



One of our patients is a young boy who was left by smugglers to fend for himself near the US/Mexico border after his father sent him unaccompanied to the United States. Shortly after being reunited with family in the United States, this patient came to Texas Children's Pediatrics Gulfton after a stay in the intensive care unit for pneumonia. He had persistent uncontrolled asthma as well as behavior problems related to migration-related trauma.

Dr. Rebecca Laster and social worker Ana Thornton worked closely with the family to obtain prescription assistance, locate counseling and obtain legal advice. They also assisted the family in obtaining coverage through the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program, which enabled them to access the specialty care this boy needed to manage his asthma.

Today, the boy is reported to be near the top of his class. His family says that he has a lot of friends and no longer has the behavior problems and fears he had when he first arrived in Texas. He is also on the path to obtain legal permanent residency in the United States. The entire family continues to work with the TCP Gulfton staff to ensure that this young man and his sister remain healthy.