



Family Support Services, Inc. Annual Report July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004

201 South 69th Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082

Our Mission

Family Support Services' mission is to support family life, 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.

Report from The Executive Director - Virginia C. Peckham
Our investment in the future - 1569 children and their families served

The cost of doing nothing can be measured child by child. If you want to think in terms of numbers — one year in foster care costs about \$25,000, while Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH) costs, on average, less than \$10,000 per year.

For this reason Family Support Services, Inc. (FSS) not only tries to help families early—before their children are in foster care—but also works to reunify families whenever possible.

We also try to help more families each year. This past year (2003-2004) we reached 1569 children and their families. Of these; 635 were served by Early Intervention programs; 407 by Child Welfare programs; and 527 by School-based Child-care (Before & After School) programs.

Family School, which handles some of the toughest child neglect and abuse prevention cases, worked with 99 children and their parents during the year. Parents learned more than just one way to parent; they learned how to listen to their children, to be patient with their needs, and to understand their developmental stages. One father was so proud of what he learned, he carried his new parenting skills with him when he went out into his community, sharing the lesson “*discipline means to teach,*” with relatives and neighbors.

During July '03, The William Penn Foundation helped FSS relocate its Family School to a larger, better-designed and furnished site at Woodland Ave. Volunteers from the Agnes Irwin School (AIS) and an Episcopal Academy art teacher helped

paint cheerful murals on the walls, and AIS funded new equipment for the indoor play room.

Family School also received a new grant from the Esther Gowen Hood Trust, administered by Mellon Bank. Thanks to this funding we were able to provide families a year's worth of nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks through the Family School Food and Nutrition program.

The Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust A made it possible to hire a new Music Therapy teacher at The Fairmount Early Intervention Center. Music therapy matters because it has been shown to boost attention and learning outcomes among children with developmental delays. Instead of relying solely upon verbal or visual communication, music therapy uses rhythm, song, and sound cues to stimulate a totally different part of the brain.

While the portion of our budget spent on administrative costs dropped from 13% to 12%, the agency was still able to invest in technology infrastructure due to a large grant of \$40,000 from a single donor. New Technology and Development Coordinator positions were created, and individual donor contributions increased by 20%.

The Family Partnership Program, which was allocated funding in June 2003, was able to serve 22 families in its first year. This program provides parenting support and access to community resources to moderately “at-risk” families with at least one child under five years old.

“When we work with a family,” says Program supervisor Annie Markovits “we assess the safety of the home, the level of par-

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2003-2004**

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enting skills, the development of the young children and collaborate with parents to create goals that will lead to greater stability. By helping parents follow through with medical appointments, registering children in school, or addressing mental health issues we help families to identify and address the emotional, educational, and developmental needs of their children.”

Our Penn Early Childhood program expanded its facilities, increased enrollment and hired new staff during the year and our School-based Childcare programs also experienced an increase in enrollment. Our Ithan, Radnor and Wayne sites received their accreditation from the National School-age Care Alliance, and a program

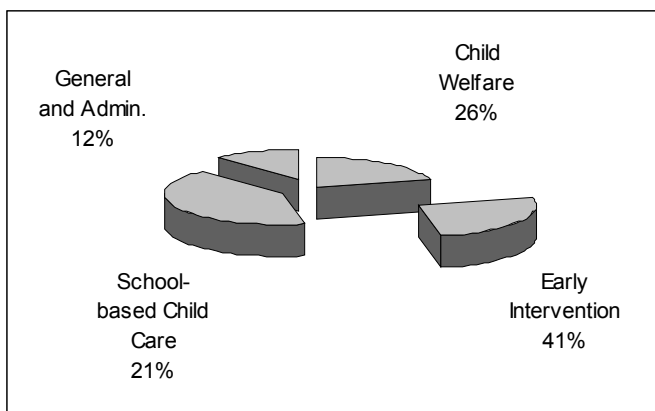
development grant of \$39,700 was received from Child Care Research Developers. This grant was used to increase multicultural awareness, enhance program curriculum, equipment & supplies, and apply for Keystone Stars accreditation for the Brookline, Coopertown, and Chatham Park sites.

Family Support Services’ ongoing goals include further investment in technology, site improvements, communication & web-site development, and fatherhood support, along with increased cross-disciplinary and cross-program collaboration. We always look to improve what we do, without forgetting that all of it is for our children’s future.

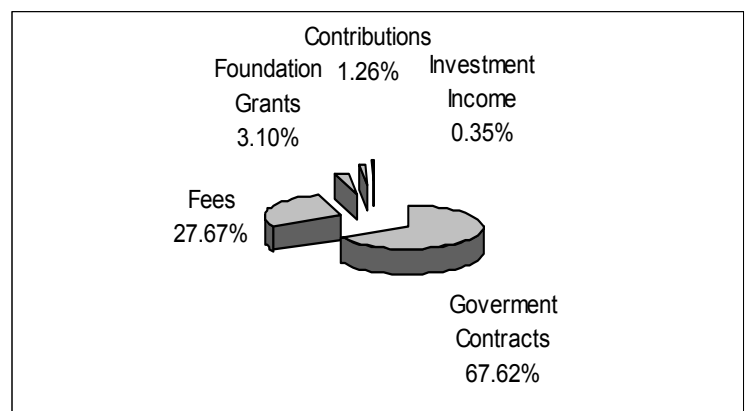
**Financial Data— Statement of Audited Revenue & Expenses
for years ending June 30th 2002, 2003, and 2004**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Revenues & Other Support			
Government Contracts	\$2,984,052	\$2,698,938	\$2,432,852
School-based Child Care Fees	1,221,343	1,164,497	1,093,058
Grants	136,700	256,496	328,842
Contributions	55,590	39,243	76,331
Investment Income	<u>15,481</u>	<u>6,554</u>	<u>6,128</u>
TOTAL	4,413,166	4,165,728	3,937,211
Expenses By Program			
School-based Child Care	\$ 879,854	\$ 830,238	\$ 813,251
Child Welfare	1,104,891	989,459	978,996
Early Intervention	1,740,247	1,708,663	1,632,663
General and Administrative	<u>508,227</u>	<u>508,670</u>	<u>454,658</u>
TOTAL	4,233,219	4,037,030	3,879,568
Loss on Disposal of Property & Equipment	0	12,566	0

2003-2004 Expenses by program



2003–2004 Revenues and other support



**We'd like to thank our generous supporters –
Without your investment in our programs we could not have provided parenting education, child neglect & abuse prevention programs, early intervention, and school based extended day care to 1569 children in 2003-2004.**

Annual Giving—Individual Donors

FSS Angel—\$500 and up

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For Our Children's Future

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Fax: 610-352-7617

email: FamilySupportSrv@aol.com

Or info@fssinc.org after June 1, 2005

OUR NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS
WILL BE
WWW.FSSINC.ORG

Corporate In-Kind Giving

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The Agnes Irwin School
The Ardmore Rotary Club
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Thorton D. and Elizabeth S. Hooper
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The Esther Gowen Hood Trust
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tutional Advancement
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