

Variety Night Fundraiser

You're invited to enjoy an evening of delightful entertainment, while supporting Family Service Center programs.

A Variety Night fundraiser will be held Friday, May 12 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the KC Hall at Iles and Meadowbrook Rd.

"We're excited about offering a great line-up of entertainment by talented local performers. There's something that everyone is sure to enjoy," said Danielle Outlaw, event chair.

The entertainment includes some central Illinois favorites:

◆ **Cassy and Alyssa Gaddis**, ages 10 and 13, are award winning actress and vocalist. They will sing selections from productions in which they performed such



Cassy and Alyssa Gaddis

as "Annie" and "Christmas Song Book."

◆ **Jeff and Jacklyn** delight audiences with their high-energy salsa dancing.

◆ **Savanah**, a Whitney Houston impersonator.

Don't miss these and other delightful performers.

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$15.

A silent auction will feature many items including four tickets to Champions on Ice 2006, an MP3 player,

piano lessons, Party Lite items, Southern Living at Home items, and more.

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or donate to the silent auction, call 528-8406.

Memorial to Civil War Orphans

Ground was broken in February at Oak Ridge Cemetery for a memorial to the first children cared for at the Home for the Friendless, predecessor to the Family Service Center.

The children were brought to Springfield as orphans of the Civil War by the Rev. Francis Springer in 1865.

The memorial project was begun by Paul Mueller, who lives near the cemetery. Mueller suggested the



Josie Rocco and Deb Raupp (left), of the Family Service Center, participate in ground breaking for the memorial.

memorial to the Oak Ridge Cemetary Board, who approved the plan.

"This memorial project is one way the cemetery will commemorate it's 150th anniversary," said LuAnn Johnson, executive director of Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The memorial is designed as a limestone wall, which will include plaques listing the names of 52 children known to be buried at the site, a list of the original orphans brought to

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Variety Night

May 12, 2006

KC Hall

Iles & Meadowbrook

8 p.m. - Midnight

Tickets: \$15

Call 528-8406

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Family Service Center Programs and Services

Our programs are designed to help families and individuals of all ages deal positively with the continuing challenges that occur throughout the family life cycle.

- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Adoption Preservation
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Respite
- ◆ Tree of Wishes
- ◆ YPSS (Young Parent Support Services)

FSC Connection is published for Family Service Center members, clients and supporters in the greater Springfield community. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Call 528-8406.
Editor Ruth Slottag, APR
Contributors Debbie Raupp
..... Josie Rocco

From Our President



Debbie Raupp
President

Welcome to the Spring edition of the FSC Connection. I hope you did not sustain a lot of damage during the tornado on March 12. We were grateful that most of our clients fared very well.

Although we were without power for several days, our staff continued to work from their homes and cell phones to assist clients during and after the storm.

It does give us time to reflect; however, on those less fortunate than ourselves. While the tornado's devastation was very evident, other mental affects are more hidden. Many victims may be in need of counseling to overcome their fears. But through your support, some of them can receive counseling at a sliding pay scale.

We are now wrapping up our membership drive, so if you have not had a chance join or renew your membership, please clip the membership form in this newsletter. Of course, there are other ways to help.

Our first Variety Night fundraiser will be held on May 12 at the KC Hall on Meadowbrook Road. If you haven't purchased your ticket yet, please give us a call at 528-8406. We do accept VISA and Mastercard too. Come and join us for a casual evening of entertainment!

I have been on the Board at Family Service Center for 7 years. In as much as we don't ask for that commitment from you, I know many are looking for a way to give back to the community. Whether you are looking to join a not-for-profit board or just want to volunteer at an event, give us a call at 528-8506. We would be happy to discuss any opportunities with you.

Wishing you a Happy Spring!

FSC Receives Grants from Partner Agencies

Two partner organizations recently awarded grants to the Family Service Center and its programs.

"We are very grateful for these grants, which will help our agency continue to serve residents of our community," said Josie Rocco, FSC executive director.

United Way partnership grant

As a result of their successful campaign, the United Way of Central Illinois recently provided grants to two FCS programs.

The Community Counseling program received \$23,009. The counseling program provides therapy to strengthen families and achieve positive changes

through face-to-face therapy.

In a second grant, the Young Parent Support Services was awarded \$29,081. YPSS provides first-time teen parents with education and support to promote strong, healthy child-parent relationships and reduce child abuse and neglect.

Sangamon County Community Foundation grant

The Sangamon County Community Foundation awarded \$550 for the purchase of a freezer for the Center. The freezer has been needed by the FSC support groups so they can purchase food in bulk, which will result in lower overall costs.

Memorial

Continued from page 1

Springfield from Fort Smith, Arkansas, and a brief history of the home.

Oak Ridge Cemetery had donated land years ago for the home to use

without charge for burials.

Fund raising began last fall and has raised \$4,300 of the \$10,000 needed.

For more information about the memorial, contact Oak Ridge Cemetery at 789-2340.

Grateful Mother Gives Back

A young mother who participated in the Young Parents Support Services ten years ago, is today giving back to the program.

Joy Wolfe has come a long way from participant to volunteer co-facilitator of the YPSS group sessions. Together with facilitator, Amy Gorens, Joy prepares information to help young mothers meet the challenges of motherhood at a young age.

The weekly sessions discuss various topics including child care, dealing with emotional and physical abuse, healthy meals, health and sexually transmitted diseases.

"I enjoyed attending the group sessions as a participant years ago when my first daughter was a baby. I was sad when the



Joy Wolfe relaxes with youngest daughters, Delaney and Annie.

term was finished, so I decided to volunteer to help others as I had been helped," said Joy.

The YPSS sessions have helped Joy realize her full potential. Before participating in the program, she did not think she would be able to attend college and plan for a future career.

But today Joy is a full-time student at Lincoln Land Community College, where she is studying to become a high school English teacher. She also is mother to three daughters: Kaylie, 9; Annie, 3; and Delaney, 16 months.

YPSS is now a family activity for Joy as her oldest daughter, Kaylie, also volunteers for the program. Kaylie helps with child care while parents attend the information sessions.

Wish List

A number of items are needed to help FSC continue to provide services to clients in our various programs.

- ◆ Diapers - all sizes
- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Baby bottles
- ◆ Baby blankets - regular size
- ◆ Baggies - large
- ◆ Cribs
- ◆ Crib sheets
- ◆ Socks - kid sizes
- ◆ Zip-lock containers

anyone wishing to donate items can call 528-8406 or drop them off at the FSC, 1308 So. 7th Street, Springfield.

In Memory



Shelby Alfonsi served on the FSC board of directors for the past six years. Her dedication and commitment to FSC and the community will be missed.

You Can Make a Difference!

Your membership donation is important to supplement the various programs and services of the Family Service Center. This is a good time help support the much needed community programs that strengthen families such as the Young Parents Support Services and family and individual counseling program. Please complete this membership form and send it with your contribution to Family Service Center, 1308 South Seventh Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

Membership Form

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Family Service Center at the following

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail address _____

My check is enclosed for \$_____.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Volunteers Welcome

If you would like to support the Family Service Center, you can become member or volunteer to help with one of the programs or serve on a committee.

Call 528-8406

Foster Care Evolves into Loving Family

In a domestic violence investigation four years ago, two young children were found to be inadequately supervised.

Two-year-old Steven and 8-month-old Melissa were suffering from lack of care and insufficient food.

The children were immediately taken into protective custody and placed with relatives. FSC worked with the parents for about a year, but conditions were not favorable for returning the children to their biological parents.

Since then Steven and Melissa have

continued to live with the same relatives and have developed into normal, healthy children.



In February 2006, Steven and Melissa were adopted by their foster parents and are now part of a larger family. They have two parents who love and nurture them as well as two older siblings who also love them.

For information about becoming a foster parent, call 528-8406.

Note: The children's names have been changed to protect their privacy.



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www.service2families.com



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