



Focus On Families

Published by Family Services of Greater Houston

Dedicated to Strengthening Families Since 1904

Contributing to community health

Family Services hosted the 10th Annual School Days Community Health Fair on Friday, August 5th at Deady Middle School. The health fair was a tremendous success, recognizing students in our *Ensueños del Futuro / Dreams for the Future* substance abuse prevention and education program while providing free health care information to the community.

This year's health fair was attended by more than 1,200 people, including 800 students in the *Ensueños* program who were honored for staying drug-free and rewarded with free school supplies to encourage them to continue their education. The *Ensueños* program has been teaching students and families how to avoid the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug addiction since 1996. The program provides supportive services such as parent education, counseling, referrals, field trips and educational activities, and is offered at more than 37 school sites in the Houston area.

The fair also offered free health care information to the students' families and to the general public. The event featured more than 30 community organizations and health care providers, including the American Diabetes Association, Harris

County Hospital District and San Jose Clinic.

Volunteers from ExxonMobil and Knowledge is Power Program Academy helped provide family-friendly activities such as balloon art and face painting. HEB contributed refreshments for the volunteers and families who attended.



ExxonMobil Volunteers at work

Family Services appreciates the volunteers, providers and staff who participated in making this year's health fair a valuable community event.

In another collaboration, Family Services' staff members provided students a time to build new skills and dream about the future by participating in a summer version of our award-winning *Ensueños del Futuro* program at five area Boys and Girls Clubs. The eight week curriculum focused on self-esteem, dealing with stress and handling peer pressure. They also



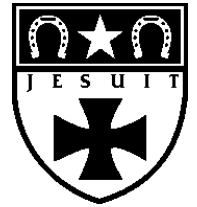
Students who received school supplies

learned about the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Fortunately, the summer program was not all work. Students enjoyed making new friends, and those who completed the program were rewarded with field trips to Battleship TEXAS and the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Drug prevention expands into private school arena

For nine plus years, Family Services has been successfully teaching students and parents in Houston-area public schools about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs through its award-winning substance abuse prevention and education program.



Now, thanks to a grant from the University of Texas Prevention Research Center (UT) and the Centers for Disease Control, we will be taking our expertise a step further and providing drug prevention education to students in private schools.

This school year, Family Services will begin developing a drug prevention pilot program called *S.A.F.E. Haven (Substance Abuse Facts for Everyone)* at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School.

According to research by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the three leading causes of death for 15- to 24-year-olds are automobile crashes, homicides and suicides with alcohol as a leading factor in all three. It is critical to provide pre-college drug education programs to high school students.

Family Services Board Member Cathy Garcia-Prats has several sons who attend Strake Jesuit. Knowing that private schools are not isolated from society's substance abuse problems, she coordinated Family Services involvement at Strake.

S.A.F.E. Haven will strive to challenge the perception among students, parents and teachers at Strake Jesuit that all teenagers are drinking alcohol, smoking

See Drug Prevention page 3

Celebrity Style Show

Family Services is excited to be the beneficiary of "Una Noite in Italia" (A Night in Italy) Celebrity Fashion Show presented by Festari for Men. Debbie Festari and Rosemary Schatzman are the chairmen of the event to be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at the InterContinental Houston Hotel.

The event will feature an Italian Chic fashion show presentation by Festari for Men with "celebrity" male models, dinner, dancing and silent auction.

Sponsorships are available for \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500, and individual tickets are available for \$500, \$250 and \$150. For more information, call 713-802-7857 or go to <http://www.familyservices.org/05FestariStyleShow.htm>.

"Uomini Belli" - Beautiful Men

Tony Banks	Alfred Jackson
Jason Bell	Jim Kastleman
Kris Brown	Bill Larkin
Greg Casey	Jim Lee
Ceron	Javier Loya
Tim Connolly	Michael Mayell
Jerry DeLoach	Mike McClure
Paul Getty	Michael Mithoff
Mark Grierson	Jim Murname
Wayne Gross	T.R. Reckling
Dr. Steve Hamilton	Shafik Rifaat
Jim Heins	John Spalding
Michael Holthouse	Michael Trevino

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President's Corner

As summer has faded into fall, I am reminded that some things never change. Children will always be excited about the beginning of school. The Astros will always have the ability to both thrill and disappoint. And the shock of the August air-conditioning bill is something we can always count on in Houston. Hurricane Katrina, however, is a devastating reminder that our world can change overnight. As I write this column, thousands of evacuees have moved into our city. Many of these people have lost their homes and everything they own. Many have lost loved ones. Their lives have been turned upside down.

Houston, too, is a dramatically different place. More than 100,000 people moved into the city in less than a week. Thousands of children enrolled in Houston schools in a period of four days. Some of these people will try to go home as soon as they have a chance. Others will have nothing to go back to. It will take some time to figure out the long-

term needs of Houston's newest residents. Family Services is involved in planning efforts and will have a thoughtful and deliberate role in taking care of these individuals and families.

While Hurricane Katrina brought us this new set of social issues, our community still has the same challenges we faced before. In this newsletter, you will read about some of our ongoing efforts to improve community health and provide services to children and families in need. You will also read about new board members, new programs, and new fundraising opportunities to help us move successfully into the future.

At Family Services, as in life, some things are constant. Our commitment to high quality services and our care for the people we serve have been in place for over a century and always will be a part of our core values. As our world changes, all of us at Family Services stand ready to meet the needs and challenges of changing times, changing families.



Nyla K. Woods
President & CEO

Employee recognition

This year's Employee Recognition Event was a "hole-in-one" with an afternoon spent at Celebration Station playing miniature golf, racing go karts and getting soaked on the bumper boats!

The event is an annual celebration that honors staff for their employment anniversaries and recognizes their many accomplishments during the past year. This year's anniversaries include **Carolyn Wynn** celebrating 20



years, **Alfredo Tijerina** with 15 years, **Ludwig Diksz**, **Susan Green**, and **Aurora Vega** with 10 years and **Aurora Aiken**,

Jullia Estrada, **Carol George**, **Sarah Helms**, **Francisco Rivera** and **Charla Smith** with five years. Over 50% of our staff have five or more years of service to Family Services.

Congratulations to our milestone anniversary team members and

thank you to **all** our Family Services employees for another great year!

Tracking Success

In today's world we are all asked to manage enormous amounts of information – and nonprofits are no exception. Funders want to know how many clients are served and what outcomes they achieve. The public wants organizations to be accountable for their funding. Service providers want to know what works and what doesn't so they can have the greatest success with the clients they serve. Family Services has developed a unique tool to meet these demands: a proprietary web-based system to track and analyze client and employee data.

The tool is called **dataTRAQ (Data Tracking & Reporting for Accountability & Quality)**. Supported in part by a generous grant from **Rockwell Fund, Inc.**, dataTRAQ was developed to improve internal data

management and to generate a revenue stream by marketing the system to other nonprofits.

Employees can access dataTRAQ from any computer with an internet connection to enter information about the clients they serve. All client information, from the initial client phone inquiry through case closing documentation, is accessible to relevant care providers within the organization, yet securely stored to protect confidentiality. This centralization of data enables clients to receive seamless service from multiple program areas.

Employees also use dataTRAQ to document their work. All staff members enter their hours and activities into the system on a daily basis. Supervisors use this information to monitor staff productivity, assess employee workload

Welcome aboard

Family Services is pleased to announce two new additions to our Board of Directors.

Dr. Samoan Johnson is a Postdoctoral Crisis Psychologist for the South Region of the **Houston Independent School District**



Dr. Samoan Johnson

where she facilitates the delivery of psychological services. She provides direct crisis intervention and management services to students and staff and develops prevention/intervention models to impact students' mental health functioning. Samoan currently serves on the board of directors of **Aspiring Youth of Houston** and **Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers**. She is a member of **Houston Area Urban League Young Professionals**, **National Congress of Black Women** and **American Psychological Association**.

Felicity Fowler is a Partner with **Haynes and Boone, LLP**, where she practices in the labor



Felicity Fowler

and employment section with a focus on the representation of management in complex employment litigation in federal and state courts. She also assists clients in developing and implementing preventative maintenance programs to address employment matters before they result in litigation. She is certified by the **Texas Board of Legal Specialization** in the field of Labor and Employment Law and is a member of the **American Bar Association**, **State Bar of Texas** and the **Houston Bar Association**.

and make appropriate staffing adjustments to better meet the needs of clients.

After using dataTRAQ for three years, Family Services has experienced increase productivity and reporting capacity. Detailed information on numbers of clients served by each staff, the success of the treatment of those clients and the costs to serve those clients can easily be determined. These are all valuable tools in the ever increasingly competitive world.

dataTRAQ
Tracking & Reporting for
Accountability & Quality

Annual Giving raised record amount

Thanks to our donors who helped raise \$55,102 for Family Services

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Tom & Janice White
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Leslie & Andy Winesett*
Nyla & Dan Woods*

Making a splash with Pools for Schools

Eighteen children from the **Marilyn Estates Swim Team** helped make a splash for Family Services by participating in the **2nd Annual Pools for Schools Program**. *Pools for Schools* is a unique program that teaches children about participating in community service.

Catherine M. Garcia-Prats, Family Services' board member and pool club member, coordinated the activity. Swimmers collected pledges to support their June swim-a-thon where the goal was to swim as many laps as possible in one hour. The swimmers raised more than \$1,000, which was divided between the swim team and Family Services' to support its services in the schools.

Thanks to Cathy Garcia-Prats and the Marilyn Estates Swim Team for supporting Family Services with this unique fundraiser! If you are part of a swim team and looking for a fundraising activity, please call (713) 802-7857.

Bolded names are those who made new gifts during the 2004-2005 campaign.
*Indicates staff who participated in our inaugural Employee Giving Campaign

ExxonMobil Intern

Family Services might not be the first place a Management Information Systems major would think of for an internship. But thanks to the **ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs** program, the agency has become a technology training ground. The *Community Summer Jobs* program matches Houston area nonprofits with talented college students for summer internships and has placed an information technology intern with Family Services for six years in a row. This summer, the agency welcomed **Sean Biefeld**, a senior at **Baylor University**.

Sean spent nine weeks with Family Services as an Information Technology Systems Specialist and worked on several



Summer intern
Sean Biefeld

assignments. He worked with the Information Technology team and **Tim Louis**, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Services, to program clinical forms into the organization's data collection system, **dataTRAQ**.

"Working on *dataTRAQ* was a great experience that allowed me to utilize my information systems knowledge and experience," said Sean. "I was able to learn a lot about Family Services while working with the IT team to improve clinical forms, which will help the staff better serve our clients."

Once he finishes school next May, Sean hopes to parlay his internship experience and degree into a career as an information technology consultant.

Drug Prevention continued from page 1

tobacco and using other drugs. Through presentations, fliers, speakers and other mass media efforts, Family Services will educate students, parents and teachers about the positive benefits of staying drug-free. In addition, Family Services will provide professional counseling to students and work closely with Strake Jesuit administration to ensure that school alcohol / drug policies are consistent and well-explained.

UT has previously collaborated with Family Services and will provide the evaluation for this program as well as consultation on program development and implementation. We look forward to a great collaboration and successful program as we expand our substance abuse prevention services into a new arena!

Fashion fete at TOOTSIES

Houston's finest fashionistas shopped till they dropped at **TOOTSIES** in Highland Village during a special event to benefit Family Services. The May event, chaired by Board Members **Rosemary Schatzman** and **Stephanie Shanks** with assistance from **Ellie Francisco**, helped to raise \$1500 to support Family Services.



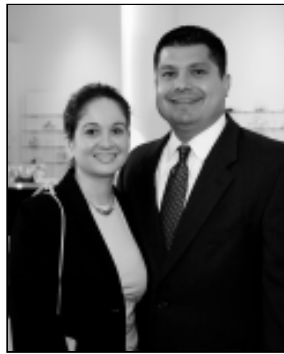
Stephanie Shanks and Rosemary Schatzman

The all-day shopping event offered a first glance at new sale items and featured designer Monique Lhuillier's fall 2005 ready to wear collection. Other highlights included fashion-forward

suits, designer sportswear, jewelry, handbags, shoes and accessories. A portion of the proceeds from sales throughout the day were donated to Family Services.

The day was capped by a private cocktail reception.

Sophia Adrogué, Shelley Corman, Samoan Johnson, Stephen Fraga and Michelle Martinez, Astrid VanDyke, and Sue Worscheh were among the friends and board members in attendance.



Michelle Martinez and Stephen Fraga

Many thanks to **Image-Catcher Photography** who was on hand to capture the fun on film. To view or order photos from the event, please visit <http://www.familyservices.org/TOOTSIES.htm>.



Betsy Knight, Linda St. Romain and Leslie Lively-Koerner

Family fun at the ballpark

Family Services has been added to **The Roger Clemens Foundation's** list of beneficiary charities. The Foundation generously donated Astros tickets for games this summer so our clients could have the opportunity to participate in this family-friendly activity.

Monica Daniel is a single mom who is currently working toward her GED. Monica has been working with Family Support Assistant **Kevin Johnson** to find the right educational program for herself as well as the resources they will need while she is in school.

The complimentary Astros tickets

allowed Monica to take her four children, Chris (age 11), Corey (age 7), Samyra (age 4) and Cameron (age 2), to the Tuesday, May 31st game vs. the Cincinnati Reds. They had a great time cheering on the home team.



Daniel Family

"This was our first time to go to an Astros game," said Monica. "We had view deck seats and could see a lot. The kids really enjoyed it and would love to go again."

Not only was this a winning event for the Daniel family, but the Astros were victorious

with a final score of 4 - 3. Family Services is grateful to **The Roger Clemens Foundation** for sharing this summertime fun.

Upcoming Events

2005 Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2005
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
JP Morgan Chase
707 Travis
Heritage Hall, North Lobby

2006 Celebration of Families Luncheon

Wednesday, March 1, 2006
River Oaks Country Club
Noon
honoring

Karen & Michael Mayell & Family

For more information about these events, call 713-802-7857.

Focus on Families is published by Family Services of Greater Houston. Family Services is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Family Services is a member of The Alliance for Children and Families and an affiliate of the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast. It is an affiliate organization of Family Resources, Inc., a *Network of Organizations Serving Families*.

Nyla K. Woods
President and Chief Executive Officer

Shunney H.C. Nair
Vice President, Communications & Development



MISSION STATEMENT

Family Services of Greater Houston's mission is to strengthen individuals, families and communities through the provision of preventive, supportive and therapeutic services.

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