

# ***A SNAPSHOT OF GEORGETOWN CHILDREN AND YOUTH***

Issued by  
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PROJECT

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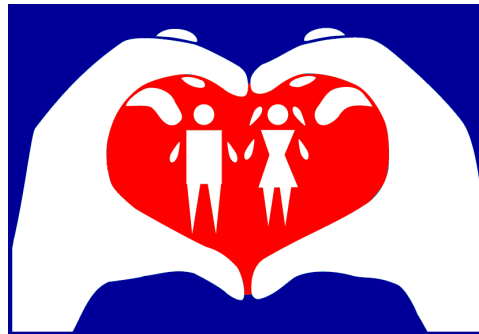
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## **OUR VISION**

A community where no child is hungry, hurt, alone, or rejected and where all children and youth believe they are loved, respected, and treated with dignity.

## **OUR MISSION**

To mobilize our community to coordinate, strengthen and develop resources and relationships so that our children and youth become caring, capable, and resilient individuals.



The Georgetown Project is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 by a partnership including the business, government, education, health, and religious sectors of the community. Rather than focusing on a single issue or problem, the Georgetown Project collaborates with existing agencies and organizations to identify needs and to develop new programs and services that strengthen children, youth, and families.

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 Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services  
 Texas Department of Public Safety  
 Texas Education Agency  
 Texas Juvenile Probation Commission  
 Texas Workforce Commission  
 Texas Youth Commission  
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 Williamson County and Cities Health District  
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 Williamson County Juvenile Services  
 Williamson County Sheriff's Department  
 Williamson County Voter Registration  
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# ...AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

Among the most accomplished and fabled tribes of Africa, no tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or intelligent than the Masai. Surprisingly, the traditional greeting passed between Masai warriors is *Kasserian ingera*. It means “and how are the children?” *Kasserian ingera*, still the traditional greeting among the Masai (even warriors with no children of their own), acknowledges the high value the Masai culture places on their children’s well-being.

“All the children are well” means that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young and the powerless are in place, that Masai society has not forgotten its reason for being, its proper functions and responsibilities. “All the children are well” means that life is good. It means that the daily struggles of existence, even among a poor people, do not preclude caring for its young.

One must wonder how it might affect our consciousness of our own children’s welfare if in our culture we took to greeting each other with this same daily question: “And how are the children?” If we heard that question and passed it along to each other a dozen times a day, would it begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of or cared for in this community?

If every adult among us, parent and non-parent alike, felt an equal weight for the daily care and protection of all the children in our towns, in our states, in our country...could we truly say without any hesitation, “the children are well, yes, the children are well.”



October, 1998

With the rapid growth of Georgetown over the past five years, meeting the complex needs of children and families has become a greater challenge. The mission of the Georgetown Project is to mobilize our community to identify gaps in services, and to develop new programs for children, youth, and families. *A Snapshot of Georgetown Children and Youth* is a collection of data and information which portrays as accurately as possible the current state of health and well-being of our children and youth. This snapshot has been produced after reviewing and analyzing existing data as well as soliciting and incorporating community input. It is published by The Georgetown Project as a tool to raise awareness about the needs of children and youth, to foster community collaboration, and to bring focus to the importance of collecting and monitoring reliable information and indicators of child and youth well-being.

Georgetown cannot make progress in improving the lives of children and youth without knowing what is happening to our children now. Data collection is difficult, time consuming, and costly. Most indicator information is gathered at the federal, state, and county level through governmental agencies. In many instances it has been difficult to obtain local data. We are not aware of any community of our size that has attempted a similar project. Our effort could not have been accomplished without the assistance of April Osborg and Chris Cook of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and representatives of the Child Policy Team, as well as hours of phone calls, interviews, and research by Chris Dial. The Community Indicator Committee offered their insights and analysis through many meetings. The Georgetown Project Board of Directors has offered visionary leadership and a determination to find benchmarks by which to monitor our progress.

The goal of this publication and of The Georgetown Project is to enhance the health and well-being of our children and youth. Read this report. Share it. Become involved! Together we can create a more positive and hopeful future for our young people and for our community.

*And how are the children?*

Barbara Pearce  
Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR