

Community Connection

Mission: "To Strengthen Individuals and Families"

FSA's Bargain Boutique Opens Grandly

Close your eyes and imagine if you will, a thrift store where the only thing thrift about it was the prices. Continue to imagine that this store is designed and set-up like a chic boutique. Now take trip to 3073 English Creek Avenue to FSA's new thrift store - the Bargain Boutique. When you arrive, you will see that the store that you imagined, is actually a reality.

The Bargain Boutique had its grand opening on May 7 to some rave reviews and about 50 customers. "We had a remarkable turnout," said Nick White, FSA director of development. "We really did not do a great deal of advertising, but we could not have had a better turn-out."

The customers also seemed to be impressed with what they found. "The store was more than I expected," said Ann Beard. "I think it has a great set-up."



FSA President Jerome Johnson (center) is joined by Deb Renaud, a FSA board member (left) and Lynn Caterson, FSA board chairperson (right) to cut the cake in celebration of the Bargain Boutique's grand opening.

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SBYSP Students Secure Lead Roles in "The Wiz"

The Wiz, the modernized musical version of the classic Wizard of Oz, is a story about going on a search to find a key element of your life that you believe is missing. It is also about learning that for which you search has been in you the entire time. This is the foundation of the School-Based Youth Services Program located at Pleasantville High School.

The program provides assistance to students in need of help to help themselves. Through the program, students are able to accomplish things that many did not feel they could. The program assists students to

discover the inner strength, skills and talents that have been in them all along.

One such student is Shelby Frasier, a 17 year old senior at Pleasantville High School. She attended the program everyday. "The program has been a great experience for me because I knew there was always going to be a place to turn when I need to talk about a problem. They were people that I could trust."

The program helped Shelby to build the confidence to do what she loves to do – perform. She recently auditioned for the part

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Shelby Frasier as Dorothy in the Wiz

From the President's Desk

FSA has been committed to serving the South Jersey community since its inception in 1909. However, as we move forward in the next 100 years, we have had to find new and innovative ways to continue to provide the assistance that the community has come to expect from us.

To that end, we have taken a bold step and opened an exciting new thrift store – the Bargain Boutique. The name signifies what separates our thrift store from all the others. The prices reflect the bargain in the name and what we offer are bargains. However, we do not have a thrift store atmosphere. Our store looks and feels like a boutique.

It is set up by departments, which range from men's and women's clothes to baby items – clothes and toys – to furniture to electronic equipment to books and videos. It is truly thrift with a touch of elegance and class.

We have designed the store to make shoppers feel good about their shopping experience. While we are proud of the fact that we can provide quality items at such inexpensive prices, but we are more committed to supporting the individuals and families in these tough economic times. This is the true purpose of the Bargain Boutique. The store offers affordable clothing that allows individuals that are trying to get on their feet and back into the job market to be able to have a professional appearance for the job hunting process.

Since our grand opening on May 7, we have helped a young mother obtain baby furniture. A young job hunter was able to purchase a suit that helped him with a job interview, which gave him a renewed confidence. We have helped young mothers buy baby clothes and toys that they stated they would not have been able to afford other wise. One toddler did not stop smiling as he walked around with his new toy and that smile could not be more representative of FSA's mission.

Jerome Johnson

About FSA

- ◆ FSA has been serving the community for more than 100 years.
- ◆ FSA serves more than 18,000 people annually at six locations.
- ◆ FSA provides individual, couples, group and family counseling.
- ◆ FSA offers specialized treatment for substance abuse, anger management, victim recovery, adolescent problem solving and general wellness.
- ◆ FSA offers school-based services in Egg Harbor Township and Pleasantville.
- ◆ FSA operates community centers in Egg Harbor Township and Pleasantville.
- ◆ FSA provides children's partial-care and after-school programs for teens.
- ◆ FSA provides youth case management to Atlantic and Cumberland Counties.
- ◆ FSA provides kinship care support to seven counties in South Jersey.
- ◆ FSA trains boarding home operators throughout the State of New Jersey.
- ◆ FSA provides older adult services to Atlantic County residents.
- ◆ FSA is a partner agency of the United Way of Atlantic County.
- ◆ FSA is a part of the National Alliance for Children and Families.
- ◆ FSA can help You! Call for more information call (609) 569-0239 x1116.
- ◆ You can help FSA by making a donation at www.fsasj.org

100th Annual Meeting Huge Success

On April 28, 2009, FSA held its 100th annual meeting at the Atlantic City Convention Center. “It seemed appropriate that we hold the 100th meeting here in Atlantic City since this is where we were we founded in 1909,” said FSA President Jerome Johnson.

The meeting featured a walk through time. Guest left the reception area, the journeyed through a walkway that highlighted various time periods.

The meeting did help FSA begin planning how it would serve the community in the next century.



Jerome Johnson hosting attendees at the 100th annual meeting

“You Touch My Life” premiers at 100th annual meeting FSA Employee Pens New Theme Song

I'm a little boy that's fighting mad
Since the state took me away
I'm a pregnant teen who's always sad
I was forced to go all the way
It hurts when folks look at me
Like they think I'm to blame

I'm a young man in recovery
Fighting demons in my head
My hands shake cause I'm weary
And I soak my sheets with sweat
I know without your help
I'd be in jail or dead

You touch my life

You make things right
When I lose the will to fight
You're a brand new day
When no one cares
You're always there
Through the raging storm, FSA
You touch my life

I'm a struggling single mother



Michael A. Michnya, manager of Family Preservation Services, and his friend Don Ellsworth, perform the song they wrote in celebration of FSA's 100th annual meeting. It is entitled, "You Touch My Life."

Trying to raise a family
One paycheck from the gutter
I can barely make ends meet
The worst is when my kids
Don't have enough to eat

If I'd stayed with my husband
Today I might not be alive
I'm not looking for a man
I'm only trying to survive

I don't think we could without
The help that you provide

You touch my life

You make things right
When I lose the will to fight
You're a brand new day
When no one cares
You're always there
Through the raging storm, FSA
You touch my life

You're the shoulder I can cry on
A calming voice of reason
My hope when all is lost
Guardian angel when I need one

You touch my life

You make things right
When I lose the will to fight
You're a brand new day
When no one cares
You're always there
Through the raging storm, FSA

You touch my life
FSA, **You touch my life**

Help Make FSA's

"Tree of Life"

Blossom



PLATINUM LEAF \$ 1000

GOLD LEAF \$500

SILVER LEAF \$350

BRONZE LEAF \$250

GREEN LEAF \$ 100

Make checks payable to:

FSA "Tree of Life"

Mail to:

Family Service Association

3073 English Creek Avenue

EHT, NJ 08234



FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION Tree of Life Donation Designation Form

The mighty oak tree has long been a symbol of strength and endurance. Family Service Association (FSA) has also been a symbol of endurance for 100 years. Thus, as FSA begins its second century of service to the community, it has chosen the oak tree as the symbol for its Century Celebration fund-raising campaign.

FSA is encouraging you to purchase a leaf to help make the FSA "Tree of Life" blossom, which will allow FSA to continue to provide the excellent services and support on which the community has come to rely. The tree is on display in the lobby of the FSA Headquarters in Egg Harbor Township. Please join our Board of Directors who have started this worthy endeavor. As leaves are purchased, they are added to the tree and it begins to bloom.

Just as the oak has leaves of multiple colors in the fall, so too will the leaves of the Tree of Life. Each leaf represents a different level of support. The levels are: Platinum – \$1000; Gold – \$500; Silver – \$350; Bronze – \$250; and Green – \$100.

Also available for purchase are branches, roots, trunks and entire trees. For more information contact Nick White at (609) 569-0239 ext. 1160. To donate, complete and mail the pledge form below; send us an e-mail or call:

Thank you for your continued support.

Type of Leaf (please check): Platinum \$1,000 Gold \$500 Silver \$350 Bronze \$250 Green \$100

Type of Branch or Root (please check): Small \$1500 Medium \$2000 Large \$3500

Type of Trunk Small \$5,000 minimum Large \$10,000 minimum Family Tree (contact Development Office)

Donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please print above the specific message you would like engraved on your leaf, branch, root or trunk.

(FSA giving tree donations are tax deductible)

Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Check or Money Order made payable to **FSA Tree of Life**. Or you may charge your gift (VISA or MasterCard):

Card Holder Name: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Family Service Association 3073 English Creek Ave Suite 3 Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234

Email FSA.development@comcast.net or call 609-569-0239/1160

Bargain Boutique

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Everything is easy to find and the quality of merchandise is pretty good.”

“I am very impressed with what I have seen and the prices are unbelievable for what I have gotten,” said Cherice Murray. “Just the items available for children is worth the trip over here.”

The store has been in the planning stages for a little more than a year. “We wanted to do a little more to help the community,” said White. “Times are tough and we wanted to live up to our reputation of making things little easier for the members of the community we serve. We thought that since this was the year we would celebrate our 100th anniversary, it would be a good time to open the store.”

The store is open Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 6:30 pm; Friday from 10 am to 7:30 pm; and Saturday from 10 am to 4:00 pm; . Come by and pay us a visit. You never know what bargains you may find. One young lady found furniture for her new born. “I came in to see what was available for an infant. What I found was a matching crib, changing table/dresser and rocking chair for a price that I could not believe. Coming here was a blessing because I did not think that I was going to be to afford these things for my baby,” said a shopper who asked to remain anonymous.

The proceeds from the store will go directly to the many current FSA programs that are providing services to the community to make things a little easier, particularly in these tough economic times. Donations to the store can be made by calling the Development Department at (609) 569-0239 extension 1160; calling the store at (609) 484-8943 or bringing your donations to the store.



Shoppers are finding great buys (above) during the grand opening of FSA's Bargain Boutique. Below, even FSA President Jerome Johnson is finding something of interest.



Cindy Rathbun:

From Volunteer to Boutique Manager

Always a believer in giving back to the community, Cindy Rathbun came to FSA in December 2008 looking to volunteer. FSA was looking for volunteers to help launch a new thrift store . It was a perfect match.

Cindy worked diligently to get the thrift ready for its May grand opening. She organized the floor's layout and

helped to make the thrift store into a Bargain Boutique. When the time to select someone to run the store, Cindy was asked if she was interested. She declined stating, “I did not volunteer to get a job.”

However, the fit was too good and it seemed that it was meant to be. So, welcome Cindy to the FSA Family.



School-Based Program

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of Dorothy in the School's production of the Wiz. Shelby sees the play as a stepping stone to her goal of performing on Broadway. "The play gave me an opportunity to see what it is like and I loved it."

Shelby's next goal is to attend the American Musical Dramatic Academy in New York. She has gained the confidence to perform in front of a large audience, but refuses to take the credit for her success.

"I can't take credit for my abilities because it was God that gave me this voice and put me on this path." We should look for Shelby in the future at the TONY awards.

James Wurster, Jr. is also a

member of the SBYSP. The 16 year old is a junior at Pleasantville High School. He captured the role of the Cowardly Lion in the Wiz, a role that he loved. He caught the performing bug from his mentor, Neptune Pringle, a young musician in the area. However, despite his love for acting, James's true passion is cooking. He is currently enrolled in the school's culinary arts program and hopes to be able to take advantage of Local 54's apprenticeship program which he hopes will help him secure a job in the culinary arts arena after he graduates.

James dedicated his performance to his mother Sandra, who passed in March 2008.

James Wurster, Jr.
as Cowardly Lion in the Wiz



FSA delivers services throughout South Jersey in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Burlington and Camden Counties. Our Board and Care Training Program serves the entire state .

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION HAS 4 CONVENIENT OFFICE LOCATIONS

MAIN OFFICE

3073 ENGLISH CREEK AVENUE,
SUITE 3
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ 08234
(609) 569-0239

ABSECON OFFICE

312 E. WHITE HORSE PIKE
ABSECON HIGHLANDS, NJ 08201
(609) 652-1600



EHT COMMUNITY CENTER

3050 SPRUCE AVENUE
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ 08234
(609) 569-0376

PLEASANTVILLE FAMILY CENTER

2 SO. MAIN STREET
PLEASANTVILLE, NJ 08232
(609) 272-8800

Upcoming FSA Events

July 12 2009

FSA Reunion Picnic

Lake Lenape

November 2009

100th Anniversary Celebration

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
3073 ENGLISH CREEK AVENUE
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ 08234

Non Profit
Standard Mail
US Postage
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Pleasantville, NJ
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