

Our mission at
Family & Children's Place
is to strengthen our
community through
quality service that
promotes safe, healthy
and stable children
and families.

Friends OF THE Family



Friends of the Family Newsletter

December 2008



Family&Children's Place
Building brighter futures.

Program Highlights



The Partnership to Prevent Child Abuse successfully completed its first year of a two year grant award for community education and trauma treatment. To date, over 1600 individuals (adults and children) have participated in training and treatment. Recently, 10 new mini-grants were awarded to various faith based, school and community groups. These mini-grants

will enable these groups to develop efforts to engage citizens in combating child abuse/neglect.

Service Net Solutions recently donated a very generous amount of school supplies to Family & Children's Place. The supplies were distributed to several programs and clients are already enjoying the benefits. Elizabeth Cooper, MSSW Supervisor Homeless Prevention, shared the following real life story.

Several weeks ago I went on a home visit and the most amazing thing happened to me. I had taken some of the school supplies to a family, and when I pulled up in the driveway I was greeted by my client's grand-daughter who came up to me with a big smile and a hug. I told her that I had something for her I pulled out a pink back pack with Disney Princesses on it. If you could have seen the look on her face you would have thought that I was bringing her a truck load of toys on Christmas Day! She was so excited that as I handed it to her she said "Thank You" and took it over to show it to her family. She put it on and then went into the house to get her stuff to put into it. She carried on this way for the entire visit; it was just overwhelming for me, that she was so happy to have received

something so small, something that most of us take for granted. As I share this story, I realize that something so small can mean the world to someone else. This re-enforces "why" we do what we do. We may not always see it but we really do make a difference in many of the families we serve.

Family & Children's Place

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Holiday Support for Families

Along with the normal stress that the holidays bring, the families that we serve at Family and Children's Place must deal with something much more traumatic - child abuse, neglect and domestic violence. And for many of our clients, they must also deal with the financial barriers that prevent them from having the holiday that every child deserves.

You can help ensure that the families served by Family and Children's Place have a joyous and memorable holiday by participating in the 2008 Holiday Support Program. Sponsors will be matched with a child and provided specific information - age, gender, clothing sizes and a wish list. Then sponsors shop for holiday gifts for the child.

If you, your family, friends, church group or company are interested in participating please feel free to contact Jennifer Fetzer at 636-2801 ext. 252.

This is a great way to get into the holiday spirit, and you will truly make a difference in the lives of many people. Thank you for your commitment to helping families and children in our community.

Leadership message

Family & Children First and Family Place have over 150 years of experience responding to changing service needs of families and children in our community. While the agencies grew separately to help contemporary families in crisis, we have now joined forces to address the needs of our community.

We are proud to announce the strategic merger of our two organizations effective October 1, 2008. Together as a merged organization, Family & Children's Place will be a leading professional service organization in the region focused on ensuring that children have safe families, stable homes and opportunities to have productive lives. The merger has united our organizations around a new mission: *"To strengthen our community through quality service that promotes safe, healthy and stable children and families."*

The merger will mean good things for the children and families served by the dedicated professionals who work at Family & Children First and Family Place. We will be able to offer more comprehensive programs to a greater number of families and children who have been affected by violence, abuse and neglect in our area.

All current facilities will remain open, and some will begin offering additional services within months. We are excited about this new beginning and look forward to the future as we continue to provide outstanding services that promote safe, healthy and stable children and families. With this in mind, we ask for your continued support as we begin a new era for Family & Children's Place as we reach out to many more children and families.



Pam Helms
Chief Operating Officer

Dan Fox
Executive Director

Honors, Awards & Accolades



Jerome Garrison, second from left, received the Spirit of the Alliance Award.

Recently our agency was honored with the 2007-2008 Exceptional Performance Award from Metro United Way based on quality outcomes. Many thanks to Metro United Way for their support and recognition!

Jerome Garrison, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, received the Spirit of the Alliance Award from the Alliance for Families and Children. This is a national organization of over 400 organizations like Family & Children First/Family Place. The Spirit Award recognizes one direct service professional that embodies the values and mission of alliance member agencies. Jerome received this prestigious honor in Baltimore on October 28.

Family & Children's Place has been awarded the Achieve Complete grant for capacity building services! As a result, the agency will receive access to critical resources, tools and information as well as consulting and training services.

LeAnn Magre, Child Welfare Team Leader, has been named Chair, Board of Directors for Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children. LeAnn's passion, commitment and skills in improving services for families are evident in her being elected Chair.

Donna Russow, Director of Child and Family Services, is currently serving as President Elect of Kentucky Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. She will take full reign in the near future.

Caper & Oscar Night® America - Louisville

Mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events!

Saturday, January 31, 2009

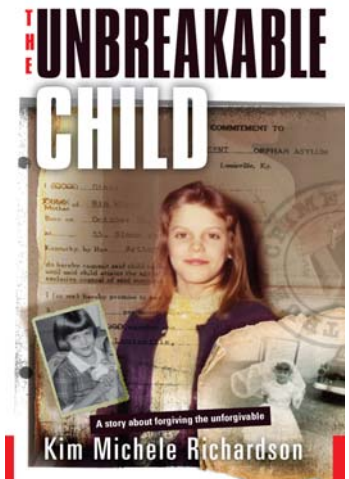
Immediately following:

**UofL Men's Basketball Game vs. West Virginia
2:30-5:30p.m.**

Kentucky Fair and Expo Center, First Floor Ballroom

Nearly 1,000 people attend, The Caper, an annual post-game benefit party and auction supporting Family & Children First/Family Place. This family friendly event is perfect for all ages! The Caper includes a silent auction of over 300 items, a live auction, entertainment and a delicious variety of food and desserts from local restaurants. The Caper has something for everyone and is all about fun!

The Cardinal Athletic Department has supported The Caper for over 21 years - the team and coaches usually make post-game appearances! Tickets are \$20 and dress is casual.



The Unbreakable Child: A Story about Forgiving the Unforgivable

Kim Michele Richardson has written a soon-to-be-released book detailing her childhood experiences in an orphanage and foster homes. The Unbreakable Child is her true, heartbreaking story of years of abuse. Mrs. Richardson has graciously donated a portion of the proceeds from her book to Family & Children's Place and is looking forward to participating in upcoming Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. The Unbreakable Child will be released on April 1, 2009 and is currently available for pre-sale on www.Amazon.com and www.Target.com.

Family Reunion/Eric Tachau Gold Medal Awards

The fifth annual Family Reunion/Eric Tachau Gold Medal Awards was a huge success and over \$50,000 was raised! It was by far our largest crowd to date with nearly 700 people in attendance! Champion Sports Tours, Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Merger Committee were honored for their outstanding efforts in philanthropy, advocacy and volunteerism respectively. Many thanks to our nearly 100 table hosts and all our event attendees! We also send sincere appreciation to our committee of hardworking volunteers who helped make the event possible. Thank you to: Event Chair, Bill Meyer, III, Mary Jo Gleason, John Hamilton, Kate Lindsay and Gary Thompson.

10th Annual Oscar Night® America - Louisville

February 22, 2009
6:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Marriott Downtown

While the biggest names in Hollywood are celebrating at the Oscar Ceremony, local guests are a part of movie magic right here at home. Louisville experiences the excitement and glamour of Hollywood at its own Oscars® party. From the moment guests arrive they are the celebrities and play a starring role in an evening of delectable cuisine, a generous open bar, silent and live auctions, sprinkled throughout with the exhilaration of the Oscars.

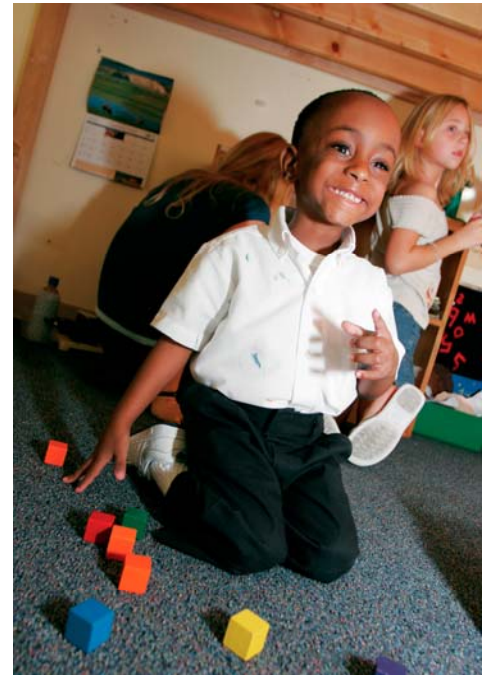
Oscar Night® America- Louisville is the ONLY event in the area sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Tickets are \$200 per person and black-tie attire is encouraged.

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Upcoming Events

January 31

The Caper

February 22

10th Annual Oscar Night@ America- Louisville



Family & Children's Place

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