

Family Support Services, Inc.

Annual Report (text version)

July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003

Board of Directors 2002-2003

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Our Mission

Family Support Services' mission is to support family life, and prepare children for success in school and to help them develop life skills. Our programs strive to prevent child abuse, neglect and developmental delays, and to improve parenting skills.

FSS stresses education for parents and children, and provides social work support to families and specialized therapy to children.

Our Goals

- To strengthen family life;
- To prevent child abuse and neglect, and to reduce the effects of past abuse or neglect;
- To prevent cognitive, physical and emotional developmental delays in children, and to reduce the effects of existing developmental delays.

Our Philosophy

Family Support Services uses education and social support to identify and treat the needs of children from birth to age five. Our youngest citizens are unable to speak for themselves; therefore we aim to develop programs which speak to their needs. We also believe that teaching parents how to be loving, supporting and knowledgeable parents will help break the cycle of abuse. Education is a powerful tool which underlies each and every one of our FSS programs.

Executive Director's Summary—Virginia C. Peckham, Ph.D.

Family Support Services, Inc. continues to do what it does best: child abuse and neglect prevention; early intervention programming; and extended day programs at six different elementary school sites.

Our staff is to be credited for their commitment and compassion in addressing neglect, abuse, developmental delays, and the need for suburban childcare. Staff turnover is low, and program consistency is high. As an organization we remain mission centered and, more important, child centered. By focusing on children from birth to five years old, we reach families before negative patterns have become entrenched. We really do change lives and make a difference to both inner city and suburban children.

The William Penn Foundation helped fund the relocation of Family School with \$74,950 of financial support. Formerly located in a sister agency's West Philadelphia row house, Family School now occupies a well configured building at 5322 Woodland Avenue. We had the opportunity to design our ideal facility - with a kitchen, one parenting and three children's classrooms, child-sized bathrooms, private space for family conferences, staff offices, and a beautiful gross motor room for active indoor play.

Thanks to a \$21,000 capacity building grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts, we were also

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able to enhance our child welfare programs by working with the psychiatrist, Sandra Bloom, MD. An expert in trauma and family violence, Dr. Bloom mentored our staff with intensive training and consultation throughout the year.

Family Support Services worked with over 1500 children in the last fiscal year. We know children hold our future, and we aim to make that future a bright one through each of our seven programs.

2002-2003 Accomplishments

In October 2002, Family Support Services presented Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Lucia Herndon with our **Vision Award** at an FSS cocktail benefit. FSS supporters, board members and staff gathered in the Curtis building's restored **Dream Garden** lobby to celebrate Ms. Herndon's reporting about urban parenting issues. In her acceptance speech, Ms. Herndon spoke with characteristic warmth and humor about parenting challenges, and cited her own experiences as a mother to prove that children do not come with instructions.

Raising responsible children in an urban environment is no small feat. Voluntary Family Support Services parenting classes under the DHS Parenting Collaborative are attracting increasing numbers of inner city parents in need of support. These kinds of parenting education and neglect prevention services continue to be praised and materially supported by Philadelphia's DHS commissioner and child advocate Alba Martinez.

Thanks to detailed, program-enhancing work by teachers, school district staff and parents, the Ithan and Radnor Extended Day programs received their accreditation by the National School Age Care Alliance this year.

FSS's Early Intervention programs continued to show enrollment growth during the year and now account for 41% of our budget. Implementation of an up to date client tracking software system was also successfully completed.

The seemingly overnight relocation of Family School in a purpose built space certainly remains the high point of our fiscal year. Founded in 1976, Family School is the heritage program from which all of FSS's Early Intervention and Extended Day programs derive.

Future Plans

The next year Family Support Services is focusing on three key areas.

Fundraising

- Increasing both individual and grant support to ensure long term organizational strength.

Technology

- The use of technology to improve internal and external communications with the installation of cable and the development of a website.

Quality

- The maintenance and enhancement of existing programs with a focus on curriculum development and quality service.

- The expansion of Home Visiting programs for urban families with young children.

Case closed— Donna's story *(names have been changed)*
How SCOH, Family School & Penn Team helped Donna succeed as a parent

She was referred to Family School and Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH) by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS). Donna had a hard time knowing what her role as a parent should be. The household was in constant chaos. Her four year old daughter, Ashley, would run right out into to the street. As a mother, Donna was overwhelmed and unprepared.

Clara, Donna's social worker, worked with her at home (SCOH) and Donna attended Family School two days a week for a year. Parenting classes soon gave Donna a greater sense of the things she needed to do to provide a home for her family. Knowledge about how to provide a structured environment, good nutrition, and setting limits for Ashley's behavior helped Donna achieve a feeling of parental control.

But school offered more than just lessons, Donna also connected with a network of parents there who continue to encourage and support her.

Ashley had a speech and language delay which was picked up by Family School preschool teachers. She was referred to the Penn Early Childhood program for testing and early intervention services. Clara says, "Had Donna not come to us through a DHS referral, Ashley would not have gotten the early intervention services she needed, and later, she would have been overwhelmed by school. But now, when you mention school, she has a big smile on her face and throws her hands up in the air. "School," she says "I love school."

"Donna," Clara says, "feels really good about the progress her daughter has made. She's become very involved in supporting the early intervention services Ashley gets, and she works with her on language development at home." Donna and Ashley's case is now closed, and Clara has moved on to other families who need her help.

Child neglect has many roots. Ignorance, parental inexperience, lack of confidence, undiagnosed learning disabilities or developmental delays, a past history of abuse, poverty, and cognitive limitations can all be contributing factors.

Donna had a limited income, a difficult background (she'd been in foster care herself), and was not a strong reader. Her chances of succeeding as a parent were already circumscribed by many factors. In helping Donna become an effective parent, we were able to lighten her already heavy load and guide her family to brighter future.

Financial Data

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Revenues and other Support			
64.79% Government contracts	\$2,698,938	\$2,432,852	\$2,188,937
27.95% School-based Childcare	1,164,497	1,093,058	967,954
6.16% Grants	256,496	328,842	413,909
0.94% Contributions	39,243	76,331	38,691
0.16% Investment Income	<u>6,554</u>	<u>6,128</u>	<u>29,083</u>
Total	4,165,728	3,937,211	3,638,574
Expenses by Program			
21% School-based Childcare	\$ 830,238	813,251	697,379
25% Child Welfare	989,459	978,996	840,941
41% Early Intervention	1,708,663	1,632,663	1,453,208

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13%	General and Administrative	<u>508,670</u>	<u>454,658</u>	<u>450,414</u>
	Total	4,037,030	3,879,568	3,441,942
	Loss on Disposal of Property and Equipment	12,566	0	0
	Surplus/Deficit Revenue Over Expenses	116,132	57,643	196,632

Foundation, Corporate & Community Sponsors

The Agnes Irwin Middle School	Health First Centers	The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Ardmore Rotary Club	Kappa Kappa Gamma	The Philadelphia Inquirer
Child Care Resource Developers	Alumnae	The Phoebe Haas Trusts
First Book	The Margaret Butcher Foundation	Savran Benson LLP
First Union/Wachovia Bank	Nuss Printing	Val Hal Corporation
	PECO Energy	The William Penn Foundation

In-Kind Giving

ABC Quilts	Parents of the Extended Day Programs	Saint Monica's Church
The Agnes Irwin School	Pathmark	Thriftway
The Baldwin School	Pennsylvania Institute of Technology	Washington Group International
Barnes & Noble	Prudential Realtors	Weichert Realtors
Dorland Communications	The Red Cross	Williamsburg Dentistry
The Episcopal Academy	Rosetree Church of the Nazarene	
ITI Corporation		
Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae		

Individual Giving

Giving credit where credit is due. We'd like to thank our generous supporters for caring about child neglect & abuse, parenting education, early intervention, and school based extended day programs. We can't do it without your help.

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