



## IMPACT

**Jill's House opens its doors to 700 people eager to learn more about relief through respite.**

*Hundreds came through our doors to learn more about Jill's House. View all the Open House photos on [Facebook](#).*

Every year during our annual Open House, the only time all year we open to the public, we are energized by the number of new people walking through our doors for the first time, eager to learn more about Jill's House. This year was no exception, with a record-breaking 700 visitors who toured our 42,000 square foot facility on October 5. Visitors met our families, visited pet therapy animals, signed up to be volunteers and experienced firsthand the joy and inspiration of Jill's House.

"This year was notably different than previous years' Open Houses," said Denise Daffron, vice president of Advancement at Jill's House. "We had a high number of prospective families raising children with special needs visit for the first time. They were in awe of what they saw and in disbelief that the dream of getting a break could actually be a reality for them. They were desperate. They were exhausted. They finally had hope."

The Jill's House staff witnessed story after story of families looking for relief during the Open House. A little boy named Alex (see video, right) visited Jill's House for the first time with his friend William, a regular guest. He was so excited to see a place designed just for him that he decided to say an impromptu prayer in our chapel.



*During his Open House visit, Alex shared a simple prayer about his first experience at Jill's House.*

We pray these new families who walked through our doors during our Open House can experience the hope and renewal they so desperately need sooner than later. "The key to serving more children is hiring the child care specialists needed to properly and, most importantly, safely care for children entrusted in our care," continued Daffron, "but in order to do that, we need the resources required to pay for more staff. We only have a limited number of staff due to our current budget restraints. The children we serve have greater medical needs, requiring more one-to-one attention. Given our current 1:1.8 staff-to-child ratio, we are limited in the number of children we can care for at any given time. It's simple math: Since the number of children we serve is directly correlated to the amount of gracious gifts we receive from our donors, the more gifts we receive, the more children we can serve. We deeply appreciate our donors and thank God for them every day."

Help us restore more weary families by giving them the gift of Jill's House. Please prayerfully consider [giving your best gift today](#).

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