

## OUR MISSION

### UNITE

To reunite families who have had interruptions in the custody of their children

### PROVIDE

To provide a safe, supportive, and family-friendly place for children and their families to engage

### PREPARE

To prepare families for success by improving parenting skills and helping to reestablish healthy and safe relationships

### PREVENT

To provide trauma-informed services to families and the community to strengthen families and decrease DHHS recidivism and traumatic experiences

The Gaston County Family Therapeutic Visitation Center is a collaboration between the Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services, First United Methodist Church, and other community partners. The goal is to provide a safe, family-friendly space for families to heal while supporting them with wraparound services including counseling, substance-use treatment, parenting classes and other resources.

#### Gaston County Family Visitation Center

##### Located at:

First United Methodist Church  
190 E Franklin Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28052

##### Mailing Address:

Attn: Visitation Center  
330 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Gastonia, NC 28052

##### Contact Us:

Phone 704-689-2832  
visitationcenter@gastongov.com



*Many thanks to our incredible partners...*



# Gaston County Family Visitation Center

Therapeutic visitation  
services for  
children and families



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## WHAT IS A VISITATION CENTER?

A visitation center offers a safe place for families to visit with their children who have been removed from the home. Along with supervised visitation, parents have the opportunity to learn positive parenting skills and engage with their children through evidence-based techniques and programs like Strengthening Families.

## HOW DOES A VISITATION CENTER HELP FAMILIES?

The visitation center aims to treat and prevent. Therapeutic clinicians are available to provide trauma informed therapy to assist children with processing their experienced trauma. The visitation center also provides training to partners and the community to provide education on trauma, the opioid epidemic and related substance use, and other topics to aid in the prevention of trauma and its negative impacts.

## WHO DOES THE VISITATION CENTER SERVE?

The visitation center serves children, from birth to the age of 17, who:

- Live in Gaston County and have been placed in foster care because of a parent's opioid/substance use;
- Are not in foster care but are in the Child Welfare System and their families do not qualify for Medicaid or have private insurance;
- Are aging out of the foster care system; and,
- Are referred via substance abuse treatment partners.

To engage in therapy, children must be at least 7 years old.



## HOW DO I REFER?

Referrals are accepted from the following community partners: Courts, Schools, Phoenix Counseling, Alternative Community Penalties Program-Restorative Justice Center, The Lighthouse CAC, Drug Diversion and Therapeutic Treatment, DHHS, and Gaston County Police.

Once a referral is received, a Case Manager will perform an intake to assess for needs and past services. The Case Manager will also develop a case plan with participants to ensure appropriate services are provided and to ensure proper linkage to services outside of the center for continuum-of-care purposes.

## HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Thomas Gray,  
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Call: (704) 689-2832



[VisitationCenter@gastongov.com](mailto:VisitationCenter@gastongov.com)