



Network News

Newsletter for our families, friends, and volunteers.



FSN Welcomes Three new Team Members

Each year FSN is faced with saying goodbye to two hard working volunteers who have become a part of the FSN team. But with the exit of the previous year's JV's, we welcome two more enthusiastic newcomers from the Jesuit Volunteer Corps or JVC.

JVC is a program based out of Baltimore which includes college graduates who make a one year commitment to working with organizations across the country and are dedicated to serving people in need. Over the last five years FSN has come to count on the spirited dedication and passion-

ate service provided through our JVC volunteers. This August brought FSN's newest JV's Allison Ackerman from Carmel, Indiana and Laura Ann Brannen from Omaha, Nebraska.

This summer also brought FSN another exciting addition to our volunteer team from the AmeriCorps VISTA Program. AmeriCorps is a nationally based program that was designed to help fight poverty throughout communities in the United States. VISTA members also commit to one year of service at a government agency or non-profit organization. Katie Woloszyk a VISTA vol-

unteer joined FSN from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin in mid August. Katie will assist FSN with Public Relations.

FSN's JV's provide support services to the clients we serve. The goal of each JV is to assist in strengthening the parent-child relationship through improving parenting skills and meeting the support needs of parents.

Each year a new light of dedication and service is shined upon the clients at FSN and we look forward to another year filled with the laughter and promise brought by every individual volunteer's unique commitment to service.

The Number of Families In Need of Assistance is on the Rise

In the last year FSN has seen growth in the amount of families in need of assistance. Within the last year FSN has added 23 new families to our already full recipient base of 273 families.

FSN has seen the focus of families in need change from issues with substance abuse to the newest problem plaguing families in our community: poverty. FSN has seen clients rush

swiftly through our doors within the last several months due to an increase in referrals from other local agencies. Most of these families are in the process of battling loss of employment, lack of sufficient hours at work, and the rising cost of transportation needed to support day to day family life.

FSN recognizes the direct correlation between our

increase in the number of clients we see to the rise of poverty levels in the areas we serve. Unfortunately these circumstances have a tendency to have a snowball effect on the families in Billings making it difficult for those in need to get back on the track of progress.

If you would like to help ease the burden for local families in need please call FSN at 406-256-7783.

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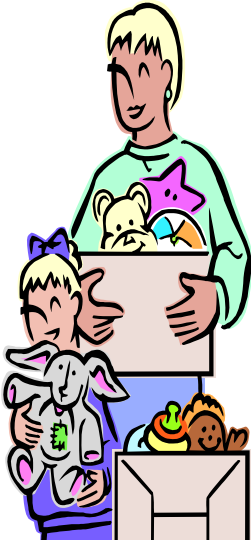
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Special Thanks to Donors

Each year Family Support Network relies on the support given to us from various organizations and members of the Billings community and the surrounding areas. All of the great work done at FSN is not a success that we claim independently. All of the generous donors who give to FSN are an integral piece of the puzzle. FSN does not stand alone, the work we do is made possible by the benevolent spirits of our donors.

The Downtown Exchange Club of Billings has gifted FSN once again with a generous donation for our transportation fund.

The Downtown Exchange Club has donated \$3,500 to assist FSN in costs associated with transporting children to and from weekly visits with their families.

These visits are crucial part of reunifying children with their families. Thank you Downtown Exchange Club of Billings for your generosity and commitment to service!

Alpha Delta Kappa continues to provide support for FSN by supplying our families with day to day necessities and donations to help the numerous families that we serve. A big thank you to ADK!

Our wonderful friends at

Costco continue to donate goods and supplies such as food, diapers, pillows, toys and hygiene supplies. Thank you to the wonderful team at Costco!

FSN would like to extend our immense gratitude to Harvest Church for their assistance in supporting FSN in our mission to help local families. We are extremely appreciative!

Last but not least, thank you to the wonderful folks at the Residence Inn by Marriott and Old Chicago who made the NAMI Conference an exceptional experience for all involved!

Nationwide Voices for Recovery

September is National Alcohol and Drug addiction Recovery Month. Recovery Month is an annual event honoring the positive effects of substance abuse treatment while promoting the declaration that recovery from substance abuse is possible.

Here at FSN we would like to celebrate and encourage

the accomplishments of the many individuals in the local community who have worked tirelessly to travel the path of recovery. It is essential that the stories of those in recovery are not lost.

Recovery Month provides FSN with the opportunity to celebrate the successes of those in recovery and

allow them to share their stories.

The importance of substance abuse education and treatment options is essential in continuing the message that addiction is a treatable disease and that recovery is possible.

The Fundamentals of Volunteers

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." - Etienne de Grellet

Volunteerism gives people a unique opportunity to

share their wisdom and their hearts with others.

Here at FSN it is difficult for us to do the best job we can and provide the best services possible to the local community without the giving spirit of those who choose to volunteer.

Right now the families at FSN are in need of volun-

teers who are willing to give their time to provide child care for parents who will be enrolled in the FSN parenting classes. We are asking for volunteers that will assist in childcare duties on Monday s from 6-8PM, Wednesdays from 1-3PM and 6-8PM. If you are interested in donating your time please call FSN at 406-256-7783.

Please
Consider
Putting Us
In Your
Estate
Planning.

Where Have All the Gifts Gone?

FSN understands the importance of gift giving and the impact it has on building and strengthening bonds within a family. Many of us are aware that gift giving benefits not only the recipient but the giver as well.

In 1989 FSN began a gifting program for the families we serve. We began to recognize that the majority of the clients we served had never received brand new gifts, many of them were accustomed to receiving gently used gifts, or hand me downs. Hand me downs serve a great purpose at one point or another in most of our

lives, but we wanted our families to be afforded the opportunity to receive something that was entirely their own. And thus, the gift closet was born!

Twenty years later we are still gifting our families with new items donated to the gift closet. Any time a client of FSN reaches a milestone or celebrates an achievement, they are rewarded with a gift from the closet of donated goods supplied by the charitable members of the Billings community. Recently we have noticed that the gift closet has begun to look quite barren and we are again asking for help from our readers. We are greatly

in need of disposable cameras, disposable bibs, and gifts for dads such as tools or sporting goods. One of the most special gifts that a family in need can receive is an opportunity to have a family outing. Tickets to the movie theater, bowling or other group activity certificates create a great opportunity for families to share their achievements as a whole. These bonding activities create a wonderful environment for families to begin the steps of the reunification process. If you are interested in making a donation to the gift closet for FSN families please contact FSN at 406-256-7783.

Bettering Ourselves in Order to Better the Community

"The best of all things is to learn. Money can be lost or stolen, health and strength may fail, but what you have committed to your mind is yours forever." -Louis L'Amour

Here at FSN we are forever

working to provide new ways to educate our staff in order to better serve our community. Most recently the staff at FSN took part in the re-certification for CPR training generously provided by Billings Clinic

Community Training Center. FSN staff were trained in the specific areas of Heartsaver CPR and Adult, Infant, and Child CPR. The health and well being of our clients continues to be the reason FSN staff strive to be exceptional!

FSN Teams Up With Albertsons

We are pleased to announce that you can now help FSN by simply shopping for your groceries! Just have your Preferred Savings Card scanned by the cashier as you pay, and Albertsons will donate up to 4% of your purchases to help FSN in assisting families in the Billings Community. If

you would like to join Albertsons and FSN in the fight to help local children in the foster care system, registration is easy. To register your Preferred Savings Card with FSN's Community Partners ID# simply go to www.albertsons.com/cp/, select login or register and

sign in. Register your Preferred Savings Card and when prompted enter FSN's Community Partner ID# 49001021074. Or call FSN at 256-7783 and we will sign you up! From then on, your will be donating to FSN automatically each time you shop!

The Threat of the Economic Crisis is Present at FSN

The economic crisis is being felt all around the country and FSN is no different. The staff at FSN have seen the effects of the crisis impact the communities need for services, but FSN resources have been dramatically cut

by the State and Federal Government. FSN has had budget cuts of over \$75,000 within the past two months. As our clients struggle, FSN is persevering. We will continue to be a source of assistance to those in need

and we welcome any helping hands from the outstanding members of the Billings community. If you are interested in helping FSN to continue to provide exceptional services please call 256-7783.

THE FSN CLASSROOM
It's that time of year again! The Parenting Class presented by FSN is a 14 week series based on the Nurturing Parenting Program. The classes will focus on day to day issues faced by all parents such as discipline, the importance of setting routines, and the relation of a child's choices to consequences. The classes assist parents in learning the skills to help their children develop positive behaviors. FSN Parenting Classes will begin September 14th and will take place Mondays from 6-8PM at First English Lutheran Church and Wednesdays from 1-3PM and 6-8PM at FSN. If you have any questions please call 256-7783.



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WITH JUST A LITTLE SUPPORT EACH OF US CAN DISCOVER THE SOURCES OF STRENGTH IN OUR LIVES

The FSN board has designated first meeting of the calendar year as the annual meeting, which is open to the public

YES! I WANT TO JOIN WITH FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN AND PRESERVE THE FAMILY THROUGH SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND MY DONATION WILL SUPPORT LOCAL EFFORTS.

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Donations are tax deductible and can be sent directly to our office

**P.O Box 21366
Billings, MT 59104**

- I want to do more. Contact me to be a volunteer
- I cannot join now but my contribution is enclosed for _____