

Family Support Services Community Service Programs Overview

Family Support Services (FSS) is a non-profit social services agency founded in 1976. It serves primarily low income families in south, southwest and west Philadelphia with four child welfare programs (Family School, SAFE, Family Partnership, & SCOH – Services to Children in their Own Homes) and two early intervention programs (Penn Early Childhood Program, & The Fairmount Early Intervention Center.) Most of the families served have young children, birth to five years old.

The FSS service curriculum offers opportunities for school and college students to perform community service, and do internships, project work, and job shadowing.

Programs vary in complexity, depending on the school's objective. Students have previously done birthday gift, toy, clothing and food drives as well as service projects (painting, uniform collection) for Martin Luther King Day. Collected items are distributed to children and families by FSS social workers, or made use of in designated program sites. Some schools have painted murals or provided funding for much-needed program equipment. Volunteer interns have worked in classrooms, assisted teachers, or provided nursing assistance.

Participating schools or universities work with Family Support Services to tailor service opportunities to grade and school-specific goals. Internships are matched to individual interests, and vary depending on the objectives.

Family Support Services has provided community service or internship opportunities to students at the following schools, camps, and universities.

Community Service or project work

The Agnes Irwin School
 The Baldwin School
 The Episcopal Academy
 The Hunn School
 Pennsylvania Institute of Technology
 Radnor Elementary School PTO
 Saint Monica's School
 The Shipley School
 The Shipley Enrichment Camp
 The William Penn Charter School

Internships

Bryn Mawr College
 Eastern College
 Temple University
 Skidmore College
 University of the Arts
 University of the Sciences
 University of Pennsylvania
 School of Nursing
 Wharton School
 School of Social Work
 Widener University



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Family School Program

Service/Volunteer Opportunities

A center-based parenting education program for families overcoming histories of neglect or abuse

About Family School – Founded in 1976, Family School is a one of a kind parenting education program for parents referred by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services for child neglect or abuse. Running from 9am – 2:30, Monday – Thursday, parents attend assigned parenting classes, while their preschoolers, toddlers or babies are placed in structured and caring classroom environments with teachers. Parents and children spend daily time together (reading, playing, singing songs, and doing crafts) under the guidance and supervision of Family School staff so that parents may practice the skills they have learned in parenting class. Overall, Family School is a warm, welcoming, and positive experience for families.

Children and their parents are assigned to Family School for a maximum of two days each week for 6 months to a year. As part of a food and nutrition curriculum, Family School children and their parents are provided a nutritionally appropriate breakfast and lunch each day. Meals are prepared on-site by a trained chef educator and funded by a grant from the Esther Gowen Hood Trust, a Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trust.

Recent long term volunteer projects –

University of Pennsylvania Nursing School (nursing internship)

Skidmore College (summer internship)

The Shipley School (preparation & delivery of monthly lunches plus student visits with children & families)

Other recent service projects –

The Agnes Irwin School (mural painting, toy drives, gross motor equipment purchases) The Shipley Lower School faculty (mural painting)

The Shipley Lower School (Martin Luther King Day project - chair refurbishment; fifth grade service holiday gift collection project)

The Episcopal School (mural painting)

William Penn Charter School (a senior comprehensive film project)

Visits to Family School

Located at 5322 & Woodland Ave, Philadelphia 19143, Family School can be visited by small groups of students.

Lecture on Child Neglect and Abuse

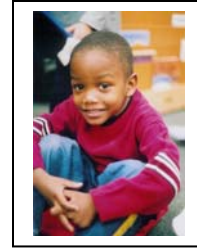
Family Support Services can provide staff to visit schools to talk with students (in age appropriate ways) about the causes and treatment possibilities for neglect and abuse.



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Fairmount Early Intervention Center Service Volunteer Opportunities

A preschool-like center for three to five year-old Philadelphia children with developmental delays



About The Fairmount Early Intervention Center - Fairmount is a center-based early intervention program for three to five year-old Philadelphia children with significant (25% or greater) delays in development. Children at Fairmount spend three years of their lives working to attain learning goals that others take for granted. They learn to follow directions, develop expressive communication skills, participate in shared craft, pre-reading and music activities, and play with other children. Teachers and therapists at Fairmount work with young children in a preschool-like environment, two to five days per week, for up to three years. The Fairmount Center's goal is to develop each child's individual abilities and prepare them for subsequent kindergarten or special education programs.

The Fairmount Site Director, Nancy Kolva, believes in the innate capacity for growth and development of each child referred to the center, but is also attuned to a child's emotional needs. While some children come from stable home situations, many others live in transitional housing, or in foster care situations, and need a structured environment that is also emotionally supportive. She says of the children; "we want to develop their potential, but we also want them to feel loved and cared for."

One of about 20 specialized Philadelphia programs for preschool children with physical, sensory, or cognitive delays in development, the Fairmount program is located at 2000 Hamilton Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130. Phone – 215-851-0390 email Nkolva@fssinc.org

Recent long term volunteer projects –

University of the Arts (multiple student internships)
Suburban High School Student (summer internship)
Hunn School (student service project)

Other recent service projects -

Agnes Irwin School (2 volunteer assistant teachers; gift of therapy equipment)
The Episcopal Academy (mural painting)
William Penn Charter School (a senior comprehensive film project)

2006 In-Kind Needs at Fairmount: This year's state mandated budget cuts of \$100,000 for Fairmount have had a big impact on the center. The center particularly needs donations of healthy snacks, school & crafts supplies, preschool book bags, therapeutic toys, sensory equipment, books, and clothing for children living in shelters or low income families.

Visits to the Fairmount Early Intervention Center

A small group of students can make one, or more, scheduled visits to the Fairmount site to learn how teachers work with children coping with delays in development.

Lecture on Understanding Developmental Delays

Family Support Services can provide a lecture and Q&A session about learning and developmental delays at the host school.



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In-kind donation program



School-aged children can participate in a school selected in-kind charitable giving program aimed at inner-city children and their parents. Students can visit FSS center based sites to drop off donated items, developing a sense of compassion for children born with many needs and few resources.

Seasonal giving

- **Thanksgiving Food Drive** – Families receive a food basket & turkey. More than 100 meals are delivered each holiday.
- **Holiday gifts for families on public assistance** - Age appropriate holiday gifts are collected for children. The gender & age of the child is provided along with a brief description of his/her interests. Gifts for parents have also been offered.
- **First day of school backpacks** for five-year old boys and girls - pencils, crayons, paper, notepads, ruler, copy book, and/or a small children's dictionary.
- **Head start for preschoolers** – A book bag of art supplies and board books is assembled for toddlers.

Year round charitable programs

- **New Clothing and Toys** are collected and given to young children (birth to five years old) for birthdays or as needed throughout the year.
- **The Book program** provides new books for children whose parents cannot afford to buy age appropriate reading material. Books are given to young children throughout the year.
- **The Diaper Bank** collects disposable diapers (all sizes) for at-home use by parents who might otherwise skimp on diaper changes to save money.
- **The Diaper Bag Project** outfits a diaper bag for a new parent. More than just a way to keep infants and toddlers clean, this bag can be stuffed with portable games and board books to make diaper changing fun.
- **Snacks for hungry kids** - Due to state-wide cuts in funding for Early Intervention services, two FSS Philadelphia-based programs will have to forgo offering daily snacks & drinks to young children. Students develop a personal connection with children by collecting snacks (or funding for snacks), delivering them to our program sites, and visiting classrooms.
- **New cribs, strollers or infant and toddler car seats** – Students can help families by supplying one of the 'big-ticket' items many inner city parents need but cannot afford.
- **New warmth for the cold house** - Baby and infant quilts, blanket sleepers, and children's sleeping bags can be collected to bring warmth to houses that are often temporary and full of hand-me-downs.



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Hygiene, Household Safety, & First Aid supply kit drives

This project allows school students to provide direct support to families with young children, by collecting key supplies for basic health, safety and hygiene needs that can then be distributed to families in need. FSS social workers often encounter families who cannot afford basic health, hygiene, and kitchen safety or cleanliness supplies. Providing families with the right tools for small emergencies can also prevent infected wounds and trips to the emergency room. Simple items like soap, shampoo, and toothpaste can reduce skin infections, disease transmission, and oral decay. Children with soap and shampoo at home can go out into the world feeling clean and cared for.

Any item from the lists below will be helpful.

Hygiene Needs – Containing

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap
- Shaving cream & Disposable razors
- Brush/comb
- Toothbrushes (2-4)
- Toothpaste
- Washcloths (2-4)

Household safety kit needs – provided with information & guidelines on residential safety

- Outlet covers
- Cabinet locks
- Safety gates
- Corner covers (i.e. for a coffee table)
- Fire-extinguishers, and a fire safety guide

A large supply of smoke detectors have already been provided by Allstate

First Aid Kit Needs- recommended items for the American Red Cross's 'Family Disaster Supplies Kit'

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes; 2 and 4 inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape, 2 and 3 inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Non-prescription drugs: Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever, Anti-diarrhea medication, Antacid, Syrup of Ipecac, Laxative, Activated charcoal