

THANKS TO YOU, OUR COMMUNITY IS BECOMING STRONGER, OUR FUTURE IS BECOMING BETTER.

—NOVEMBER 21, 2016—

Family violence is declining. Time to do more.

Imagine opening your morning paper to these headlines: Intimate partner violence is down by 63%! Child abuse and neglect rates have dropped by 40%! Sexual abuse of children has declined by 62%! You wouldn't be dreaming. These are the facts. The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have been tracking these statistics since the mid-1990s. The lines on their charts drop steeply from then through the first years of this century, with a gradual leveling off over the past decade.

All this should be cause for celebration, if not jubilation. So why are these positive social indicators overlooked?

It wasn't that long ago that the very existence of child abuse and domestic violence was either denied or minimized. Raising awareness of the pervasiveness of the problem was a necessity for the agencies that were created in the 1960s and 70s to serve the victims of family violence. After decades of struggle to adequately fund family violence programs, it could seem risky to suggest that the magnitude of the problem has diminished. It's difficult to walk the line between celebrating success and maintaining that a deadly, serious problem still remains to be addressed.

The story is also complicated by the difficulty of providing precise reasons for the declining rates. However, Dr. David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire, has identified a number of factors that contributed to the decrease in child abuse: greater public awareness, stepped-up prevention efforts, specialized policing efforts, the establishment of service systems that assist victims, more effective psychotropic medications, and the deterrence afforded by the prosecution of offenders. It seems reasonable to credit similar factors in reducing the incidence of intimate partner violence. Taken together, these factors have rewritten the code for what is expected and acceptable behavior. They have combined to change community norms, which is the ultimate basis for achieving a lasting, sustainable reduction in family violence.

Family Services is proud to have been a part of this effort in Forsyth County. Since the mid-1980s, we have provided a women's shelter, 24-hour crisis lines, victim advocacy and case management, and education and awareness programs. In 2000 we established the Child Advocacy Center to provide a child-friendly place where children who have been abused can be assessed by a skilled forensic interviewer. And since 2005, we have coordinated Safe-on-Seven, a collaborative of social service, law enforcement, and legal aid agencies connected to the district attorney's office, which serves 1,800 victims annually.

11 Eleven organizations have pledged their commitment to the Family Violence Prevention Initiative

- Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
- Forsyth County Department of Public Health
- Forsyth County District Attorney's Office
- Hispanic League
- Love Out Loud (a multi-church collective)
- Salem College
- Union Baptist Church
- Wake Forest Innovation Quarter
- Winston-Salem Journal
- Winston-Salem State University
- A group of victims/survivors of family violence, sponsored by Family Services

These services save lives and help women, men, parents, children and families reclaim the safety and security they need to restore their well-being.

But it's not enough. The prevalence of violence within families – across all racial/ethnic and socio-economic groups – remains unacceptably high and undermines the economic and social vitality of our community. That which has brought current success may not take us further. Future progress depends on new methods for transforming community norms.

That's why Family Services convened a group of leaders in the domestic violence and child abuse fields to develop a community-wide initiative to eliminate family violence in our county. These leaders are convinced that creative ideas for eliminating family violence can be found across all sectors of our community and that once implemented these ideas will have the power to change attitudes, practices, values, and behavior.

As a result of their deliberations and funding by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and The Winston-Salem Foundation, Family Services launched the Family Violence Prevention Initiative in October with a cohort of eleven wide-ranging organizations in Forsyth County. These organizations created teams of 8 to 12 members. Throughout the fall months, each team participated in a series of five, facilitated "dialogue-to-action" sessions to study family violence from the vantage point of their organization and to identify what their organization can do to contribute to a reduction in the incidence of family violence. Four more groups will get underway in January. And shortly afterward, all the groups will convene for a Community Action Forum, during which they will formally adopt action plans that they will implement during the coming year.

When Family Services imagines the future of our county, we see a community in which family members are able to manage stress and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence against one another; a community in which every family has the opportunity to nurture their children and achieve their personal goals.

Keeping this vision in motion depends on community engagement. We're grateful to our community partners for joining this important initiative and helping to create a safer, better future for us all.

Bob Feikema
President and CEO



Closing the Opportunity Gap Begins with Raising **EVERY** Child



Photos by Jordan Brannock



All children have an inherent right to realize their full potential. Yet, too many of our youngest children in Forsyth County do not enjoy the same opportunities for success. They are not ready to learn when they enter school. They start behind and struggle to catch up. Too many never catch up.

We know that our community's economic vitality and social well-being depend upon having all our children ready for school and for life. Nationally acclaimed social scientist Robert D. Putnam underscored this truth in two presentations around "Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis" to nearly 400 community champions at our inaugural *Raising Every Child* benefit.

Dr. Putnam spoke about the "opportunity gap" that, if left unchecked, will prevent communities like Winston-Salem from flourishing. The good news is that we can close the widening gap between children who have access to opportunities and children who are excluded. "We've achieved this before," said Putnam, describing a similar circumstance in our country when a system for high school education was created. "The equivalent 21st century project is early childhood education."

There are times when a singular event can crystallize a community's commitment to a great cause. *Raising Every Child* is one of several endeavors that is helping to inspire champions – those who will ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up to become truly remarkable and contribute his or her special talents to our community.



Clockwise: Robert Putnam and Wake Forest University Education Major students; Emma Battle, Head Start Alumna and now Vice President of Client Success, Windsor Circle in Durham; and Host Committee member Zanne Baker greets our guest speaker.

Family Services is grateful for the leadership and support of the *Raising Every Child* Host Committee:

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gayle Anderson | Mary Jamis |
| Zanne Baker | J. Walter McDowell |
| Phil Batten | Sam Mills |
| Dean Clifford | Drewry Nostitz |
| Florence Corpening | Dave Plyler |
| Caren Grice | Anna Marie Smith |
| Nancy Hawley | |

Children learn best with full bellies



Nutrition is a critical component to child development and to preparing for success in school, especially for young children when brain development is rapidly forming. That's why we teamed up with Chef Don McMillan, the North Carolina Chef and Child Association, and Second Harvest Food Bank to raise awareness about child hunger at the ninth annual Child Nutrition Day Breakfast. Nearly 1,500 children and their families were our guests, along with local and state leaders. Photo: Jesús Orozco

In Their Own Words

"With the right environment, every child can thrive. Imagine a world where every child becomes the best version of themselves. If not us, then who?" — Anna Marie Smith

"As community leaders we have the responsibility to ensure every child has an opportunity to succeed academically and in life." — J. Walter McDowell

"The children are our future for a healthy, peaceful world." — Zanne Baker

"Jeff Edmondson with StriveTogether said it best for me: 'Behind every data point is a child and a story.'" — Mary Jamis

"Workforce readiness starts with early childhood development that ensures students can succeed in school and in life. Getting a good start in life means good jobs and a secure future." — Gayle N. Anderson

A plan for Universal Pre-K



The Universal Pre-K Steering Committee, convened by Family Services, unveiled its plan for making quality early childhood education accessible to every child in Forsyth County. More than 60 community leaders attended the Universal Pre-K Forum to receive the report and to respond to recommendations for advocacy, funding and ensuring quality standards. Participants provided feedback that will contribute to preparations and next steps for launching a multi-year campaign to implement universal Pre-K.

NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Dialogue to Change: Family Violence Prevention



Photos of WSSU and Arts Council group sessions by Daryl Shaw

Seven "dialogue-to-action" groups, representing local business, faith-based, health, education, law enforcement, media and the arts organizations, met over a two-month period to address the issue of family violence as it affects their respective organizations. Using an adaptation of the Everyday Democracy (everyday-democracy.org) model for public dialogue, each group of 8 to 12 participants progressed through five intensive sessions that culminated in the development of organization-specific plans for eliminating family violence in Forsyth County.

"The members of these groups invested an enormous amount of personal time around a very sensitive and serious topic. Witnessing their energy and commitment has been encouraging," said Kenyetta Richmond, project coordinator for the Family Violence Prevention initiative. Richmond guided teams of facilitators to help the groups navigate the dialogue process, which she said required tremendous vulnerability and openness.

A group of students, faculty, and staff at Winston-Salem State University talked about family violence in the context of racial tension. "It was important that our approach [to the conversation around family violence] be both culturally sensitive and culturally relevant to our historically Black university context, and the historical realities of oppression and trauma for people of African descent in the US," said Dr. Michele Lewis, a professor of psychology at WSSU. "Everyone involved in the project is committed to doing something truly meaningful that will have long-term positive impact."

Four more groups will convene in January 2017. Then all eleven groups will come together to learn about each other's action agendas, discover areas of mutual interest and support, and commit to the implementation of their plans over the coming year. The initiatives from these groups will be an important start to creating the kind of community in which all children and families can thrive.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

A Day of Unity



Family Services commemorated Domestic Violence Awareness Month by honoring the lives of 63 Forsyth County adults and children who have died as a result of family violence over the past 20 years.

OCTOBER 26, 2016

On-site counseling for students



Parkland Magnet High School teachers and parents learned how our school-based counseling services support the successful transition of 9th-grade students.

What can you do?

Eliminating the threat of violence in our city requires participation from every person. Here are a few ways you can personally begin today to help stop family violence:

Promote respect for all people; do not tolerate discrimination.

Don't look the other way. Don't remain silent. If you don't know what to do, contact the family violence prevention program at Family Services.

Teach peace at home. Model nonviolent, respectful behavior in your family.

Support education initiatives that address teen dating violence.

Help children develop knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs that lead to healthy relationships.

Be an ally. Support events and raise money for community-based initiatives that promote safety and security for all.

NOVEMBER 18, 2016



Welcomes 100 families



STRONG@HOME celebrated the successful enrollment of 100 families at a community dinner. These member families, whose children are enrolled in Head Start/ Early Head Start, will benefit from the integrated system of support that is helping them become stronger through financial management, home ownership, job acquisition/skill development, parenting, and community networking. Trained family advocates help members navigate resources and identify ways each family can contribute to the STRONG@HOME community. Five leading community agencies and four local funders are collaborating to provide STRONG@HOME, which is currently recruiting 50 more families from the Boston-Thurmond community. Photo: Kimoorah Bradley



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Follow your impact   

OCTOBER 22, 2016

Your support in motion

We are delighted to share this brief impact report that highlights how your gifts are providing more opportunities for children and families to reach their full potential. Your support of Family Services is building a more sustainable community and ensuring the vitality of Forsyth County. Thank you for participating in a community of solutions and creating a better future for every child and family – for all of us.

www.familyservicesforsyth.org

Our Wake-Up Walk helped open the community's eyes to families' needs



Thank you for taking important steps – 3,000 per person, in fact – and supporting more opportunities for children and families to reach their full potential. *Photos by Bob Patterson*

Building a Legacy The Original Community Convener, Catalyst and Collaborator



“Miss Annie Grogan” was a local telephone operator during the turn of the twentieth century. Moved by the heartbreaking stories she heard of families struggling with poverty and sickness, she donated pennies from her paycheck to support needy families and delivered food and clothing to poverty stricken areas of the community. Inspired by Miss Annie’s simple acts of kindness, a dedicated group of community leaders joined her in 1905 to form the Associated Charities of Winston (the city’s first charitable organization), known today as Family Services. Those leaders and Miss Annie also founded the Community Chest in 1923, the forerunner of the United Way.

The Grogan Society

Today, a dedicated group of community champions continues Miss Annie’s legacy as members of the Grogan Society. Members of this group share the belief that strong families create healthy communities. They contribute \$1,000 or more, per year, to the annual campaign at Family Services. Their bold leadership places them at the forefront of our mission to serve and uplift all our children and families to reach their full potential.

Join the Community Champions

Annie Grogan’s vision drives the work of Family Services as we help Forsyth County families resolve crises, protect victims of family violence, and prepare preschool children to succeed in school and in life. More than ever, there is a need to reach beyond the 8,700 families we serve each year to improve the well-being of every child and family and create a sustainable community for all of us. We invite you to become a life-changing champion for our children and participate in cultivating a community of solutions as a member of the Grogan Society.

Learn more at www.familyservicesforsyth.org, or contact Michelle Speas, Chief Development and Public Relations Officer, mspeas@familyservicesforsyth.org or 336.722.8173.

Family Services is eternally grateful for the support of our Grogan Society members.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bruce and Anne Babcock [^] | Adrienne Livengood |
| Bud and Zanne Baker* | Sara and Ben Loebner [^] |
| Dr. Phil and Jean Batten* | J. Walter and Shippey McDowell [^] |
| Mike and Wendy Brenner* | Dale and Michelle Melton* |
| Susan and Sandy Browder* | Christoph and Drewry Nostitz [^] |
| Joel Bruggen* | David and Elaine Peddycord* |
| John and Mary Louise Burress | Deborah Pence* |
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| Branson and Loree Kimball* | |
| Judy Lambeth and Jerry McAfee* | |
| Dr. Kip and Marti Larson | |
| Helen Latimer* | |

* New Grogan Society members since July 1, 2015
[^] New Grogan Society members since July 1, 2016