



Fiscal Year 2016



From the President and CEO

Again this year as with last year, we have been exceptionally busy with both strategically planned and unanticipated opportunities for growth. In terms of our planned activities, we have been heavily involved with the design and construction of our new child and elder day care building, which will give us much needed extra capacity to address the needs of the community. The Adult Day Services program is available in other regions of the commonwealth, but is absent in central Pennsylvania. We believe that this will provide a more affordable care alternative to families desiring to remain in the work force while caring for their parents in their home environment. In regard to unplanned opportunities for growth, last year we responded to a request for proposal from Erie County to manage their resource homes and were awarded this service. This resulted in a new office in Erie, PA which has been doing quite well in service to this community as we have expanded over this past year. Likewise, we responded to a York County request for proposal and were awarded a new opportunity. With rapid development, we opened White Rose Manor in August 2016 as a group home for adolescent females with a capacity for twelve in York, PA.

We continue to further our mission in a challenging fiscal environment. It took us nearly a year to recover our receivables from counties in the wake of a record setting state budget impasse in Pennsylvania. Demand for our services continues to grow, however the rates paid for some units of service lag behind these demands. With enhanced protections written into the Child Protective Services Laws, referrals for our services remain strong. So overall, it was a very busy year for Families United Network, and we remain strong financially in the face of these challenges.

Thomas A. Neuhard



Who Are The Children We Serve?

Gender

Foster Care: 59% Female 41% Male

Age of Children:

- 7% less than 1 year old
- 39% age 1 to 5 years old
- 28% age 6 to 10 years old
- 11% age 11 to 15 years old
- 14% age 16 to 18 years old
- 1% age 19 and older

Referrals for Children

- Foster Care: Increased 4%
- Residential Service: Decreased 2%
- Receiving referrals for 1,866 children.

Placements for Children

- Foster Care: Decreased 6%
- Residential Care: Increased by 8%
- Placing a total of 373 children.

Leading Reasons for Non Placements

- No home for Sibling Groups 25%
- County Cancelled Referral 18%
- No home due to age of child 15%

Reason Children Enter Care

- Drug and Alcohol Issues of Parents 23%
- Behavior of Child 15%
- Alleged Abuse of child 10%

Adoption Services

- Increased 4%
- Completing 658 units of service

Domestic Adoption Services

- 2 Adoptions & served 88 families

Program Highlights

FUN Academy

It's been a busy year at FUN Academy. We celebrated the graduation of four of our children who advanced into kindergarten. The summer went quickly with many outdoor activities including field trips to Montour Preserve, Indian Park and bowling at Faxon Lanes. After much anticipation, the groundbreaking for the future home of FUN Academy was held on August 11, 2016. The new facility is set to open in May of 2017, with a licensed capacity of 150 children. New services will be offered in Before and After School Care (including transportation), Summer Programs for school age children and a Sick Bay with a trained medical professional.

Phase II of the building will include Adult Day Services. These services will allow adult clients to stay in their home, as long as possible, by providing necessary care during the day, thus allowing the family member the ability to continue employment, etc. This facility will be one of the first in the area to offer intergenerational services. This will be a state-of-the-art facility, fulfilling our mission for families in surrounding areas.



SWAN

Families United Network, Inc.'s SWAN permanency program grew tremendously during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. We received a high volume of referrals, managing 528 referrals at our highest point and ending the fiscal year with 491 referrals. The Scranton office began the fiscal year with one Permanency Specialist, and ended with three Permanency Specialists and one Permanency Supervisor. The increase in staff was made to respond to the demand in referrals in that region. Additionally, one position was added to the North Central office and one to the Western office. We have also started taking SWAN referrals out of our Erie office. We have added a Casual Permanency Specialist to our Erie office, and one of our full time Family Support Workers is also handling some SWAN referrals.

In June 2016, the Mount Joy office celebrated the adoption of Dominick from Montour County, who was placed through the Matching Specialist. This is the first adoption finalized out of the placements that the Matching Specialist has made since the position was created, but certainly not the last! It was a very happy day for the family, and they were recently highlighted on SWAN's Facebook page for National Adoption Month!



New Residential Location: White Rose

In September, we opened the doors to our Residential Program in York, PA. This beautiful residential home is now the site of the White Rose Manor Program. We are excited to be working with York County Children Youth and Families to provide two programs within this facility. White Rose Manor contains a Life Readiness Program, providing supervised independent living services, as well as a Transitional Living Program that provides support for successful clients giving them the ability to step down from the LRP to more independence and autonomy in the TLP program. White Rose Manor serves female adolescence ages 16 to 21 years of age and has the capacity to serve 8 clients in the LRP and 4 in the TLP. Our new team of staff at White Rose Manor has created an incredible environment for the young women who are currently residing in the program. We are enthusiastically looking forward to teaching new skills, developing new relationships, motivating, encouraging and making a difference in the lives of young women we have the opportunity to serve.



White Rose Manor



Bedroom Space at
White Rose



Resident Recognized

We are so happy to announce and congratulate Amber Miller, one of our former residents of our LRP/TLP program at Ashler.

She is one of two people, in the state, to receive the James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award, which recognizes their resiliency and accomplishments. Amber received her award in Harrisburg, at the 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

Ashler Manor Campus

The residential programs experienced a wonderful year of progress and growth. The year began with an ambitious project to remodel the Alternative School located on campus. The school has been upgraded in previous years with the addition of three smart boards (Promethean Boards), Kindle e-readers, and Microsoft Surface computers. This past year the upgrades to the school came in the form of new siding, windows, roof, and fresh paint.

The residential programs also incorporated a new endeavor this past year in the form of a Spring Formal, which was held on campus on in April. The idea for the formal came out of discussions in the Wellness Committee wanting to incorporate lessons in formal dining. The ideas blossomed to a 4-course meal prepared by Head Chef, Jordan Homet including sparkling cider followed by an awards ceremony and dancing.

To prepare for the event, the residents had an opportunity to attend an Etiquette 101 course at the James V. Brown library, where they learned proper dining techniques and mannerisms. Next, the residents were given the opportunity to attend Cinderella's Closet in Williamsport where they received the royal treatment with picking out their perfect gown. The Junior League of Williamsport graciously donated the dresses and two of the members attended the Spring Formal to witness the joy. Volunteers from James V. Brown library visited campus to help the residents make jewelry to match their gowns.

Prior to the event, residents were given ballots with 12 positive categories to vote for their peers who would receive an award during the event. To be eligible to receive an award, the resident would show proper behavior and positive attitude.

Administration and staff volunteered to transform the Activity Center into an elegant ballroom with lights and glitter, then served the 4-course meal, helped with clean-up and tear down.

The MC for the event was a resident who was chosen for her dedication to succeeding, motivation and charisma. That resident pictured in the pink shirt is Kapri, who conducted the awards ceremony with ease and charm!



***Most Kind Award
Marissa***



***Most Sociable Award
Sandra***



***Biggest Smile
Award Tatinana***



The evening came to a close with dancing by all. The event was a great success and the residents had a wonderful time. Many of the residents were emotional and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to attend the event.

Director of Foster Care Participates in the Boston Marathon



Lisa Cannon the Director of Foster Care participated in the Boston Marathon. Good job Lisa!

Resource Family Management Program in Erie

During the Fall of 2015, Families United Network added to its growing capacity of specialty work in assessment, approval and ongoing management of foster homes through a contract awarded by Erie County Office of Children and Youth. To accommodate the transfer and licensing of approximately 50 foster and respite homes, we opened our first office in North West Pennsylvania in the city of Erie. The program is under the leadership of Stacey Ehrensberger who brings extensive experience in the child welfare system. Families United Network operates a similar program in central Pennsylvania under a contract with Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth. While much of our recruitment and approval of foster homes has been for our own system, Families United Network has been conducting home studies and approving families on behalf of a number of other county child welfare agencies for several years.

Private Adoption

This past year two families completed the adoption process with a child placed from Families United Network. The agency has developed a waiting family's list that is available on the agency website. Two baby girls were placed with loving families.



The agency continues to market its services offering both counseling to expecting young women, both for the purpose of making an adoption plan or in making the decision to parent.



Families United Network, Inc.

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Foster Care and Kinship Care

Recruiting and training quality resource families continues to be a priority for our agency as we seek to keep up with the demands of county referrals. Families United Network benefits from having a foster care office in five areas of the state, therefore we are able to accommodate services for any location. This is particularly helpful for our county affiliates who are working with potential kinship families that may not reside within their own county. We have the capacity to expand our work by sharing the referral with one of our offices for completion of the home study and case management.

Additionally, we continue to be in search of traditional foster homes that are available for sibling groups and older children. In the past year, we have used targeted recruitment techniques and creative advertising to reach more potential families. We continue to pride ourselves on the flexibility of our workers in scheduling and supporting families through the approval process, and we strive to offer ongoing training, resources, and top-notch case management once the family has received a placement. Check out a few of our special events that we have for our families, children, and outreach within the community.



Blanket Donation from the Linus Project



Staff participated in working in a food stand at the Little League World Series held in Williamsport PA.



Kids and families enjoy activities arranged by Families United Network that include, hay rides, a trip to New York City, Tobias Lake, and Knoebels



Many community outreach events included an Open House, Blood Drive, Founders Day, Earth Day and Healthy Kid Day.

Our Mission

Families United Network, Inc. is dedicated to strengthening families by providing children and youth with a safe, nurturing, community environment through a continuum of services, which focuses on reunification

Community Participation Events

Families United Network, Inc. has been fortunate in the assistance received from our many communities in many different ways. We would like to thank, Sam's Club, Friendly's, Hoss's Steak House, the Giving trees, and participation in the Extra Give. Fundraising helps the agency in providing Foster Parent Banquets, Special events, and Christmas presents. The agency continues to participate in many community events to reach out to families and to raise funds and supplies to assist children in our home services.



Array of Services

Families United Network, Inc. continues to offer an array of services to families, children, social service agencies, and more. Our services include:

- Foster Care
- Kinship Care
- Medical Fragile Foster Care
- Respite Care
- Intensive Assessment Foster Care
- Urgent Foster Care
- Mother Baby Foster Care Placements
- Transitional Living Foster Care
- SWAN Services
- Foster Adoptions
- Residential Group Home Services
- Life Readiness Services
- Shelter Services
- Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Domestic Adoption Services
- Home Study Services
- Expectant and Birth Parent Counseling
- Resource Family Management
- Emergency Assessments
- Child Day Care
- Family Group Decision Making
- Family Preservation and Reunifications Services

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Board of Directors



Families United Network, Inc. Board of Directors

Ashler Manor Advisory Board

Chris Smith, Woody Shaner, & Paula Miller

Foster Care & Adoption Program Offices

South Central

2 Market Plaza Way
Suite 4
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

North Central

33 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756

Scranton

1006 Pittston Avenue
Suite 200
Scranton, PA 18505

Western Office

One Rodi Plaza
655 Rodi Road,
Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Mount Joy

412 South Angle Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Administrative Office

276 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756

Harrisburg

2090 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17110

North Western

3939 West Ridge Road
Erie, PA 16505

Residential Programs

Arborevale Manor

2016 Millersville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

Ashler Manor

276 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756

White Rose Manor

197 Scarboro Drive
York, Pa 17403

F.U.N. Academy

77 Musser Lane
Muncy, PA 17756

Visit us Online@
www.families4kids.org

Let us know how we are doing!
Please take less than a minute
to give us your comments
on our Feedback Survey.



Referrals and placements have remained consistent, in the foster care programs, and the residential programs have been at full capacity.

Clients leaving foster care achieve permanency by 60%, and clients leaving the residential program complete the program by 71%.

