

100 Years of Service



Family Services, Inc.

NEWS

A Newsletter of the Family Services, Inc., an affiliate of Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Foundation

Winter 2010

Ribbon Cutting Celebration Officially Marks Expansion of School Readiness and Child Development Program

Early Head Start's Discovery Station Child Development Center, a program of Family Services, Inc., celebrated the newly expanded school readiness and child development program on Thursday, October 7th at 9:00 am. Attended by over 100 people, guest speakers included Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who presented Thom Harr, Executive Director of Family Services, with a citation from his office. Other speakers for the event included Linda Zang, Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch Chief for the Division of Early Head Start Development; Gaithersburg's Mayor Sidney Katz; Dr. Stephen S. Sharfstein, President and CEO of Sheppard Pratt Health Systems and a Family Services board member; and Diane Ennist, Vice President General Counsel for Carey International and a Family Services board member. A host of other dignitaries from state, county, local government, community leaders and supporters attended the event as well.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the expansion project allows Early Head Start (EHS) to serve 72 additional infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in northern Montgomery County, Maryland, including Derwood and Olney. This



Above: Maryland State Senator Jennie Forehand, U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz, Mrs. Maryland Terrienne Lord Small, and other dignitaries and guests participated in the official ribbon cutting of the center.

brings the total number of children served by EHS to 147, with 28 in the Discovery Station child development center. The EHS expansion also included the hiring of 19 new staff members.

"The expanded Center allows us to provide comprehensive school readiness services to children who were not previously connected to any child development programs," said Mónica Ortiz, EHS Program Manager. "Being in the Early Head Start program will give them the opportunity to enter school ready to learn, and closer to the level of children who may have had other advantages."

The Discovery Station Child Development Center offers children a specialized and unique early educational experience in a safe, creative and supportive en-

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Early Care and Education Congress Legislative Briefing Addresses Status of School Readiness Programs

The Second Annual Montgomery County Early Care and Education Congress (MCECEC) Legislative Briefing was held on October 7, 2010 with more than 50 state and local public officials, business and foundation leaders, families, providers and advocates in attendance.

Hosted by Family Services, Inc. (FSI), state and county legislators were invited to the event to learn about the early care and education system in Montgomery County, network with early childhood advocates, and continue the important work of ensuring that all children are ready for school.

Rolf Grafwallner, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Assistant State Superintendent for Early Childhood Development, served as keynote speaker for the briefing. He shared with attendees MCECEC's current status of mobilizing the entire early childhood community to continue its focus on making sure all children entering school are ready to learn. Other speakers included Uma Ahluwalia, Director of Montgomery County Department of Health and Human

Services; Linda Zang, Maryland State Department of Education Program Improvement Branch Chief; and Thom Harr, Executive Director of Family Services.

By hosting the event, FSI was able to showcase the newly constructed 14,000 square feet of building space that is home to Montgomery Station's psychiatric rehabilitation program. In addition, attendees were served freshly made French toast and an assortment of other breakfast items, which were cooked in FSI's new commercial kitchen located in the same building. The commercial kitchen is available to other community programs for use in support of licensed food preparation. For more information about the commercial kitchen, please call 301-840-3242 or email steinm@fs-inc.org.

At right: Rolf Grafwallner, MSDE Assistant State Superintendent for Early Childhood Development presents at the breakfast.



Above: State and County legislators learn about the county's early care and education system.

Betty Ann Krahnke Center Contract Awarded to Help Victims of Domestic Violence

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) announced that Family Services, Inc. (FSI) was awarded the Betty Ann Krahnke Center (BAK) contract to continue assisting women and children suffering from domestic violence and abuse. Family Services will be responsible for the staffing, programming, and overall facility management.

Since 1979, MCDHHS has provided a residential facility for domestic violence (partner abuse) victims and their children. In 2000, Montgomery County



Above: Betty Ann Krahnke (1942-2002)

constructed the 17,000-square-foot facility offering immediate safety and supportive services for women and children, including short-term shelter, meals, counseling, and case management. The 18-bedroom facility with 54 beds provides a secure home base, enabling domestic violence victims to focus on accessing the treatment and resources they need to find safety within the community. The Center is named for Betty Ann Krahnke, who died from Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) in 2002, having served three terms on the Montgomery County Council and many years of leadership combating domestic violence and abuse issues.

"I am honored that Family Services has been

entrusted with such important work, not only because of our long years of work with victims of intimate partner violence but because Betty Ann Krahnke was such a tireless worker for all the people of our community and their health and human services needs," said Thom Harr, Executive Director of Family Services, Inc. "We look forward to the work and will be inspired by Ms. Krahnke's dedication to service."

In 2009, the Betty Ann Krahnke Center served 182 adults, 206 children and 170 families. New resources are continuously sought out for clients, leading to their

increased success in finding safety within the community. BAK reports that 90% of women and children leave the center for safer environments free from abuse. Currently, over 60% of the people residing at the shelter are children ages newborn to 18 years old.

"Family Services has a long history of responding to urgent needs in our community and we are very pleased to be part of the County's continuum of care for victims of intimate partner violence and their children," said Jennifer Crawford, Director of FSI's Outpatient Mental Health Center.

To find out how you can help the BAK center, please call 301-279-1203 or email woltersr@fs-inc.org.

Family Services Selected One of the Top 53 Organizations in the State of Maryland



Family Services, Inc. (FSI) was chosen as one of the 53 most exceptional businesses and organizations in the State of Maryland by The Gazette of Politics and Business for 2010. The awards program acknowledged the top 53 based on criteria that included annual revenue and employee growth, as well as noteworthy product or service innovations, community service efforts

and how the companies portrayed themselves as "good places to work".

The third annual awards ceremony held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Maryland attracted a large crowd of attendees eager to celebrate the

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Online Silent Auction Raises Money to Support Early Childhood Development, Parenting Education

Family Services, Inc. (FSI) is pleased to announce the success of its 2010 Online Silent Auction. Launched in mid-September, items featured included Washington Redskins box seat tickets, Baltimore Ravens tickets, gallery of art work, beach bicycles, gift certificates to upscale restaurants, spa and vacation packages, and so much more.

A total of \$6,206.00 was raised during the auction, which ran from September 13th to September 27th. Proceeds from the event were distributed throughout various FSI programs. “We raised over \$6,000 and I’m pleased with these results as this was Family Services first fundraising event of this nature,” said Carol Hayes, Family Services Fundraising Chairperson and Board member. “With this success under our belts, Family Services plans to leverage

our lessons learned and have another online auction in June, 2011.”

While we are a little over three months away from the auction, donated items have started to come in from community supporters. Items donated include Baltimore Orioles tickets with parking, VIP tour of the capital, theater tickets, gallery art work, and a lot more.

As you see family, friends and business clients over the next few months, make sure to tell them about Family Services and our upcoming auction. Please contact Wendy Enderson at 301-840-3208 or enderonw@fs-inc.org if you have items to contribute or would like to get involved in this fundraising event. Items will be available to view and to place your bids at www.biddingforgood.com/familyservicesinc.

FSI would like to thank the following organizations who donated items to the auction!

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Bezu

BounceU

Cahra Spa

Carey International

Centerstage

DC Arts Center

Diamond Drugs

Fairfield Inn and Suites

Fells Point Corner Theater

Folger Shakespeare Library

Gaithersburg Marriott

Gardener’s Inc.

Growlers

Jellystone National Park

Moyer and Sons Moving

Puppet Company Playhouse

Olney Theater

Round House Theater

Shakespeare Theater

Studio Theater

Tarara Winery

Whiskey Creek Golf Club

Wooly Mammoth Theater

SAMHSA Awards \$1.9 Million to Expand Primary Care to Individuals with Behavioral Health Disorders

Family Services, Inc. (FSI) has been awarded a \$1.9 million, four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to integrate primary care and behavioral health services for individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders. FSI, in partnership with Community Clinic, Inc. (a FQHC-federally qualified health center), Threshold Services, and Montgomery County Health and Human Services, will add primary care to mental health services offered at FSI's Outpatient Mental Health Center located in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and at Threshold Services' outpatient clinics in Rockville and Silver Spring, Maryland.

"These awards represent a long-overdue investment in the health of some of our most vulnerable populations," said Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services. "The long-established split between "mental" and "physical" health is not justified in research and should not be perpetuated in health care. These grants are part of an unprecedented push by the Affordable Care Act to help prevent and reduce chronic disease and promote wellness by treating behavioral health needs with equality to other health conditions."

Since its establishment in 1908, Family Services has held a significant position in the Montgomery County community, offering an array of comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services for people with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Individuals with mental illness and substance abuse disorders often have chronic physical conditions including high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. Many of these health conditions are preventable through routine health and primary care screenings, monitoring, treatment, and care management. By integrating primary healthcare and mental health services, coordinating care between providers and providing health education we hope to substantially improve the health status of the clients we serve.

"This is an exciting opportunity to provide our



clients with critically needed services," said Thom Harr, Executive Director of Family Services, Inc. "I believe that Primary Care Integration with Behavioral Health will be common throughout the country in the next few years. Family Services has been at the forefront of program and service innovation throughout its history and I am pleased that we are involved in the early stages of integration. It addresses the needs of a person in a logical way and overcomes barriers that keep people from having the best health status possible."

In April 2006, it was reported that adults with serious mental illness (SMI) die 25 years younger than other people. This means that a man with SMI is likely to die by age 53, compared with other men of the same age (who can be expected to live until age 78). This report, generated by Ronald W. Manderscheid, Ph.D and Craig Colton, Ph.D examined the cause of death among people living with SMI and found that about 15-20 years of the disparity can be attributed to diseases such as heart and circulatory disorders and other long-term diseases. These diseases can be controlled or prevented with quality healthcare that emphasize early detection, good eating habits, no smoking, exercise, etc. (Manderscheid, R.W., "Saving Lives and Restoring Hope" Behavioral Healthcare, September 2006)

Jennifer Crawford, Director of Family Services' Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, said she was stunned by this study. "This article was a wake-up call for both behavioral health and primary care providers to urgently find ways to increase access to coordinated care for our clients and to work to prevent early deaths," said Crawford.

For more information, contact Wendy Enderson at 301-840-3208 or enderonw@fs-inc.org.

DISCOVERY STATION

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vironment. Teachers plan developmentally appropriate lessons and classrooms are set up to foster creativity and free exploration. Infants and toddlers, for example, are provided activities that stimulate their sensory awareness, enhance language development, and encourage physical growth. Likewise, preschoolers are being prepared for Kindergarten through cognitive, language, physical, and social/emotional development.

According to Meredith Myers, FSI's Director of Early Childhood Services, "Discovery Station also provides comprehensive services to parenting teens in partnership with the local high schools. Historically, over 60% of pregnant teens drop out of high school, and we know that the children of these mothers are 10 times more likely to live in poverty. By offering high quality childcare and academic supports, we help reverse that pattern."



Above, l to r: FSI Executive Director Thom Harr, Mrs. Maryland Terrianna Lord Small, Lisette Orelana, Damayra Diaz and daughter Thais, Selamawit Tefera, U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Soledad Carvajal and son Mateo, Jessica Curtis and daughter Haley, Emmanuel Kumson, Abigail Sackey and EHS Program Manager Monica Ortiz.

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accomplishments of the recognized 53 company leaders. The event was sponsored by Comcast Spotlight and Comcast Business Class, with 2008 Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green serving as the keynote speaker.

FSI joined 52 other award winners from across the state, including John Hopkin's Medicine, Fitzgerald Auto Mall, Adventist HealthCare and Kaiser Permanente.

"I applaud these exceptional Maryland businesses that are consistently on the leading edge of innovation and doing their part to help through their pro-active community service programs," said Cliff Chiet, Publisher of The Gazette P&B. "To make the 53 list is a great accomplishment."

FSI was recognized for its exceptional growth during the last three years and its community service programs, including its extensive experience developing and implementing in-home and community based services for children, adolescents and families.



Above: FSI Executive Director Thom Harr and Associate Director Kylie McCleaf proudly display the P&B jersey presented to Family Services.



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