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Austin Child Guidance Center Celebrates 60 Years of Service
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The Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) is celebrating 60 years of serving the mental health needs of children in central Texas. ACGC will celebrate this milestone on October 27th, with a gathering of current and former board members, friends, and the community.

“We will be looking back at our history and looking forward to the next 60 years,” explains Executive Director Russell A. Smith, LMSW. “When we opened our doors in 1951, the population of Austin was around 130,000. Austin Child Guidance Center has helped over 130,000 children, youth, and family members in our six decades of service.”

Families turn to ACGC when their child is struggling with depression; ADHD; grief from the loss of a loved one; anxiety; relationship problems in the home; or trauma - from abuse, neglect or from witnessing violence. One out of five children (43,000 in Travis County) is faced with these issues, and an astounding 82% of them will not receive treatment.

“We help one child and one family at a time,” adds Smith, “but the cumulative effect on children and families in the community of this center is enormous.”

Established in 1951, ACGC is the oldest children’s mental health agency in central Texas. The mission is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges. To achieve this mission, Austin Child Guidance Center employs a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and counselors who provide individual, family, and group therapy; psychiatric evaluations and psychological assessments; parent education; and training of current and future mental health professionals.

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