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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ACH Completes Funding for Breakthrough Foster Youth Treatment Center**  
*ACH Child and Family Services helps the highest need youth with a new residential program—  
the only one of its kind in Texas*



FORT WORTH, Texas (Aug. 27, 2020)- ACH Child and Family Services has exceeded \$7.5 million in funding for [The Robert and Jane Ferguson Residential Treatment Center](#) (RTC), a unique facility designed to help foster youth with significant behavioral or mental health challenges. As the need for these services was and continues to be so great within our local community, ACH opened the RTC in August 2019 before it was fully funded.

“By helping teens understand that they are safe, valued, respected, and have a purpose, they can begin to trust safe and caring adults and begin to heal from their trauma,” said ACH CEO Wayne Carson. “The Robert and Jane Ferguson Residential Treatment Center is one-of-a-kind in Texas and is crucial to providing these teens the support they need to begin to heal. We are so grateful to the generous donors who made this possible.”

ACH identified a significant lack of programs for teens with severe challenges after state leaders asked ACH to improve foster care services in 2014. By pioneering Community-Based Care in seven North Texas counties (CPS Region 3b.), the Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) division of ACH coordinates services for and compiles information on 2,400 foster youth annually. In analyzing this information, ACH uncovered a gap in services for teens in need of healing from severe trauma and created an innovative program centered around the RTC.

Tarrant and other counties now have an innovative, secure facility for the most vulnerable youth in the foster care system—those who have experienced extreme abuse and neglect. The RTC’s 24-hour treatment teams will put these highest-need teens on an accelerated path to success.

Created to feel non-institutional with a peaceful atmosphere full of natural light, the RTC can serve 16 boys and girls ages 13-17 in separate dorm-like wings. Youth attend an on-site charter school and enjoy fresh air in a 1.5-acre outdoor space with a walking path and basketball court.

The goal is to connect these youth in less than a year with a support system and help them transition to successfully living in a family—the best setting to continue to develop and learn to become an independent, contributing member of society.

The RTC is the only one of its kind in Texas and joins professional home-based care, therapeutic foster care, support services, and foster care in the ACH Continuum of Care. These integrated services were developed by OCOK to reconnect children with their biological families or when that is not possible, to find them a forever family with relatives or adoptive families.

The RTC was funded by generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and community organizations. The fundraising campaign was led by volunteer co-chairs Kelly Keller and Lynn Newman.

### **About ACH**

With over a century of experience, ACH, a Fort Worth-based nonprofit agency, brings needed resources and skills to children and families struggling with life’s challenges. Some of our 17 programs and services keep children and families together while others provide a healing home for children who can’t live with their families. And through the Our Community Our Kids division, ACH is leading the way in Community-Based Care in seven counties of the Texas foster care system. ACH has been accredited every year since 2003 by the Council on Accreditation and in 2018 Our Community Our Kids became the only nationally accredited community-based care contractor in Texas. Our vision is for families to thrive and children to experience safety, hope and love.

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