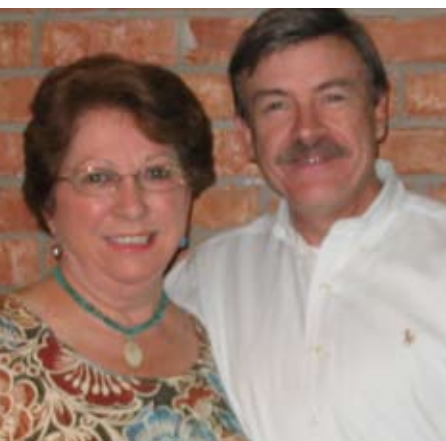


Focus on Families



A New Perspective on a Tradition of Service

Family Services recently updated its mission and vision statements. The new language presents the agency's focus in a way that speaks to today's community. "We wanted to be sure that, after a century of service, the community continues to understand who Family Services is and what we provide to the people of Houston," said **Nyla Woods**, Family Services President & CEO.

Mission: To provide individuals and families with the counseling and guidance they need to strengthen themselves and their relationships.

Vision: To create a stronger community tomorrow by helping individuals and families find the strength to meet the challenges they face today.

Family Services is excited to have this fresh perspective on its services. During the coming months, the agency's messaging will also include the theme of travel and direction as it reflects on the journey it has made with its clients and the Houston community since 1904.

Join us for our 2007 Annual Meeting
 Thursday, November 15th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
 United Way of Greater Houston
 RSVP 713.802.7884 or rsvp@familyservices.org

50 Years of Service
 see page 3.



PHOTO ONE ABOVE:
 Sr. VP Behavioral Health Services Tim Louis with School-based Counselor Mary Helen Sosa
 PHOTO TWO ABOVE:
 Browning Elementary students at Downtown Aquarium

Family Services staff and students from Willowcreek Apartments take a break during the YMCA day program



Clearing the Way

Camille had more complications in life than the typical 4th grader at **Bonner Elementary**. She was rapidly losing her vision due to a congenital deficiency and would soon be declared blind. Camille's home was not a source of comfort or stability. After years of domestic violence, Camille's father left her, her brother and her mother with bills and a mortgage they could not afford. There was barely enough money for groceries, much less for the medical care Camille so desperately needed. Family Services' staff at **HISD's School-Based Clinic** was able to help. We provided counseling for Camille and her mother. We connected them to emergency food stamps and helped Camille's mother file for child support. We also connected them to SSI benefits and to the **Texas Commission for The Blind**. We encouraged Camille's mother to join a peer group for victims of domestic violence.

One year later, Camille's complications are more manageable. She is learning how to function daily as her sight continues to diminish. Her mother says her own self-esteem has increased and that she feels more empowered. They often stop by the Clinic to visit the Family Services staff who made such a difference in their lives and are eager to share their newfound joy.

2 president's corner

2 annual giving supporters

2 family friends

3 treasured staff

3 student help

4 "una notte in Italia"

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Thanks to our donors who helped raised over \$50,000 for Family Services.

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president's corner

As we worked recently to update the agency's mission and vision, we took time to reflect on where Family Services has been and where the agency is going. The successful course we've charted throughout the years has largely been due to the quality and dedication of our staff. This was brought home by the retirement this year of a valued staff member, **Mary Helen Sosa**, who worked in our school-based programs for twenty years. This year also marked the thirtieth anniversary of **Tim Louis**, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Services. At our employee recognition event, we recognized the contributions Mary Helen and Tim have made to Family Services' journey during their decades of service. We also celebrated our successes during the past year, the staff that will walk in Mary Helen's footsteps and the great mile markers that line the road ahead.

None of our agency's mile markers could be achieved without the support of our donors and community partners. A list of contributors to our most recent annual giving campaign is on this page, as well as a feature story on Family Services' friends: community partners who have provided grants, contracts, volunteer time and other contributions. Their generosity makes it possible for families throughout our community to pave a road to a better tomorrow – families like **Camille's**, whose story is on

Page 1. We thank you for joining Family Services and the families we serve on the path to a better tomorrow.

Nyla K. Woods
President
& CEO

Family Friends

We are always grateful to the community partners who join us on our journey toward a brighter future. Their generosity and hard work make it possible for Family Services and our clients to travel more easily over rough roads.

Family Services gratefully acknowledges its grant funders, including **The Baylor Methodist Community Health Fund** to support mental health counseling services, the **Isla Carol Turner Friendship Trust** for the supportive and case management services we provide to area seniors and their caregivers, the **John H. & Marjorie N. Glasgow Foundation** and the **Powell Foundation** for our school-based substance abuse prevention and counseling services, and **Target** for family violence prevention and early intervention counseling.

We are pleased that our substance abuse prevention and education program, **Ensueños del Futuro**, had its contract renewed with the **Department of State Health Services**, enabling us to continue providing services to students in more than 40 elementary, middle and high schools in **Houston** and **Spring Branch Independent School Districts**.

Additionally, we renewed contracts for mental health counseling at **Gordon, Shearn** and **Wharton Elementary Schools** and **Lee High School** in **Houston ISD**. We have added **East Early College High School** and **YES College Preparatory Charter School** as service sites. We will also continue providing services to **Spring Branch ISD Alternative Education Program**.

We appreciate the dedicated **ExxonMobil** volunteers who helped us sort school supplies and fill nearly 600 bags for elementary and middle school students.

Thanks also to the **Houston Bar Association** and the **Harris County Medical Society** for providing guest speakers for approximately 60 students in the 5th grade at **Browning Elementary**. These talks encourage younger students to aspire to professional careers.

A special thank you to the **Houston Zoo ACCESS** program and **Channel 13** for donating 1,250 tickets. These tickets were distributed to elementary students to enjoy a visit to the zoo with their families.



ExxonMobil volunteers help prepare school supplies for distribution

Treasured Staff

Each year, Family Services holds an employee recognition event to honor staff for their employment anniversaries and recognize their many accomplishments. This year's event featured a "Treasure Island" theme, complete with pirate-focused games and food. The highlight was the recognition of two significant milestones.

Tim Louis, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Services, was presented the helm of the Family Services' ship to serve as *Captain of the Day* in honor of his 30th anniversary with the agency.

Tim joined Family Services in 1977 as a clinician, providing group and individual counseling. Early in his career he earned certifications as an Approved Supervisor in Clinical Social Work and an Approved Supervisor in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Tim played a leadership role in initiating **The Joint Commission** accreditation process nearly 15 years ago and has been key in maintaining the agency's stellar record with the Commission. Under his guidance, Family Services has earned the *Best Overall Best Practices* award from the **Mental Health Corporations of America, Inc.** for eight years. Most recently Tim has been actively involved with the **Greater Houston Healthy Marriage Coalition**, accepting a leadership position as Treasurer. With Family Services as the lead agency for the Coalition, Tim has successfully written grants that increased the Coalition's funding to more than \$1.4 million for a three-year period. He also played a vital role in planning the inaugural multicultural marriage retreat, which was conducted in three separate languages and attended by 116 couples.

Mary Helen Sosa was also given special recognition at the event upon her retirement from Family Services. With a meaningful career that spanned more than 40 years, we were fortunate that Mary Helen shared 20 of those years with Family Services.

Mary Helen's tenure focused on the counseling we provide in the schools, working with different student age populations. During her 17 years at **Hogg Middle School**, she was an icon to both the faculty and students, who came to depend upon her professional expertise and caring nature. Her most recent position was at **Ninfa Lorenzo Early Childhood Center**, where she worked with four-year-olds. She readily gave advice and guidance that assisted parents in raising healthy, happy children.

Employees recognized for their 10th anniversary were **Carlos Gutierrez, Karen Mayfield, Flo Sanchez** and **Jose Vasquez**. Those celebrating their 5th anniversary were **Nell Auchter, Angela Billard, Rose Campos, Michael Clement, Françoise Crispin, Jose Sepulveda** and **Antonia Villarreal**.

Congratulations to our milestone anniversary team members. More than half (54%) of our staff have five or more years of service and nearly 30% have ten or more years. Thank you to all our Family Services employees for another great year!

Student Help

Through the various internship programs offered to nonprofit organizations, Family Services continues to benefit from the services of some very talented students.

Currently, **Sandra Alanis** is fulfilling a one-year clinical internship as the recipient of the *Scholarship for Spanish Speaking Social Work Students* designed to encourage bilingual students to enter the social work field. She is an Advanced Standing Student at the **University of Houston** and will graduate with a Masters degree in May. Sandra holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work.

Sandra entered the field of behavioral science after working in an administrative position at an area high school for pregnant teens. "I found that I could establish rapport with the students there, but I could not help them in a professional capacity," said Sandra. That desire to help others inspired her to go back to college and earn the credentials required to work in the mental health field. As a single mom, she also wanted to serve as a positive role model for her two children.

Another area in which we have benefited from an intern is our information technology department. **Robert Garcia**, a business major at the **University of Houston**, joined our staff through the **ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program** (CSJP). CSJP matches students with local nonprofit organizations for eight weeks during the summer to help them



Sandra Alanis



Robert Garcia



Peter Kindle

learn about the nonprofit sector. Participating agencies receive grants to help pay the students for their work.

During his eight-week internship, Robert helped document a users manual for our proprietary software program, **dataTRAQ**. He also gathered feedback from the Family Services staff on their use of the software. After completion of the Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems, Robert plans to pursue a career in the IT field.

We were also fortunate to have the services of **Peter Kindle** through the **University of Houston**. Peter is a Social Work doctoral student at the University of Houston currently finishing his dissertation. Peter's original training was in accounting, and he has served as a CFO and in other fiscal capacities for several businesses. He also has Master's degrees in Counseling and Social Work.

While at Family Services, Peter worked in a number of different capacities, including environmental analysis, grants development, and program development. Most notably, he identified a number of new foundations to approach with funding requests and was instrumental in developing the car loan program planned for launch in early 2008.

upcoming
events!

2008 Celebration of Families Luncheon

Tuesday, March 4, 2008
River Oaks Country Club

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First Lady Anita Perry

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For information call 713-802-7857
www.familyservices.org/luncheon08.htm

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Family Services of Greater Houston's mission is to provide individuals and families with the counseling and guidance they need to strengthen themselves and their relationships.

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Nyla K. Woods
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Festari for Men to host "Una Notte in Italia"

Family Services is honored to be the beneficiary of the 10th anniversary celebration of **"Una Notte in Italia"** (A Night in Italy) celebrity fashion show presented by **Festari for Men**. The event will be held Friday, November 9th at the **Hilton Houston Post Oak**.

Co-chairmen for the event are **Laura Casey** and **Karen Mayell** with **Rudy and Debbie Festari** serving as Honorary Chairmen. The evening will feature a fashion presentation by Festari for Men with "celebrity" male models, dinner, dancing, and both silent and live auctions. **Gina Gaston** with KTRK-Channel 13 will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies and **Jeff Smith** will be the Auctioneer.

Sponsorship levels at the \$10,000 and \$5,000 levels are sold out, but limited seating is still available. For more information, call 713-802-7857 or go to www.familyservices.org/07FestariStyleShow.htm.