On February 1, 2019, Family Tapestry, a division of The Children’s Shelter, launched Community-Based Care in Bexar County.

In the first 90 days, Family Tapestry has worked with our partners to shape and inform our “Foster Hope” Foster Home Recruitment Campaign that will launch at the end of May 2019 and run through the end of August. Our Family Tapestry community engagement team facilitated marketing focus groups on February 28th and March 1st to gather qualitative information from our partners based on tenured families who have provided therapeutic care for children and youth who have higher acuity needs, and who have fostered for a minimum of three years. The Foster Hope campaign will launch on broadcast platforms to include TV and radio, with print, digital and online advertisement. At the heart of the campaign will be the use of testimonials that will feature a foster alumni with the THRU Project, and foster families with the Bair Foundation, SJRC Texas, and The Children’s Shelter. A series of town halls will be facilitated and streamed on social media platforms, and will air on a few news networks, that will speak to Community-Based Care and the unique needs of foster children and youth in Bexar County (Region 8A). Through our CareMatch software, we were able to identify that Bexar County has 700 foster families that provide care for children and youth. Our goal for our Foster Hope campaign will be to grow our foster care home capacity by 25% in 12 months.

We are equally excited to share that we have generated initial conversations and meetings with SAMMinistries and SARAH to bring together CPS, Family Tapestry, and homeless prevention organizations from across Bexar County to address homelessness prevention in foster youth who have aged out of care, and who have returned to care. This effort will help address and prevent homelessness, and human and sex trafficking of youth.

Lastly, The Children’s Shelter is submitting an RFP for Community-Based Care in Region 8B, which consists of 27 counties that span to Victoria, Kerrville, Atascosa, Pleasanton, Carrizo Springs, Eagle Pass, and Del Rio. Based on our initial research and 8B RFA data, we were able to identify <50 foster families in all of Region 8B. Therefore, it will be critical to grow from a grassroots approach paired with a robust public relations campaign to grow foster care capacity across the entire region.

Whataburger Center for Children & Youth
A short-term safety net facility designed to keep children out of offices.

78 children and youth served

8A AND 8B PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN

Children removed from Region 8A were placed in Region 8A 72.6%*

Children removed from Region 8A were placed in Region 8B 17.1%*

Children removed from Region 8A were placed outside of Region 8 9.8%*

Children removed from Region 8A were placed out of State 0.4%*

1,262* children in care in the Family Tapestry Network

Sibling groups were placed together 72.4%*

Children were in the least restrictive environment 76.6%*

Average size of sibling groups that were not placed together 3

*Number of children as of April 30, 2019

Family Tapestry is a division of The Children's Shelter • familytapestry.org • childrensshelter.org