



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEEPING FAMILIES HEALTHY AND INTACT

Spring edition 2017



MAKING PROUD CHOICES

Our *Kinship Support Services Program* offered Making Proud Choices program during Spring Break 2017. This informative program gives youth the tools to empower themselves to make responsible and informed decisions about healthy relationships and preventing risky behaviors. A goal of the program is to learn how to prevent unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and make choices that are in their best interest. The program is 18 hours—the youth had to commit to attending four days for 4 hours per day. Of the seventeen teenagers enrolled 76% completed and were awarded with a \$100 Visa gift card.

We offer this program twice a year. If you have teens that would like to attend please contact Donna Moore at (510) 834-2443 ext. 3008.

This program is made possible by Alameda County Social Services Agency and our generous donors.



Our *Family Preservation Program in San Francisco* has received accreditation from the **National SafeCare® Training and Research Center**.

This is a process that has been years in the making and has required a tremendous amount of work on the part of Aysha Franco (Program Director). Aysha and her colleague from the Epiphany Center took the program from a thought to a successful program with well trained staff. They have worked tirelessly and creatively to meet the high standards of the program, while meeting the unique needs of our San Francisco families.

This program is funded by the SF Department of Human Services.



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KEEPING FAMILIES HEALTHY AND INTACT

Strengthening families with programs that promote safety, permanency, and wellbeing



WE MADE A CHANGE...

We changed our name to **Family Support Services** essentially shortening it. Along with the name change we selected a new logo, one that represents our mission ‘to nurture children, youth and caregivers to keep families healthy and intact’.

Hopefully, you have caught a glimpse of our awareness campaign on a community bill board, in the San Francisco Examiner, the East Bay Times, or on BART trains.

A special thanks to FivePoint for supporting our marketing campaign. Please visit their website for more information on their development projects at FivePoint.com

We thrive to provide programs that strengthen families, promote safety, permanency and wellbeing.

KINSHIP PARENTING COURSE

Nurturing the Spirit of Kinship and Guardianship Families

Parenting classes that focus on caregivers that step up to raise their kin children eliminating the need for stranger foster care.

Many of the caregivers are seniors needing support as they parent for the second time. They are challenged with family dynamics, the educational system, and raising children that in most cases have dealt with traumatic events in their young lives.

This parenting class is a series of 5 workshops designed for parenting children that are not biologically your own. Completion on these classes satisfies the Alameda County Probate Court parenting class requirement in guardianship cases.

This program is funded by a generous grant from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

WHY WE STILL MATTER

It has been 27 years that **Family Support Services** has been serving families in Alameda, San Francisco, and Contra Costa Counties.

On any given day our work may include:

- Guiding a caregiver through courtroom battles.
- Supporting a parent dealing with a minor who is being sexually exploited.
- Advocating for a father fighting to have his voice heard in a child welfare court case.
- Or most important, encouraging a 14 year-old who reads at a fourth grade level to keep reading.

This is our work, and it is the heartbreaking reality of our families. These challenges are their daily lives and it is our mission to support them as they thrive to create healthy environments for their children. We provide the social workers, mentors, therapists, academic coaches, and respite care providers so that they can preserve their families’ health and live their best lives. Our mission is to “nurture children, youth and their caregivers to keep families healthy and intact” and we thrive to achieve that mission daily through our programs and services.



KYP sailing trip on SF Bay, summer 2016

Kinship Youth Program (KYP)

The Kinship Youth Program (KYP) is a year-round comprehensive after-school and summer program for disadvantaged kinship youth ages 8-18. A truly unique year-round program, KYP offers academic support through group and one-on-one tutoring, as well as educational advocacy in support of caregivers. In addition, KYP programming includes community service projects; a comprehensive and progressive leadership component; field trips; and recreational, college, and career exploration activities.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT SPRING GIVING CAMPAIGN MAY 1 - 5

How: Make a tax deductible donation by clicking here:
goo.gl/CluiJN or going to fssba.org

What we need: **\$20,000 is our campaign goal.**

Where will the funds go: The funds will be used to support the Kinship Youth Program. If we raise our goal this spring we can plan our full summer and fall programming for our community's most under-served children and youth.

This means our kids will receive:

- One-on-one academic support, including tutoring and our special Reading Fluency literacy program
- Special field trips like the Pegasus Voyages sailing on San Francisco Bay
- College tours and applications for our high schoolers getting ready to graduate, and much more.

fssba.org

Save the Date...

Eat Drink &

Be Giving

13TH ANNUAL GALA

OCTOBER, 21, 2017

Celebrate the mission of Family Support Services while Enjoying an Evening of Good Food, Wine and Philanthropy

The evening gala offers a gourmet meal from the beautiful Scott's Restaurant, and after the meal, participate in our exciting live auction and raise your paddle during our Fund-A-Need to support our Kinship Youth Program's activities.

As a sponsor for Eat Drink & Be Giving, your sponsorship support will have far-reaching and lasting impacts by helping us continue to provide essential support for our vulnerable families and children.

For sponsorship and other information please contact:

Jess Williams at
jMonaeEvents@gmail.com

Family Support Services

Founded 27 years ago, Family Support Services specializes in working with low-income families in Alameda, San Francisco, and Contra Costa counties who face serious challenges in caring for their children, including: families in which grandparents or other relatives have had to step in to care for children; families with children who have mental and physical disabilities; and caregivers raising children who are substance exposed or medically fragile. We also work with families whose children are at risk of abuse by helping adults and caregivers improve their parenting skills and raise children in a secure and nurturing environment.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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