any state.¹ It's a surprising statistic because it is largely an invisible problem.

Q: What are the best ways to help families and children experiencing homelessness? What can we do to try to make sure they don't become homeless again?

A: Once a family has lost their home or vehicle, it can be a very long and painful struggle to regain stability and self-sufficiency. First, families need help with the basics of food, clothing and a safe place to live together. The next important step is to address the reasons why a family became homeless. Each family's situation is unique, but a support system of childcare, classes, skills training and additional resources give families and children the tools they need to make positive choices and change their future.

Source 1: National Alliance to End Homelessness, June 2010



PRECIOUS MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Looking back on our own childhood, many of us carry with us happy memories of times spent with our family sharing stories around the kitchen table, stuffing ourselves at Thanksgiving dinner, or bursting with excitement Christmas morning. Those familiar sights, sounds and smells can instantly bring us back to those times when the world was magical and carefree.

Children with nowhere to call home will not have these happy memories. Their memories of childhood will be filled with hunger, uncertainty, insecurity and fear that they can take with them into adulthood.

There is hope. You can help to restore the stability and joy in a child's life. Your support of Family Gateway gives families the tools they need to achieve long-term success, creating the stability and opportunities children need to thrive.

We hope you'll partner with us to empower homeless families and children for success and self-sufficiency. Keep up with our most recent news, events and opportunities for involvement by visiting our Web site familygateway.org. Receive the latest updates by following us on Twitter (@FamilyGateway), or join in the conversation on Facebook.

The Invisible Epidemic of Family Homelessness

NUMBERS DON'T LIE, BUT THEY ALSO DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY

There are thousands of homeless children in Dallas alone. Behind this shocking statistic there are real children with nowhere to call home.



**Dallas County School Districts with
Number of Homeless Children**

Source: 2009/2010 ISD student homeless reports

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FAMILY GATEWAY

The number of homeless families continues to rise. We need your support to provide a safe place for children and families to get the help they need to regain lasting self-sufficiency.

Ways You Can Help

Give children at Family Gateway wonderful holiday memories by participating in one or more of our upcoming holiday events. For more event details or to participate, contact Shama Shams at sshams@familygateway.org.



FAMILY GATEWAY BOOBASH

October 23, 2010 | Gateway Apartments | 1-4 p.m.

The BooBash brings together all the fall fun of Halloween for children at Family Gateway with costumes, candy, games and pumpkin art. Participate by volunteering, providing party items or both.

Needed items: small pumpkins, fall table decorations, goodie bags, costumes for all ages, portable photo printer and refreshments.

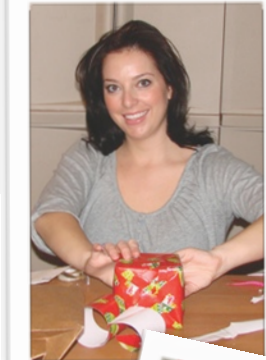
THANKSGIVING MEALS

Week of November 25, 2010

There are two opportunities for you to help families have a happy Thanksgiving.

For families living at the Center, we need volunteers to provide Thanksgiving meals, (pre-prepared or prepared in our kitchen) and served to families the week of Thanksgiving. Meals can be lunch or dinner.

For the families at Gateway Apartments, a food basket with the items needed for a traditional dinner would be appreciated so families can prepare their own family meal.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

October - December

Grant holiday wishes for a family experiencing homelessness by providing gifts for the children and parents of your adopted family. Your generosity will bring joy and the magic of the season to children who have often had to leave behind many of their familiar toys. Additionally, donations to our Elf Closet allow children to choose a gift of their own to give to their parents for the holidays.

FINANCIAL GIFTS

Your donations are deeply appreciated and can be sent by mail or completed online at our Web site, familygateway.org. To join the Children's Champion Club with your monthly gift, or Gateway Guild, please contact 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 group and individual involvement opportunities.

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. Contact Danny White at 214-823-4500 x 108 for more details, or bring donations to the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center to receive your tax receipt.

Wish List Items: twin bed sheets, pillows, blankets, towels, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers, laundry detergent, adult and children's clothing, adult professional clothing (men's and women's), twin beds, living room furniture, lamps, nightstands.

GUILD MEMBERS PROVIDE VITAL SUPPORT



Family Gateway founder,
Annette G. Strauss.

The Gateway Guild unites visionary members of the local community who seek to inspire others and better serve Dallas' homeless children and their families. Supporting the vision that Annette G. Strauss had almost 25 years ago, members demonstrate their commitment by investing in Family Gateway's present and future with a multi-year pledge.

The support of guild members is vital to the success of Family Gateway and the children and families we serve. To join the Guild, please contact Emily Santillan at 214-823-4500 x 107.

WE'VE MADE IT EASY TO HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN

Do you remember the old days of 'You can tell two friends and they can tell two friends and they can tell two friends ...' method of spreading the word about important issues? It was a great idea then, and still is today. The good news is: it's easier than ever to spread the word about the important issue of children and homelessness using the internet, email and social media, and Family Gateway can help.

You can raise awareness and funding for homeless children by participating in the 90 Kids in 90 Days campaign from October to December. We'll make it easy for you to share the story of the children you're helping with your own fundraising page. We'll build your page, all you have to do is set a fundraising goal and share your page with family and friends via email, Facebook or mail.



IT'S THAT EASY!

Learn more on our Web site, or for more details about getting started, email Kristen at khaigh@familygateway.org.

BE A CHAMPION TO A HOMELESS CHILD



Empower homeless children for success year-round by joining the Children's Champion Club with your monthly gift pledge. Automatic monthly giving makes giving easy and ensures children will find the help they need at Family Gateway.

To become a Children's Champion Club member with your pledge of \$10 or more per month, call Emily Santillan at 214-823-4500 x 107.



GATEWAY GUILD MEMBERS

Platinum

\$10,000 and up

Jill and Jim Cochran

Gold

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Faye C. Briggs

Suzanne and Patrick McGee

Nancy Perot Mulford

Diana and Rick Strauss

Silver

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Ruth Altshuler

Aparna and Manu Asthana

Judy and James Gibbs

Janie and Cappy McGarr

Jan B. Norris

Carolyn and Karl Rathjen

Bronze

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Naomi Aberly

Connie S. Boyd

Susie Strauss Breen

Rebecca W. Bruder

Jeff and Mary Nan Doumany

Susan and Fred Gans

Nancy and Jeremy Halbreich

Margaret and Barry Hancock

The Horchow Family

Caroline Rose Hunt

Lisa and Peter Kraus

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Annette G. Strauss Foundation

Ellen Terry

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

The Meadows Foundation



Thank you for the generous gift of \$100,000 for construction and renovation improvements to the Gateway Apartments.

"A stable home environment is a big contributor to raising self-esteem and maintaining healthy families. We are pleased to

support Family Gateway in their efforts to give homeless families with children a safe place in which to rebuild their lives and gain self-sufficiency."

Linda Perryman Evans
President and CEO

CREW Dallas

Piggy bank arts and crafts activity with the children.

"It was a delight to spend our Saturday with children at Family Gateway. We can't wait to come back!"



Rosewood Employee Contribution Match

Thank you to Angela Smith and the employees of Rosewood for raising \$3,285 in individual donations which were matched by the Rosewood Foundation. We appreciate the employees and the Foundation for their thoughtfulness and support.



New Jerusalem AME Church

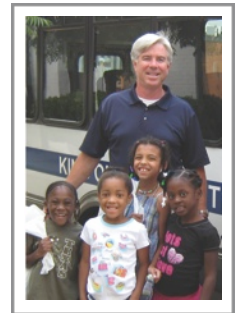
Thank you for providing breakfast for Center residents each month.

King of Glory Lutheran Church

Thank you for providing transportation for children in Family Gateway's summer program at no cost.

"I just love getting to know the kids, it makes my day."

Jeff Stager
Church Member



BELOVED STAFF MEMBER TO RETIRE THIS MONTH

Executive Assistant, Joan Sutton, will retire this month after six years of service to Family Gateway. "Joan has been an invaluable asset to Family Gateway. She has served as our Executive Assistant and board liaison, as well as writing grants and assisting with special projects wherever she was needed. Her knowledge, commitment and positive attitude will be dearly missed." said Executive Director, Connie Boyd.

We're fortunate that Joan will continue to be involved through her church. "I believe in the mission and the work we're doing here. We offer families the help they need to truly change their lives, and I'm going to continue to contribute to that success."

Thank you to Joan for the many special gifts she shared with Family Gateway. We look forward to Joan's continued involvement and ensuring she remains a close member of the Gateway family.



Executive Assistant, Joan Sutton, hard at work for Family Gateway.

Save the Date! Upcoming Events

Family Gateway's BooBash

A festive event for children at the Gateway Apartments and Gateway Center with costumes, pumpkin decorating and games. See page 8 for details.

When: October 23, 2010 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: Gateway Apartments

Good Eats for a Good Cause



smash. sizzle. savor.®

Dallas Cowboys, Marc Colombo and Leonard Davis, are preparing to unveil a new Smashburger restaurant in the heart of Uptown. Head on over to 2222

McKinney Ave (corner of McKinney and Pearl) between December 10 and December 31 and Smashburger Uptown will donate \$1 from the purchase of every Lonestar burger to Family Gateway.

Polo on the Lawn

Mark your calendar. Saturday, May 7, 2011 is 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 be broadcast live from the 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, picnic and tailgate.

Stay tuned for more details.

INTERNS LEND HELPING HAND AND LEARN VALUABLE SKILLS THIS SUMMER

What can seven interns accomplish in a summer at Family Gateway? A lot. Our dedicated group will take with them valuable lessons learned about themselves and others, and leave behind a wonderful legacy of families served and special projects completed.

Early in the summer the entire group worked together to repaint the entryway of the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center. The new cheerful yellow walls greet families each day and will remain a lasting reminder of their summer of service.

We're so thankful to Tanequa, Myiesha, Jessica, La'Darian and Omariya for all their contributions at the Center, including; assisting at the front desk and with family intake, preparing rooms for new families, helping with move-in and ensuring families had all the resources they needed for success.

NYU freshman, Sophie Barnes, served families in a variety of ways at the Center, and will be remembered for her outstanding leadership, planning and fundraising efforts for the Gateway Getaway event.

Stanford junior, Jaclyn Le, was an invaluable addition to many special projects at the administrative office. A map utilizing her thorough research and analysis of the current trends in Dallas county and DISD child homelessness can be seen on page 7.



Thank you to our 2010 summer interns

Above: Interns Tanequa Dukes, Sophie Barnes, Myiesha Cooper, Jaclyn Le, Jessica Brianes and La'Darian Wilson. Right: Intern Omariya Lewis brightens the walls at the Gateway Center in downtown Dallas.

Provide a Warm Welcome to New Families

You can Adopt-a-Room at the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway Center and help new families feel welcome and hopeful in their new surroundings. By decorating and outfitting their room, you will provide children and their parents a safe, comfortable place of their own where they can begin to rebuild their lives.



Adoption involves cleaning the room and providing bedding, decoration, towels and toiletries for the members of a new family. Additional opportunities are available at the Gateway Apartments.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact Shama Shams, community relations manager, at 214-823-4500 x 106.



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Family Gateway
AND THE
ANNETTE G. STRAUSS
FAMILY GATEWAY CENTER

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

