

Family Matters

News for Friends of Family Services

Program coordinator Gertie Franz shows off the property where some of Family Services' formerly homeless clients now live.



Supportive Housing: A Growing Success

Family Services' supportive housing program for chronically homeless families is set to triple its capacity over the next two years. The program currently serves 22 families with housing placement, intensive case management, mental health support, and independent living skills training. The number of households we serve will grow to 69 by 2008.

In September 2003, a single mom and her 8-year-old daughter moved into the first transitional home supported by Family Services. From the first day, program staff provided the depth of service the family needed to find immediate shelter, then transitional housing, and finally a permanent home.

After two years of weekly visits from a case manager and with help applying to the King County Housing Authority, this first family moved into permanent housing. More than a year later, they continue to enjoy independence and stability and recently called to report a job promotion!

In its first three years the program successfully placed 34 families in supportive housing and saw only two evictions.

Program Coordinator Gertie Franz works closely with the families. "My primary function is being present and consistent and modeling good behavior," she said.

The road home is not easy. "In the first six months, they become very sad because they are finally calming down from the trauma of being homeless, letting go of the chaos," Gertie said. "As they come out the other side, I see myself as the person who's there to provide the life-support they need."

Today, Gertie works with clients like Linda, homeless for 20 years and mother of two teenage boys. "She is a third-generation drug abuser—she grew up watching her grandmother and mother using heroin. I am trying to teach her some skills to fit in to our society, to not stick out like a sore thumb." Gertie even scrubbed Linda's tub to show her what a clean bathroom looks like. "She was happy enough knowing she had a warm place with a roof," Gertie said.

Many of these families also receive counseling, childcare, tenant advocacy, and clothing and supplies from other Family Services programs.

The success of the housing support program would not be possible without strong ties to the community. Family Services works in partnership with city and county housing authorities; the Gates Foundation Sound Families Initiative; and non-profit and for-profit housing providers.

Together, we are helping families become healthy and strong with the security of a place to call home.

Inside Family Matters...

13th Annual
Spring Benefit Luncheon

Thursday, May 10, 2007
Registration at 11:30 am

**"All
Around
Us"**

details on page 3

Family Services Capital Campaign Update

Thanks to the generosity of our community, 2006 was an amazing year for the Family Services Capital Campaign! We are thrilled to announce the following accomplishments:

- We've raised \$6.1 million, 58% of our \$10.5 million goal to build the Rotary Support Center for Families.
- Our Board of Directors collectively pledged more than \$450,000.
- The Rotary Centennial Project has reached 85% of its goal, with \$3.7 million pledged.
- The City of Seattle allocated \$250,000 for the Center in its 2007 budget.
- The City awarded a separate grant for architectural assistance from Environmental Works.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$1 million.
- Private foundations and companies have been very generous, including Boeing (\$300,000), the Joshua Green Foundation (\$50,000), and The Norcliffe Foundation (\$500,000).

We're also excited about our campaign leadership team. Former Board Chairs **Steve Schwartz**, **Rodger Kohn**, **Steve Leahy**, and **Bob Gruber** have generously accepted key leadership roles. They and their families are our first "Families for Family Services."

In addition, we are negotiating the purchase of a property on Rainier Avenue S. where we hope to build the Rotary Support Center for Families. Watch for more news later this spring!

Family Matters is published by Family Services of King County. We welcome your questions and comments. Contact us at:

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206-826-3050 • info@family-services.org

Family Matters is also available electronically on our website, www.family-services.org.

Lauren Thomas a Finalist for CFO of the Year



Lauren Thomas,
Family Services'
Chief Operating Officer

Lauren Thomas, Family Services' Chief Operating Officer, was recently honored in the *Puget Sound Business Journal* as one of five finalists for the CFO of the Year award in the small non-profit category. One PSBJ judge told CEO/President Ruthann Howell how impressed he was by the caliber of the nominees from non-profits and specifically by Lauren's commitment to the Family Services mission. Congratulations, Lauren. You're always a winner in our eyes!

Volunteers Make the Difference

We are grateful to the volunteers who help make our programs possible. Most recently a team of UW students helped with painting projects and the Faith In Action Together group improved the children's play area at the Baby Boutique. Many others helped with our 2006 holiday drives (see article on page 3).

In 2007 we hope to expand our volunteer programs so that even more people can get involved. Ongoing opportunities include helping children and families at the Baby Boutique as well as helping with mailings and other clerical tasks in the administrative offices. We always welcome volunteer efforts to collect disposable diapers, children's clothing and toys, and personal hygiene items or household cleaning supplies for families moving into their first apartments. For details, e-mail info@family-services.org or call 206-826-3050.

New Donation Option for Retirees

The Pension Plan Act allows retirees with IRAs to make tax-free distributions to charities like Family Services. This rule change applies to 2006 and 2007 only. If you are 70 or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 each year. Distributions must go directly from the IRA to the charity and cannot pass through foundations or donor-advised funds. Call our development office at 206-902-4231 for more information.

Luncheon 2007

13th Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon
Thursday, May 10, 2007

You're Invited!

Join us on Thursday, May 10 to support our services for families and children in crisis. **All Around Us** there are families who need our help and, by working together, **We Can** make a difference. You'll see the impact that Family Services is making in the community and witness lives changed through your support. Every day Family Services is working to end family homelessness, build emotionally healthy families, and help children succeed.

Please join us for our annual luncheon at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel with emcee Steve Raible of KIRO News and keynote speaker Tricia Raikes, a local philanthropist and 2006 United Way Campaign co-chair. Registration starts at 11:30 am, lunch and program 12 noon-1:30 pm.

RSVP as a guest or join our team as a table captain and bring a group of 10 (we'll provide invitations for you to personalize and send). Space is limited and by reservation only. Please RSVP by April 30: go to www.family-services.org or call 206-826-3038. Suggested donation: \$150.



Tricia Raikes of the Raikes Family Foundation is our 2007 Luncheon keynote speaker.

Holiday Drives a Huge Success

Special thanks to the many individuals and groups who made the holiday season brighter for our client families by donating household goods, clothing, gift cards, and toys, toys, toys! 2006 was "our most successful drive ever!" according to Marge Morrison of our eviction prevention program. Adds Jennifer Haley of the Baby Boutique, "It was such a great year that I have filled our shelves with items that will be distributed through January and beyond."

Hats off to everyone who gave our clients a helping hand: childcare centers, student groups, service clubs, churches, banks, businesses, law firms, and many others. We appreciate your generosity!



The Issaquah Middle School "Where Everybody Belongs" group donated holiday bags of hygiene items for families.

New Program Offerings!

Two new Family Services programs are set to begin in March:

- **Immigrant parents' support group** at MultiCultural Counseling Services in Northgate—call 206-524-9055 for more information.
- **Bringing Baby Home** workshops for expectant moms and dads at our Bellevue location—call 425-450-0332 for more information.

◆ 2006 Service Highlights

Childcare for Homeless Families

- ◆ 4,960 days of childcare provided to 77 homeless children

By moving to a new location, the Morningsong Early Learning Center doubled capacity and grew to three classrooms. The average stay for children increased from 7 weeks in 2005 to 13 weeks in 2006.

Essential Supplies for Homeless Children

- ◆ 900 families with 1,800 children served with 2,700 shopping trips at the Baby Boutique
- ◆ Provided \$675,000 in supplies to families
- ◆ For every \$1 donated, the Baby Boutique distributes \$5 in goods to families

Supportive Housing

- ◆ Provided 25,128 nights of emergency shelter to homeless men, women, and children
- ◆ Placed 91 families in long-term stable housing

In step with the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County, our supportive housing program changed its focus in 2006 from emergency shelter services to long-term and permanent housing for homeless families.

Eviction Prevention

- ◆ Served a total of 203 households at-risk of becoming homeless
- ◆ 109 households received rental assistance and case management
- ◆ 45 clients received Family Services' mental health counseling

Domestic Violence Intervention

- ◆ 68 men stopped physically and emotionally abusing their partners
- ◆ 3 women stopped physically and emotionally abusing their partners in our new Lesbian Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ◆ 31 men attended DV Dads classes to learn how their behavior affects their children
- ◆ 281 men and women received preventive domestic violence education at the King County Community Center for Alternative Programs

Mental Health Counseling

- ◆ Served 7,500 individuals, including 1,200 in family counseling
- ◆ Provided 32,680 hours of mental health counseling to local residents

Family Services builds emotionally healthy, self-sufficient families and a non-violent community in which they can thrive.
www.family-services.org

Return Service Requested

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