

Denton County Friends of the Family

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 45 Years of Hope, Healing, and Safety

2025



dcfof.org
940-387-5131

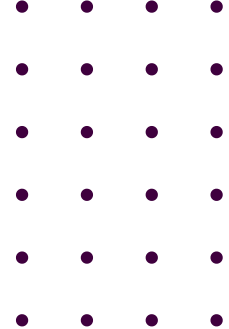


Table of Contents

Message from the Executive Director	3
Creating Lasting Impact	4
The People Behind the Mission	5
Board of Directors	6
Financial Overview	7
Client Services at a Glance	8
Client Impact	9
Camp HOPE: Transforming Young Lives	10
• • Camp HOPE in Photos	11
• • Coffee Crawl	12
• • Touch-a-Truck	13
• • Handbags for Healing	14
• • Year in Review: First Quarter	15
Year in Review: Second Quarter	16
Year in Review: Third Quarter	17
Year in Review: Fourth Quarter	18
Building the Roadmap: Strategic Plan for 2026-2028	19
Laying the Groundwork: The Work Before the Work	20
Contact Us	21

Message from the Executive Director

Toni Johnson-Simpson, MSW



As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary support, collaboration, and commitment that continue to strengthen Denton County Friends of the Family and the communities we serve. As our agency celebrated 45 years of service, we remained steadfast in our mission to provide compassionate, comprehensive support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault while working to prevent violence before it begins.

This year was marked by meaningful progress and transformative milestones. Among the most significant was the ceremonial groundbreaking of our Family Justice Center, a long-envisioned project that will create a centralized, trauma-informed space where survivors can access critical services under one roof. More than 300 community leaders, partners, donors, elected officials, and supporters joined us to celebrate this historic occasion, demonstrating a shared commitment to creating a coordinated, survivor-centered response to violence in Denton County. This milestone represents the collective efforts of countless advocates and supporters who have helped bring this vision closer to reality.

Throughout the year, we continued to strengthen partnerships that enhance our ability to serve survivors effectively. Our collaboration with the City of Denton, Denton County leadership, law enforcement agencies, municipalities, schools, healthcare providers, businesses, and nonprofit organizations expanded opportunities for coordinated response, prevention, education, and community outreach. Together, these partnerships help ensure that survivors receive the support they need while fostering greater awareness and engagement across our community.

Community engagement remained at the heart of our work. Through signature events, educational initiatives, volunteer involvement, and public awareness efforts, we connected with thousands of individuals across Denton County, inspiring new advocates and strengthening support for our mission. These collective efforts not only generated critical resources but also helped build a community that is increasingly informed, engaged, and committed to ending violence.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our staff, board members, volunteers, donors, community partners, and supporters. Your investment of time, talent, and resources makes a lasting difference in the lives of survivors and their families every day.

As we look toward the future, we do so with optimism and determination. The momentum created in 2025 positions us to expand our impact, deepen our partnerships, and continue providing hope, healing, and safety for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us and helping make this important work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Toni Johnson-Simpson".

Toni Johnson-Simpson MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CREATING LASTING IMPACT

OUR MISSION

Our mission at Denton County Friends of the Family (DCFOF) is to provide compassionate, comprehensive services to those impacted by rape, sexual abuse, and domestic violence, while partnering with our community to promote safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention.



**Building
Community**



**More
Growth**



**A Rise in
Hope**

In 2025, our signature events continued to strengthen community engagement and support for our mission. Handbags for Healing, the 7th Annual Coffee Crawl, the 9th Annual Touch-a-Truck and Friends of the Badge brought together supporters, sponsors, and community partners to raise critical funds and awareness for survivors and their families. These events expanded our reach, welcomed new advocates, and helped ensure life-changing services remain available to those who need them most.

Growth is reflected in every step our clients take toward healing, stability, and self-sufficiency. Through comprehensive support services, including counseling, educational programming, and the ADVANCE program, individuals strengthened their resilience, expanded opportunities for success, and achieved meaningful progress in their personal and professional lives.

Hope grows when survivors have access to the support, resources, and opportunities they need to heal and thrive. Through our comprehensive services and unwavering commitment, individuals and families gained the tools to overcome challenges, build stability, and move toward a future filled with possibility.

The People Behind the Mission

The Leadership Team



Toni Johnson-Simpson, MSW



Katherine Flowers, MBA



Brittony
McNaughton MA, LPC



Donna Bloom, JD



Dr. Nicole Roberts



Hillarye Hightower, MA



Lori Nelson



Heather Lehr



Bonet Garcia, JD



Janna Bell



David Almager, MS



Debra Mitchell-Ibe



Mary Ecret



Dani Shaw

The Staff

Fee Alboshebah
Kimberly Alexander
Kelsey Allen
David Almager
Valerie Almanza
Sam Amphay
Mehreen Babar
Jonathan Bade
Lulu Badillo Maldonado
LaKiena Baker
Riley Basil
Hannah Beattie
Zulema Becerra
Janna Bell
Trina Bell
Bailey Benefield
Khadijah Benford
Cassandra Berry
Josh Blann
Donna Bloom
Miranda Bon
Icaro Brown
Ashley Burrola
Chris Butterworth
Alicia Cabral
Caitrin Callen
Rocio Calva

Cari Cardentey
Micaela Carrales
Myrna Castillo
Brenda Cervantes
Adam Chebos
Alex Colunga
Kelty Conner
Lea Cuevas
Kri Curtis
Brian Daskam
Abbi DeShazo
Larissa Devereaux
Aracely Diaz
Gloria Doucette
Nia Duncan
Mary Ecret
Justin Emerson
Andrea Espinoza
Luisa Feliz
Olivia Fellers
Katherine Flowers
Katie Frizzell
Bonet Garcia
Taylor Gleitz
Paola Gonzalez Higuera
Sonji Green
Emma Guilstorff

Sierah Haines
Melody Hampton
Diana Hernandez
Jessica Hernandez
Gaby Hernandez Vasquez
Hillarye Hightower
Renotta Hughes
Abi Isaacs
Lily Isham
Yvonne Ivonnet
Brittany Jackson
Gideon James
Candice Johnson
Toni Johnson Simpson
Grace Jones
Triconne Keelen
Kevin Kilmer
Lonna Larsen
Sarah Lehman
Heather Lehr
Olivia Lester
Janie Lindemann
Gabi LunaRodriguez
Katie Manna
Madelyn Martin
Trellony Mayfield
Elliot McCrary

Cynthia McFall
Brittony McNaughton
Se'Jon McRoy
Katelyn Medina
Ziceth Mendoza
Chelsea Mendoza
Benjamin Meneses
Debra Mitchell-Ibe
Sarah Morley
Kaili Morris
Crystal Moulden Lindsey
Tshibola Mulumba
Kristina Munoz
Lori Nelson
Yesica Noriega
Belinda Orduna Munoz
Dinora Padila Avina
Brenda Pena
Nic Phillips
Rachel Pineda
Lany Redinger
Emily Reid
Nicole Roberts
Veronica Rodriguez
Myesha Rodriguez
Ximena Rodriguez
Janisha Romero Rodriguez

Keail Rucker
Staci Schwartz
Katherine Senase
Dani Shaw
Ashley Shiver
Mercedes Shook
Charlene Sims-Fortenberry
Caitlin Smith
Felicia Smith
Aracely Soto
Callie Standford
Victoria Stucky
Riley Swearingin
Jennifer Torres
Neesha Torres
Sylvia Trevino
Caileigh Underwood
Alicia Vasquez
Jay Vendetti
Lexi Wilkinson
Jillian Williams
Korbi Wilson
Marlene Zamundio-Yanez
Bri Zeno

Board of Directors

A Message from the Board President



As Board President, it is my privilege to serve alongside an exceptional group of community leaders who are committed to advancing the mission of Denton County Friends of the Family. Every decision our Board makes is guided by a shared responsibility to ensure the organization remains strong, sustainable, and positioned to meet the evolving needs of survivors throughout Denton County.

The impact highlighted throughout this report reflects far more than statistics—it represents lives changed, families strengthened, and a community that continues to stand together against domestic violence and sexual assault. We are continually inspired by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners whose compassion and expertise make this work possible every day.

As our organization continues to grow, the Board remains focused on strategic planning, responsible stewardship of resources, and investing in initiatives that will expand access to services for years to come. The groundbreaking of the Family Justice Center represents one exciting step forward, but it is only one example of the long-term vision we are working toward on behalf of survivors and our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to our donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates for believing in this mission. Your generosity and trust allow Denton County Friends of the Family to continue providing compassionate, comprehensive services while promoting safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention.

Together, we are building a stronger, safer future for every individual and family we serve.

Lisa Stanley, PhD.

Lisa Stanley, PhD.
BOARD CHAIR, 2025

Board Members

Lisa Stanley, PhD. | Board Chair
North Texas Collegiate Academy - Superintendent

Nancy Humphries | 1st Vice Chair

Sally Emerson | 2nd Vice Chair
Retired Attorney Family Law Mediator

Linda Dodson | Secretary
Ryan Everet Insurance - Agency Director and Insurance Advisor

Cecilia Huff | Treasurer
KHA Accountants PLLC - CPA

LaKebra Mahomes, MPA | Board Development
City of Dallas Crisis Intervention Team - Crisis Intervention Coordinator

Jackie Cox-Lawson

Ashley Douglas

Emmitt Jackson

Rodney D. Niemuth, CPA

Bailey Parish, M.S.

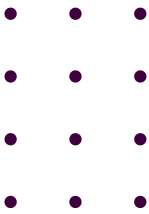
Ratonia C. Runnel, PhD

Susan Stout

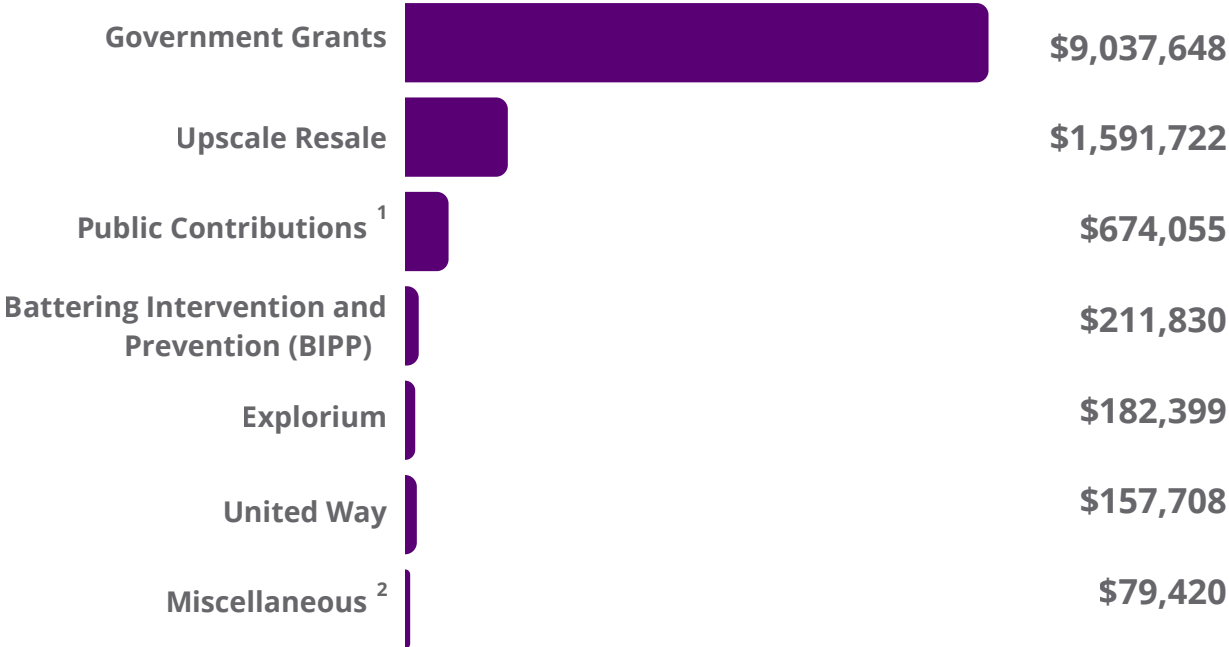
Brittney Verdell, LMSW

Financial Overview

Your support made life-changing services possible throughout 2025.



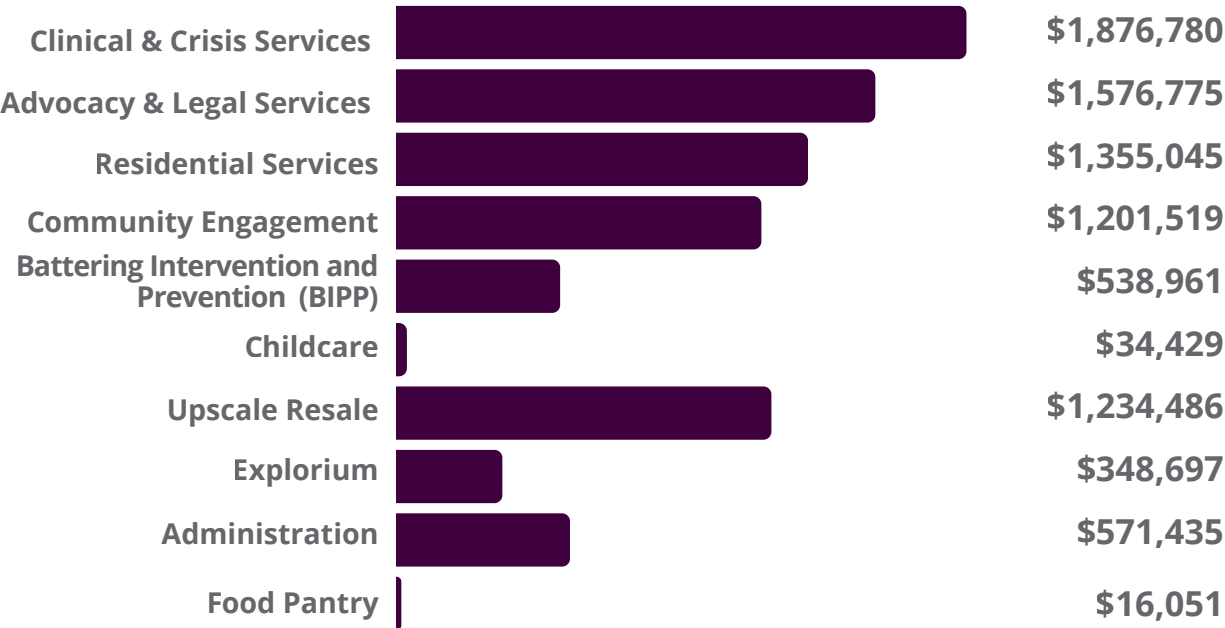
Revenues



¹ Includes community grants, foundations, corporate support, special events, and individual gifts.
² Includes interest/dividend income and insurance proceeds.

Government grants remained the organization's largest funding source in 2025, representing approximately 76% of total revenue.

Expenditures



The largest share of expenditures supported direct client services, including crisis response, advocacy, shelter, and community-based programs.

Client Services at a Glance



Program	2025 Impact
Counseling Services	528 adults received 4,772 counseling services (4,125 hours) 177 children received 2,550 play & activity therapy services (2,092 hours) 608 children received 3,272 onsite childcare services
Emergency Shelter	227 adults and 96 children stayed 10,940 nights - Average stay: 35 nights
Legal Services	1,282 clients received 14,993 legal services (8,763 hours)
Transitional Housing	150 households received 2,127 services (554 hours)
Volunteer Impact	653 volunteers donated 13,987 hours
24-Hour Crisis Line	6,505 crisis calls answered 138 texts answered 123 Survivors Advocacy Team calls answered
Battering Intervention & Prevention (BIPP)	542 men received 10,463 hours of services 65 women received 730 hours of services
Advocacy	2,047 clients received 17,613 advocacy services (6,052 hours) 2,549 victim service intakes

Client Impact

Rachael's Story

When Rachel first reached out to Denton County Friends of the Family, she was living in an abusive relationship and struggling to see a path forward for herself and her child. Like many survivors, she was focused on simply making it through each day and didn't know help was available.

Rachel had never heard of the Families to Freedom program or realized emergency shelter was an option. Working with a DCFOF advocate, she learned how to create a personalized safety plan, prepare to leave safely, and access resources that would help protect her and her child. Throughout the process, her advocate provided education, encouragement, and unwavering support. With courage and determination, Rachel and her child safely entered emergency shelter. There, she was connected to legal advocacy, protective order and divorce representation, and additional resources that helped her begin rebuilding her life.

Over time, Rachel secured safe housing, obtained important documents, continued navigating the legal process, and took meaningful steps toward independence. Although not every outcome unfolded as hoped, she remained resilient, focused on creating a brighter future for herself and her child.

Today, Rachel is building a life defined not by fear, but by safety, stability, and hope. Her journey is a powerful reminder that when survivors have access to compassionate advocacy, critical resources, and a community that believes in them, they can reclaim their lives and create new beginnings for themselves and their families.

**Today, Rachel is building a life defined not by fear,
but by safety, stability, and hope.**

Name changed to protect client confidentiality.

Camp HOPE: Transforming Young Lives

Camp HOPE America is the first evidence-based camping and mentoring program in the United States focused on children and teens impacted by domestic violence. Through Camp HOPE and Pathways, youth are provided opportunities to heal, build confidence, develop healthy relationships, and discover a future filled with hope and possibility.

For many children, Camp HOPE is much more than a week at camp—it is a life-changing experience. Parents consistently report seeing meaningful growth in their children long after camp has ended. Children return home with increased confidence, stronger communication skills, improved self-esteem, and new friendships that help them feel connected and supported.

One parent shared that their son began using his voice more confidently after attending camp, communicating his needs and priorities in ways they had never seen before. Another parent described how Camp HOPE provided their child with the freedom to be himself without judgment, while building confidence through activities such as kayaking and ropes courses.

Families also shared the lasting impact of the relationships formed with camp counselors and peers. Children reported feeling respected, valued, and cared for, while parents expressed gratitude for a safe environment where their children could simply be kids, build memories, and experience new opportunities that otherwise may not have been possible.

For one family staying in emergency shelter, the impact was immediate. A young child who had struggled to sleep through the night since arriving at shelter attended Camp HOPE and, after just one day, began sleeping through the night for the remainder of the week.

Parents frequently describe their children returning home happier, more independent, and full of stories about new friends and experiences. Many continue to carry the lessons learned at Camp HOPE into their daily lives, demonstrating increased resilience, improved social skills, and a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Through Camp HOPE, children impacted by violence are reminded that their experiences do not define them. They are given the opportunity to heal, grow, and envision brighter futures—breaking cycles of violence and creating pathways to hope for generations to come.





**EVIDENCE-BASED
&
TRAUMA-INFORMED**

**FREE CAMPING
&
MENTORING
PROGRAM**



Creating pathways to HOPE and healing for children exposed to domestic violence through year-round programming, including:

**A transformative week of overnight camp
+
Monthly mentorship and enrichment activities**



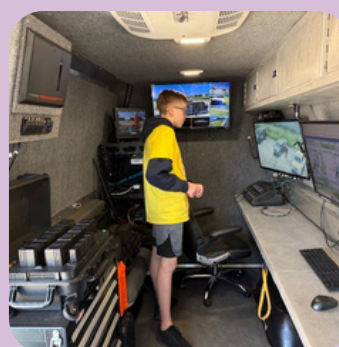
7th Annual Coffee Crawl

January 25, 2025



9th Annual Touch-A-Truck

May 10, 2025



2nd Annual Handbags for Healing Luxury Handbag Bingo & Brunch September 13, 2025



Year in Review 1st Quarter



Year in Review 2nd Quarter



Year in Review 3rd Quarter



Year in Review 4th Quarter



Building the Roadmap

Strategic Plan for 2026-2028

While serving survivors remained our primary focus in 2025, Denton County Friends of the Family also invested significant time and energy into preparing for the future.

Throughout 2025, DCFOF engaged staff, leadership, and board members in a comprehensive strategic planning process that culminated in Board approval of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan marking an important milestone in the organization's ongoing growth. The plan establishes a clear framework for strengthening services, expanding impact, and supporting survivors and families for years to come.

The planning process resulted in six strategic priorities that will guide the organization over the next three years:

- Expanding pathways to safety & healing for survivors
- Strengthening and supporting our team
- Developing healing-centered facilities and spaces
- Increasing community awareness and engagement
- Building systems that improve effectiveness and innovation
- Growing financial sustainability and resilience



The strategic planning process did more than identify priorities. It brought people together around a common vision for the future of DCFOF and helped clarify how each department contributes to that vision. The result is a stronger foundation for the work ahead and a continued commitment to meeting survivors' needs with compassion, creativity, and excellence.

As DCFOF moves into 2026, the organization will begin implementing the plan's priorities while continuing its commitment to providing safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention services throughout Denton County.

Laying the Groundwork

Family Justice Center

The groundbreaking of the Family Justice Center was one of the most visible milestones of 2025, but it represented years of planning and an extraordinary amount of work happening behind the scenes.

Before construction can begin, a project must navigate zoning approvals, site planning, engineering, architecture, permitting, and countless technical details that transform a vision into a buildable reality. Throughout 2025, significant progress was made to advance these critical milestones, including securing Planned Development zoning approval, advancing platting and site development efforts, and refining plans for a campus designed to serve survivors and their children for generations to come.

This progress was made possible through the collaboration of an exceptional project team, including McAdams Engineering, BRNS Design Group, and Triton Construction, whose expertise is helping bring the Family Justice Center from concept to reality.

While these accomplishments may not be as visible as walls going up or ribbon cuttings, they represent the essential work that lays the foundation for everything to come. Every survey completed, plan reviewed, meeting held, and approval secured moved the project one step closer to creating a centralized, trauma-informed campus where survivors can access safety, healing, justice, and hope.

Looking Ahead to 2026

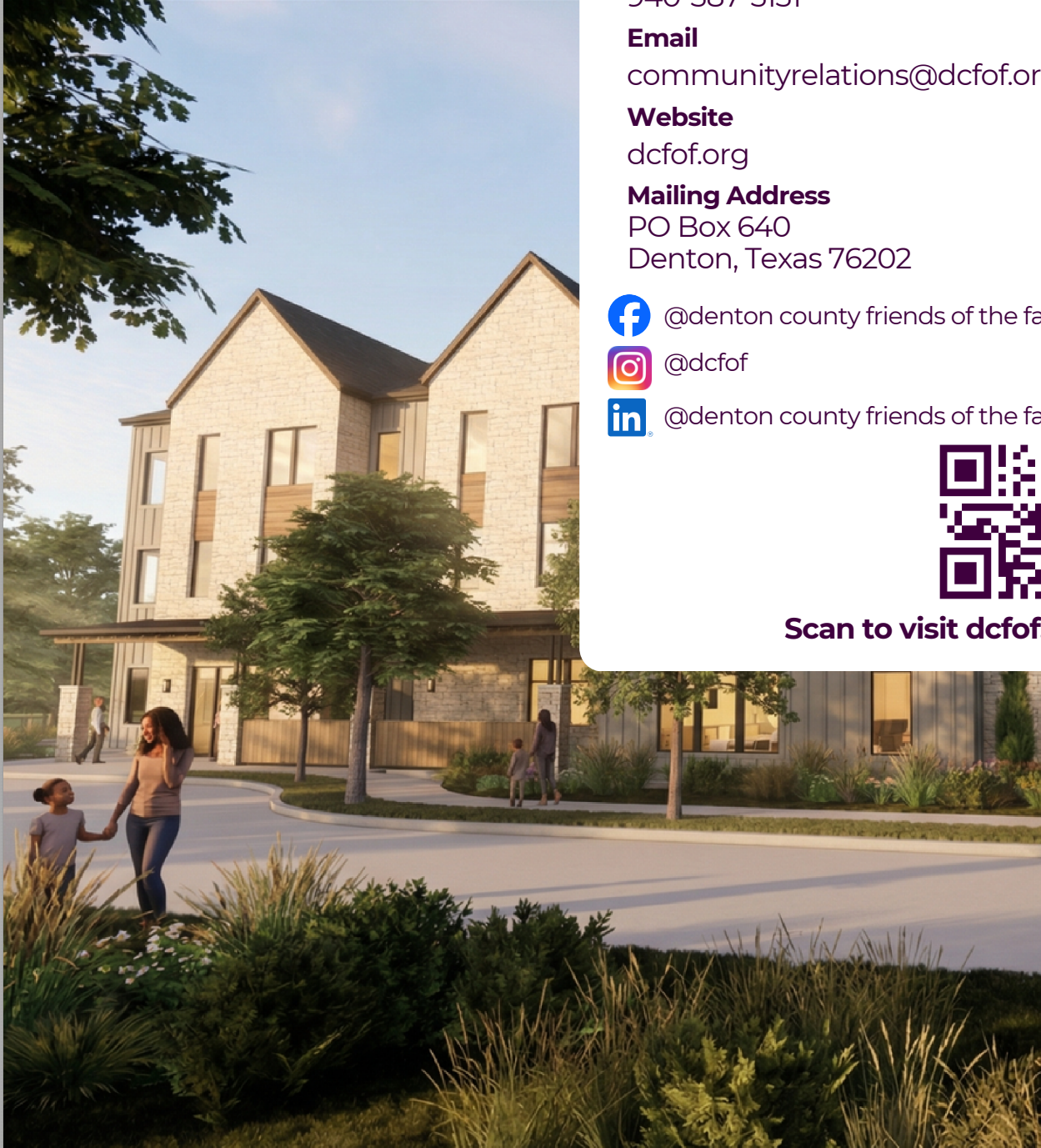
With key planning and development milestones completed, 2026 will focus on site development, fundraising, and construction. The momentum built throughout 2025 has positioned the Family Justice Center to move from planning toward implementation as this transformative community vision continues to take shape.



Family Justice Center

DENTON COUNTY
FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

CONTACT US



DENTON COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

24-Hour Crisis Line (Call or Text)

940-382-7273

Phone

940-387-5131

Email

communityrelations@dcfof.org

Website

dcfof.org

Mailing Address

PO Box 640

Denton, Texas 76202



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