

Family Focus

a newsletter for friends of Family Service



Excitement Builds for New Office Space

A new location for the International Family Resource Center (IFRC) and Downtown Counseling Program will offer more pleasant and efficient surroundings for all who work and visit here.

The new space is on the lower level of the Textile Building at 205 W. Fourth St., home to Family Service's administrative offices. IFRC—which offers English classes and other services to refugees and immigrants—and counseling will have their own entrance at 200 McFarland St. The new office will incorporate classrooms, a library, a reception area for students and clients, a computer training center, counseling rooms, and office space.

In addition to the benefits of cleaner, larger, more modern space for the IFRC and Downtown Counseling Program, the new location will enable IFRC to maintain its downtown presence and provide convenient access for clients with easy bus access and nearby parking. The move also will save



money for the agency in rent and utilities. Family Service's administrative offices will remain in Suite 200.

IFRC is temporarily located in the Family Service administrative offices, and will, along with the counseling programs, move into its new headquarters in early 2003. The program still needs some furnishings and equipment for its new offices, including televisions and VCRs for English classes, computers for students, books, framed art for the walls, and other materials. For information or to make a donation, call (513) 721-7660.

Friends of Family Service Campaign Lights Lamp of Hope

In November, Family Service kicked off its own holiday tradition, the annual Friends of Family Service fundraising campaign, with a \$100,000 goal.



..... This year's campaign is chaired by three dedicated board members who are working to make the campaign a success. They are (clockwise from top) the Rev. Richard Fowler, Pastor of Ninth Street Baptist Church in Covington, Ky.; Randy Griffith, executive vice president of U.S. Bank; and Ivan Misrach, President of Richards Electric Co., chairman of the Anna Budd Ware Society campaign.

Touchdown for Ed Diller

Long-time board member and faithful volunteer for more than 13 years, Ed Diller has been one of Family Service's most enthusiastic advocates. Recently he scored a touchdown for Family Service when he was named one of two runners-up for the National Football League/Cincinnati Bengals Community Quarterback Award.

“Ed has brought the wisdom that represents organizational knowledge, a commitment to people in need, and belief in our mission and vision.”

In nominating Diller for this award, which recognizes those who contribute to their communities through volunteer work, Family Service President Arlene Herman cited his

dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in his community.

“Through his involvement in Family Service, Ed has brought the wisdom that represents organizational knowledge, a commitment to people in need, and belief in our mission and vision,” Herman said.

Diller is a past board chair and is the president-elect of the Foundation for Family Service as well as current chair of the Development Coordination Task Force. He is a partner with Taft, Stettinius and Hollister LLP and has been listed since 1987 in the real estate section of The Best Lawyers in America.



The support of the community is crucial to the success of Family Service's quality programs for children, families, and individuals. When life's challenges become overwhelming, people in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky turn to Family Service for the help they need in overcoming those challenges.

Your support helps Family Service continue its quality programs, which in turn helps people become proud, self-sufficient, contributing members of their families, and of our community. Please return the attached envelope with your contribution, helping to ensure healing and hope, and a brighter future for 35,000 people each year.

And to those of you who already have responded: Thank You!

Family Service a Valuable Asset to Cincinnati Schools

Working in collaboration with the Cincinnati Public Schools, Hamilton County Juvenile Court and, in some schools, Family and Children First, case workers and counselors from Family Service work inside public schools to help children with behavioral problems, absenteeism, and other disruptive issues that can interfere with learning.

“...our attendance rate at Whittier has increased from 88 percent to nearly 93 percent.”

According to Whittier Elementary School Principal Dominic Ciolino, the program is invaluable in helping resolve crisis situations that frequently confront children from disadvantaged families. So invaluable, in fact, that the Price Hill school

juggled its budget to pay for the program, and raised money for Family Service's annual Summer Program for kids.

“In fact, we're so reliant on this program that we've reallocated funding from other areas of our budget to ensure its continuation,” Ciolino said.

One major focus of the program is attendance. By working with families to assure that the children first come to school, case workers can then address other issues in order to help the children perform better in school.

“Unless the children are present, there's not much we can do,” Ciolino said. “And we have evidence of the program's effectiveness in that our attendance rate at Whittier has increased from 88 percent to nearly 93 percent.”

Other schools also have provided funding to keep counselors in their buildings, some through special fundraising efforts. To learn more about School-Based Services, visit our website at www.servingfamilies.org.

New Program Helps Keep Kentucky Families Together

A free Brief Planned Family Therapy program is available to families who live or work in Boone County, made possible by partial funding by the Northern Kentucky Area District Development through the Department of Community-Based Services of the Boone County Fiscal Court.

The 10-week counseling program focuses on helping families stay together and resolving disciplinary or delinquency issues. Through this grant, 11 families can receive therapy to help facilitate communication and understanding among family members

and build on the strengths of each person. Additional funding from donors will enable the agency to extend this service to more families in need.

Other counseling programs available to Northern Kentucky residents include anger management and violence prevention for adults and teenagers, plus substance abuse education, resisting pressure, and conflict resolution for children and teens. Sessions are held at Family Service's Florence office, at 7413 U.S. 42, Suite 4. For more information, please call (859) 282-9200.

Family Service Welcomes New Staff



New staff at Family Service are: Michelle Baker, Friends of the Children; Rachel Berent, clinical social worker, Florence; Stephanie Strausbaugh, School Based Services, Covington; and Sarah Fathman, director, Family Violence Intervention Program, Covington.

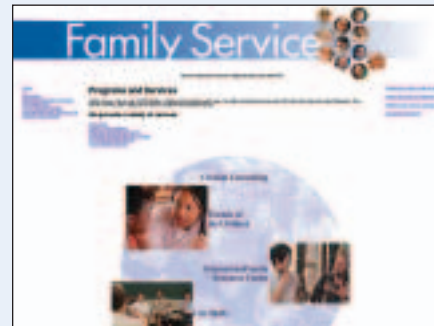
Senior Volunteers in Demand

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) gives people 55 and older many opportunities to serve the community in a variety of interesting ways with a focus on child education, adult literacy, and public health and safety.

Newly appointed program Manager Mike Dutle explains, “The experience and life skills of older adults are valuable in many areas of community life. For example, senior volunteers can help police and firefighters by handling clerical duties, answering phones, and manning reception desks. In their neighborhoods, they can check on shut-ins and keep officers informed of security concerns.”

Cincinnati was one of the first cities to have RSVP, a national program, previously sponsored by the Cincinnati Recreation

New Website Up and Running



Whether you're a prospective client, donor, volunteer or simply curious about Family Service, you can find valuable information about us by visiting www.servingfamilies.org. Sporting many new, more user-friendly features, the website welcomes visitors with warm, colorful graphics and easy-to-follow navigation tools. There's an interesting “stress test” to help people evaluate the possible need for assistance with various family issues. The site also offers an overview of Family Service programming, a guide to locations, and links to other agencies and resources. The website was a collaborative project of an employee team led by Matt Gerald. Please visit often: www.servingfamilies.org.



Kids Can Be Kids at Friends Place

We call them “children of promise,” these most vulnerable of all children with many needs, not the least of which is a positive, nurturing relationship with a trusted adult. Happily, the official grand opening of Friends of the Children Cincinnati's Friends Place fulfills a promise we made to these children when we broke ground for this unique home away from home. Now, Friends Place is fully furnished and is in use daily

by the 80 children and their Friends. An 1,100-square-foot simulated home with a kitchen, living room, dining room, multi-purpose play area, and computer-equipped learning center, Friends Place provides a safe, stimulating environment for children and their Friends to spend time together.

On hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 14 were 60 guests, including Catherine Milton, national president of Friends of the Children Inc., who praised Family Service for building “a model program that is setting the standard for other programs around the country.” In her comments, Milton also emphasized the value of intervening early in the lives of troubled children and staying with them for many years in order to place them on a positive track and sustain their progress.

Friends of the Children Cincinnati is funded through support from Hamilton County, the United Way, and by charitable gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Currently underway is a Wall of Champions campaign,



Rendering for the “Wall of Champions” at Friends Place, where individuals and groups may “buy” bricks as a donation.

through which donors of \$100 may buy a brick, to be painted into mural on one wall of Friends Place. Within the mural is a brick climbing wall, with each brick bearing the name of a donor.

“The climbing wall symbolizes a variety of things to the children, from overcoming fear to reaching for the sky,” said program Director Tracey Knight. “As we build the wall one brick at a time, we are also building the future of our community one child at a time.”

For more information about supporting Friends of the Children by buying your brick, call Wayne Burton at (513) 354-5630.

Friends of the Children Wish List

The following items are still needed to enhance activities for the children and their Friends:

- ☺ Educational Items: flash cards, workbooks, games, books, puzzles.
- ☺ Arts and crafts supplies: crayons, markers, pens/pencils, paint and brushes, poster board and paper, scissors and craft knives, fabric and sewing equipment
- ☺ Technology: educational software, non-violent games, “G”-rated videos, computer maintenance and instruction materials
- ☺ Recreation: team sports equipment, balls, ropes, jacks, indoor floor games
- ☺ Food : non-perishable, nutritious meals and snacks
- ☺ Clothing and shoes: (new or gently used) for boys and girls ages 7-9
- ☺ Gift certificates: This is an excellent way to provide any of the items listed above.
- ☺ Volunteers: We are always in need of tutors, hobbyists to facilitate workshops, and collaborative opportunities to participate in community service projects

If you would like more details, or if you can help, please call Tracey Knight at (513) 354-5651.

Groups Learn to Control Anger

Those who take advantage of the anger management group sessions offered at the Hyde Park, Eastgate, Florence and Covington offices of Family Service typically come away feeling very positive about their newfound ability to deal more effectively with anger. Group sessions last for six weeks and involve adults who either sign up voluntarily or are referred by the court. Once a week, groups of about 10 adults share their personal experiences and learn to recognize the underlying causes of their anger.

“It's important for people to realize that everyone gets angry, so it's nothing to feel guilty about; but some people have difficulty controlling their anger and suffer consequences like damaged relationships, job loss and even legal problems,” said counselor Sue Rahall. “We help them understand how to express their anger appropriately and then develop a plan to address the situations in their lives that trigger angry responses.”

Classes are offered on a sliding scale fee structure based on income and family size. To register, please call (513) 345-8555.



Art from some of the children at Friends place.



A clown entertains a child at the ceremony.

What Is Your Legacy?



Would you like to continue to make a difference in the lives of others, even for years after you leave this life? Would you like your gift to Family Service to make an impact for years to come?



Just as we all plan for the future of our own families, so must Family Service plan for the well-being of the families it will serve in the future. Through Family Service's endowment, your gift - outright or through planned giving - will provide you with the satisfaction of knowing many other families will be helped tomorrow through the legacy you leave today. Your

gift benefits others while establishing a financial plan that benefits your own family. Please consult your attorney to determine which of many planned gift options are right for you. Some of the more popular options are:

- **Bequest:** Your will is a simple way to express your wishes. You can give a specific dollar amount, property, a percentage of your estate, or the amount remaining after other obligations have been met.
- **Revocable Living Trust:** Pass assets on to loved ones while minimizing probate costs. Such a gift is deductible from estate taxes and can be delayed until other obligations have been met.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust:** A charitable remainder trust can save estate and capital gains taxes, leaving a greater inheritance for your loved ones. You retain income from your property for life, and receive regular payments for yourself and/or others. At the end of the trust period, the remaining funds are distributed to the Family Service endowment.
- **Retained Life Estate:** This gift of real estate gives the joy of giving along with a tax deduction, while retaining the use of your property and any income it generates for as

long as you live. Because the gift of property is by deed, it does not pass through probate.

- **Life Insurance:** One of the easiest and least costly ways to make a significant gift is to name Family Service as the owner of a life insurance policy. Your premium payments are tax deductible, and the gift at the policy's payout is much larger than the cost to you.
- **Retirement Funds:** If you are fortunate enough to have accumulated funds in excess of your needs through a retirement plan, you may wish to share this good fortune with others by making a gift of these funds to endowment. This could take the form of an outright gift now, or a planned gift as part of your estate. For more information about planned giving options and about Family Service's endowment, please call Wayne Burton at (513) 354-5630 or e-mail wburton@fsmail.org; or visit our website at www.servingfamilies.org.

"Opt Out or e-in"

If you no longer wish to receive *Family Focus*, please call Pat Lane at (513) 354-5633 or email at plane@fsmail.org and let her know. If, in the future you wish to receive *Family Focus* via email, please email Pat Lane with your email address.



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Mission: Helping families successfully manage the challenges of daily life.

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Family Service Programs

Clinical Programs

Anger Management
Clinical counseling for families, children, individuals
Children's Treatment Team
Co-Dependency Workshops
Family Violence Intervention Project (N.Ky.)
Impact Program (N.Ky.)
Sex Abuse Treatment
Sex Abuse Therapy Groups
Substance Abuse Treatment
Women's Therapy Groups

English for Speakers of Other Languages
Immigration Counseling
Language Bank
Life in the USA
Multicultural Information Services
Social Services
Spanish Classes

Life Skills Education

At-Risk Juvenile Program (N.Ky.)
Every Child Succeeds
Independent Living for Foster Teens
Kid Power
Options for Youth
Parent Education for Homeless Families
Parent Power
Positive Parenting & Responsible Parenting
Raising Great Kids
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
School-to-Work (N.Ky.)

Employee Assistance Resource Network

Professional counseling for employees of contracted companies
Critical Incident Stress seminars
Workplace seminars on popular topics
Management consultation
Child care referrals
Legal referrals

Friends of the Children

International Family Resource Center

Citizenship Education
Employment Counseling

School-Based Services

Crisis Intervention/Prevention
Social service coordination
Safe and Drug Free Schools (N.Ky.)
School Attendance Program for truant youth

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