

Help Me Grow North Texas News

May 2021 Edition

Contents:

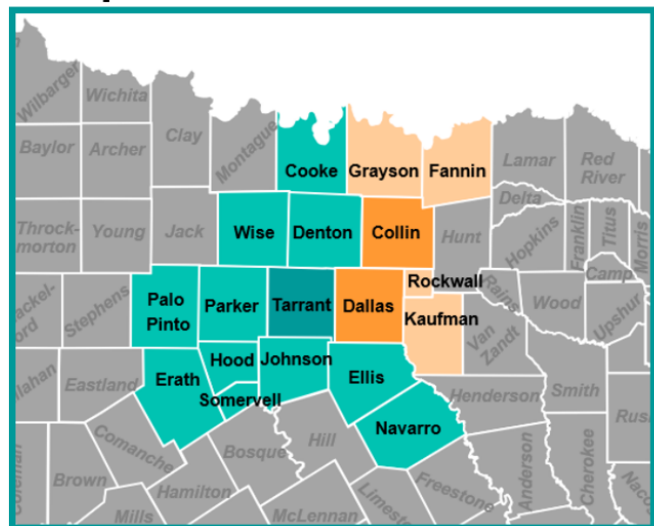
- Phase IV Expansion
- April Event Review
- Developmental Academy, Free Professional Development Opportunity

Reminders:

- Next Quarterly Subcommittee meetings will be held in June
- Next Collaborative Meeting will be held in July 21 8:30-10 AM
- Be sure to like us on social media @HelpMeGrowNTX

Phase IV Expansion

Help Me Grow North Texas Service Area



Phase 1 - Continued Implementation

Phase 2 - August 2020

Phase 3 - Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

Phase 4 - Summer & Fall 2021

Help Me Grow North Texas is now beginning conversations to start Phase IV expansion efforts which will include the addition of Kaufman, Fannin, Grayson, & Rockwall counties into the network. If you know of agencies that should be involved in the expansion efforts or serve families with young children in those counties, please send their contact information to Stephanie Norton or Faith Rivera at Stephanie.Norton@mhmrctc.org or Faith.Rivera@mhmrctc.org.

April Event Review

Child Abuse Prevention and Autism Acceptance Month

Over the month of April, several events happened across the region to highlight April as both Child Abuse Prevention Month and Autism Acceptance Month. Here are a few pictures and highlights from some of the events that happened!

Putting the Pieces Together Community Event:

The Putting the Pieces Together Community Event was held on April 24 at Heritage Park in Parker County. This event was created to bring awareness to the community about Autism and the resources that are offered. Families were given the opportunity to connect with community resources, explore sensory activities, receive a personal toiletry bag, and other small giveaways. Several families expressed this was the first Autism awareness event that has been held in the community. Staff interacted with over 40 families and approximately 10 of those families signed up to receive calls from the Help Me Grow North Texas Family Navigators. Families mentioned that there are not normally events specifically designed for children that have Autism in mind. They loved having an opportunity to be out of the house, enjoy the weather, and have sensory friendly stations for their children to enjoy. One parent even shared this "We drove from Fort Worth and we are excited to be at an event that supports children with Autism. Both my children have been diagnosed with Autism and being here I see that I'm not alone. We are excited to see all that is here for our babies."



Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Rocks:

The drive thru event was hosted by the Comanche Peak Coalition for Mental Health at the Kroger in Granbury on April 30. There were 17 vendors, including Help Me Grow North Texas, in attendance. Fifty Kroger gift cards were given out, some blue donuts (to keep with the child abuse theme), and hand painted rocks with quotes. Help Me Grow North Texas received a few direct referrals and several grandparents who wanted to share information with their children. Sixty-one cars drive through the event. The Tarrant Area Food Bank delivered bags and boxes of food plus gallons of milk to the families who drove through. There were cars picking up food for families who had no transportation. The leftover food went to area food pantries and re-stocked their shelves.

Go Blue Day:

National Go Blue Day is a day to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect. On this day, individuals wear blue to show their support for prevention and draw attention to the prevalence of child abuse.



Dallas Health and Prevention Expo:

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Jubilee Park & Community Center, and East Dallas Church of Christ hosted the annual Health and Prevention Expo- Drive Thru to spread awareness of the importance of health, prevention, and early intervention. Help Me Grow North Texas flyers were distributed.



CAPCO Awareness Event

The Child Abuse Prevention Coalition (CAPCO), Dallas Court Appointed Special Advocates, and United Way of Metropolitan Dallas hosted their annual Child Abuse Awareness event, this year as a drive-thru. The event highlights the Dallas County children who died from abuse, the child maltreatment statistics, and recognizes the Child Protective Services caseworkers and community partners that work under difficult circumstances to keep children safe. Help Me Grow North Texas flyers were handed out at the event.

Baby Safety Baby Shower

The Dallas HOPES program hosted the annual “Baby Safety, Baby Shower”. This shower is for pregnant and teen mothers at Maya Angelou High School. The Baby Safety, Baby shower focuses on baby safety and coincides with the parenting classes administered by Maya Angelou and AVANCE North Texas, one of the Dallas HOPES subcontractors. Each attendee is gifted with several baby safety items and resources. Help Me Grow North Texas flyers were handed out at the event.

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Support & Advocate for Healthy Families

Dallas’ HOPES and Texas Home Visiting (THV) program with the support of Mr. Cooper Group and various other volunteers for Child Abuse Prevention Month were able to join in for various volunteer opportunities such as:

- An online Baby Safety Drive via an Amazon wish list to ensure parents and babies have the essentials they need to be safe and grow healthy and strong.
- Host a friends and family diaper drive in their local community to collect diapers, wipes, and other baby essentials to be dropped off at United Way’s office upon completion.
- Advocate via an online website for causes that ensure continued funding and success of programs like HOPES and THV and others that focus on supporting young children and their families.

Thank you to all the Help Me Grow North Texas partners who helped make these events possible all across the region!



Developmental Milestones Academy

Free Virtual Professional Development Opportunity

June 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Early Childhood Services Family Engagement and Groups team at My Health My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR) is hosting a free virtual professional development opportunity. The Act Early Milestone Academy will allow child care providers to come together and go through specific milestones, strategies, and exercises based on different ages of the children providers work with. The academy will be very interactive and engaging for the providers that attend. CEUs will be provided upon completion. Mental Health Consultants from MHMR Tarrant will be present to help during the activities and bring Trust Based Relational Intervention into the academy too. Attendees will be taught how to download and use the Milestone Tracker App within their classroom. Additional information will be shared with attendees on Parent cafés, Power groups, and incorporating protective factors into their work with families.

To register go to <https://aema.eventbrite.com> or scan the QR code below



Act Early Milestone Academy



Date:
Saturday
June 12th

Time:
9:00am-2:00pm

Come learn how you can take your class to the next level.

Join us for our first Milestone academy endorsed by Help Me Grow North Texas. You will learn about developmental milestones, activities, and navigate through the CDC Milestone Tracker App. Along with understanding how to access mental health consultations to support your classroom.

****CEU will be given upon Completion of the Academy.****

Registration is required as space is limited. Please register with the link below or scan the QR Code.



<https://aema.eventbrite.com>

EarlyIsBestNorthTexas.org | 844-NTX-KIDS  **early childhood services**
MHMR TARRANT | WE CHANGE LIVES