

Upcoming FSA Events

January 18, 2010
MLK Jr. Day of Service

April 29, 2010
101st Annual Meeting

HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON

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

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Winter 2010

Community Connection



Mission: "To Strengthen Individuals and Families"

THE CULMINATION OF 100 YEARS OF SERVICE



On November 19, 2009, Family Service Association (FSA) concluded a century of serving the Southern New Jersey community with a gala that was held at the Carriage House in Galloway Township, NJ.

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POSTER CONTEST WINNERS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

"Community Connections: Bringing Us Closer Together," that was the theme for the 2009 Family Service Association poster contest. The contest is held annually in conjunction with National Family Week, which was November 22-28, 2009. The contest is open to all school children in the southern New Jersey area. The children are to draw their vision of the meaning of the theme.

National Family Week, which was sponsored by Alliance for

Children & Families, is designed to bring families closer together. The purpose of the contest is to help the children see the value of family and how their family can influence the community.

Rene DeSantos, art teacher at Washington Avenue School in

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Winning picture in the middle school category drawn by Manuel Gonzalez of the Pleasantville Middle School.



From the President's Desk

Two Thousand Nine was a milestone year for Family Service Association. It represents the culmination of 100 years of dedication and service to the southern New Jersey community. We ended the year on a very high note by hosting the Home for the Holidays party which reunited children that were in the foster care system with their biological parents. I cannot think of a better way to end a year and celebrate the coming of the new year.

Speaking of the new year, 2010 will begin our second century of service to the community. While the first 100 years was very successful and define who we are as a human services organization, we are looking forward to further evolving over the next 100 years. The challenges that we will face in the upcoming decades will be formable, but we will be prepared to meet them and more important, help you meet and overcome the challenges you will face.

We have been in your corner for the past 100 years and when you need us, our hands will be extended as they always have been to give you the lift you need.

We are looking forward to the next century and all that it will bring.

On behalf of all of us at Family Service Association, I would like to wish each of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous and blessed New Year.

Jerome Johnson
President/CEO

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 member 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

Poster Contest

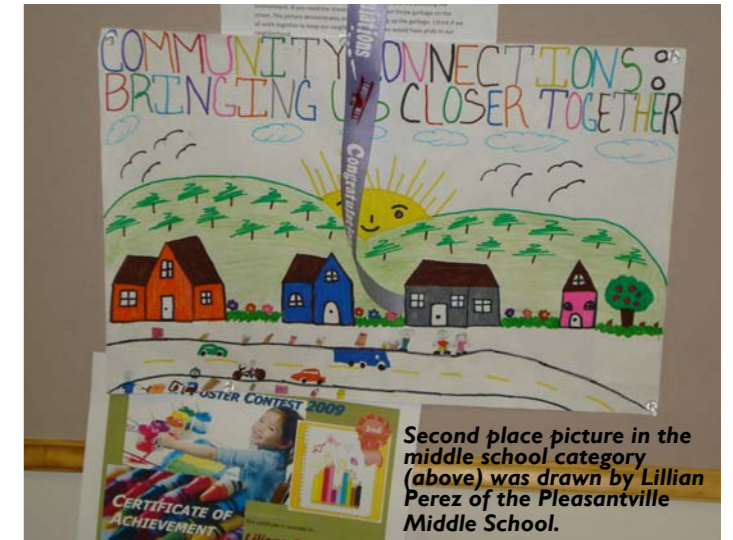
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Pleasantville, had three winners from her classes in the elementary category. Minelis Mendez captured the first place prize, while Brenda Delgado and Cheyennie Harris earned second and third place, respectively. DeSantos said that one of the reasons for the success of her students is the fact that they look forward to the contest every year. "My students love to have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities,"

said DeSantos. "I am proud of their work and am delighted that it was rewarded with a win."

In the middle school category, Pleasantville Middle School also captured three titles. Manuel Gonzales captured the first place prize, Lillian Perez earned second place and Jailene Sanchez, made it sweep by earning third.

The poster contest is made possible by a grant from Fox Chase Bank.



Second place picture in the middle school category (above) was drawn by Lillian Perez of the Pleasantville Middle School.



Third place picture in the middle school category (above) was drawn by Jailene Sanchez of the Pleasantville Middle School.



Minelis Mendez (2nd from left), first place winner in the elementary school category, poses with Nick White, FSA director of development (left), her mother and Washington Avenue School art teacher Rene DeSantos.



Brenda Delgado (2nd from left), second place winner in the elementary school category, poses with Nick White, FSA director of development (left), her father and Washington Avenue School art teacher Rene DeSantos.



Cheyennie Harris (2nd from left), third place winner in the elementary school category, poses with her father (left), Nick White, FSA director of development, and Washington Avenue School art teacher Rene DeSantos.

100th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

One of the highlights of the event was FSA's first silent auction. The auction offered bidders a wide range of items on which to bid. "This was the first time we did this," said Nick White, FSA director of development. Our board said that they wanted to do something different to commemorate FSA's 100 years of service to the eight southern most counties in New Jersey. The auction made, what was already a special night, more exciting."

"I thought the auction was a great way to celebrate our 100-year anniversary," said Jerome Johnson, president and CEO of FSA. "When I saw how excited the attendees were, I knew we made the correct choice in how to enhance our celebration."

Another highlight was having Richard Stockton College of New Jersey President Dr. Herman Saatkamp and his beautiful wife, Dot, as the honorary chairs for the event. "It was an honor to have Dr. and Mrs. Saatkamp serve as chairs of our event," said White. "We have had a long and productive relationship with Stockton for years. As a Stockton alum, it was a personal honor to have the Saatkamps involved in honoring our achievement."

The celebration paid tribute to former winners of FSA's Celebration of Families awards, which included Family of the Year, Corporation of the Year and Advocate of the Year.

"I don't think we could adequately celebrate a successful century of service without recognizing those winners. It is our partnerships in the community that makes us so successful," said Johnson.

The money raised from the celebration goes to enhance FSA's community programs. Thus far in 2009, FSA has served more than 18,000 individuals and families in southern New Jersey.



1995 Family of the Year winner, Bob Schilling, looks over FSA materials while Nancy McKinney, former FSA director of development, looks on.



Attendees looking over auction items.



FSA board member, Larry Stroud (left), sharing a laugh with fellow board member, Vanessa Reale-Jones (center) and his wife, Elizabeth.

Home for the Holidays

The holidays are about family and families coming together. In this spirit, Family Service Association (FSA), in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) came together to reunite families this holiday season.

On December 10, 2009, FSA and DCF hosted "Home for the Holidays," an event that celebrated the reuniting of children who were in foster care with their biological families. "We came together to celebrate the amazing work these families have accomplished to keep their families together, not just for the holidays, but forever," DCF Commissioner Kimberly Ricketts said.

For FSA the event represents the desired completion of the cycle. Client families go through FSA's Family Life Center program, which teaches parents better parenting skills such as discipline, home management and budgeting. "There is no greater gift we can give or receive than to strengthen parents and nurture children so that families can reunite and be whole and safe and healthy," said Jerome J. Johnson, FSA president and CEO. "Children, parents, and the community as a whole, everyone, wins with successful reunifications."

Kelly Ann Kell, who was reunited with her children, twins Kyle Thomas and Andrew Christopher Matchett (age 7) and Emily Elizabeth Richards (age 4), agrees. "I thought the Home for the Holidays event was a great idea! Steve [Richards], my fiancé, graduated from the program in September 2008, while I graduated in January 2009 right be-



Kelly Kell and daughter, Emily Elizabeth

fore my children came home. Being involved with FSA has impacted us in a way I don't think anyone will understand," Kell said. "We got involved in the program like most, through a DYFS requirement for parenting classes. The staff in the Absecon office was some of the kindest and most generous people I have ever come across. In a time where my family was ripped apart, Miss Irene [Selim], Mrs. Ruthie [Lewis], Nina [Johnson], and Kim [Adams], were the best support team I could ever have asked for. Being involved with the parenting classes in the Family Life Center program taught me how to be a better parent through listening, alternative discipline, and how to handle my children in their different life stages."

Kell, who was one of approximately 15 families from Atlantic County and Atlantic City in attendance, said she was grateful to have her children back. However, she did add that the event brought mixed feelings of sadness and joy. "Last year, I spent my holidays without my children and this year, to see families without their children, really brought it home. It really made me realize just how lucky I was!" All the attendees received a home-cooked dinner; a visit from Santa; numerous fun activities for the children; gift cards to local stores, which were made possible through the New Jersey Food Council; and other gifts made possible by FSA.

Kell said she and her family had a great time. "The food was great however and the kids really enjoyed themselves!"



Home for the Holidays attendees enjoying the event.

**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: Family Service Association
FSA "Tree of Life" 3073 English Creek Avenue
Mail to: 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