

Ashler Manor Program Receives Community Partnership Award

Families United Network, Inc. and the Ashler Manor program were awarded the Community Partnership Award by the Lycoming County Safe Kids program. Families United Network and Ashler Manor were honored at the Safe Kids ten year anniversary celebration for our continued involvement in the Safe Kids program, which includes assisting with safety seat checks, the Four Seasons of Safety, and various community events. Safe Kids is committed to preventing childhood deaths & injuries through education, advocacy, & collaboration. The residents of Ashler Manor have been working with the Safe Kids program for over seven years.



Claudette Moyd accepts the Community Partnership Award from Chris Smith of the Lycoming County Safe Kids Program. Families United Network & Ashler Manor were recognized for our organization's and residents' contributions to the Safe Kids program.

Residential Programs Reach More Youth

Residential services at both Ashler Manor and Arborvale Manor have experienced steady increases in the number of youth served throughout our history. This is made possible by the ongoing development of program specialties and an individualized focus on the needs of the youth we serve. Competency development, positive foundations in interpersonal interactions, and experiential learning contribute to clients' success in meeting their permanency goals. Our mission is to encourage successful family reunification, care in a lesser restrictive environment, or self-sufficiency for independent living clients. The effectiveness of service delivery is measured by outcomes, which include permanency, educational achievement, job training and readiness skills, and family involvement.

Families United Network's Ashler Manor programs, located in Muncy, PA, offer Community Based Residential Services and Supervised Independent Living Services to serve neglected and abused females, ages 12-18. Arborvale Manor, located in Lancaster, PA, provides independent living services for adolescent males, ages 15-18 years old.

Family engagement includes assessing strengths & developing goals for permanency. Over 83% of families were actively engaged in residential client service planning, leading to a 15% increase in permanency during 2006/2007.



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Outlooks

2006-2007 Outcomes

Annual Newsletter for Stakeholders

Eli's Story – A Journey to Permanency

Families United Network, Inc. would like to highlight one very special adoption success story. August, 2007, marked the long awaited adoption finalization for a very strong six year old boy named Eli, who was placed in our agency's care through Berks County Children and Youth.

Over the years, Eli's journey has been a difficult one. He was initially placed in foster care in 2003, at age two. In January 2004, he was placed with Families United Network, Inc. in the home of a single mother, as a pre-adoptive placement. The adoptive mother already had one adopted son and was eager to expand her family through adoption. The case went on for several years, and as progress was made, it seemed there was always another setback. After Eli's final visit with his birth parents, they decided to appeal, which slowed the permanency process. The case proceeded toward the impending adoption, but in 2006, five year old Eli was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and was given a year to live. This was an extremely difficult and stressful time for all those involved with the case.

Over the next several months, Eli required intensive treatment including radiation. As his health declined, Eli began receiving hospice services and eventually 24 hour nursing care. The adoptive mother still strongly desired to adopt Eli despite his illness, as she felt he was already her son. Finally, in April 2007, Eli's birth parents' parental rights were terminated and he was back on his road to permanency. During this time, Eli also gained a father figure as the adoptive mother married in June 2007.

On August 21, 2007, Judge Arthur Grim proceeded over Eli's long-awaited adoption hearing. Based on Eli's condition, he kindly agreed to conduct the finalization hearing via telephone. Judge Grim made it a point to praise the adoptive family for the tireless work they have done in caring for Eli's significant medical needs and ensuring he receive the best possible care. It was on this special and emotional day that Eli became a permanent member of his adoptive family.

It has now been eight months since Eli's adoption and we are pleased to say that he continues to do very well. He has a tutor



Eli, who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 2006, has been doing much better than his doctors had predicted, and his family continues to enjoy as much time together as possible. Eli is currently making plans to celebrate his seventh birthday in June, and is asking for either a dirt bike or a four wheeler!

that comes to his home three days a week, in hopes that he will be able to attend school in the fall of 2008. He is currently learning how to read. Although Eli's prognosis has not changed, the family feels fortunate that they have been able to spend so much quality time together.

F.U.N. Achieves Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation

The private adoption program, while still in the early stages of development, experienced growth during the year as well as achieved accreditation. Activities revolved around work with families seeking children in Guatemala on the international front, and increasing requests for home studies from families in Pennsylvania. Families United Network, Inc. provides home study services and post adoption services for families in Pennsylvania who would like to adopt or have adopted a child either domestically or internationally.



Since the beginning of the private adoption program, five families have successfully adopted a child from Guatemala, one during the fiscal year 2006-2007, and four more during the current fiscal year. In addition, ten families receiving home study services have also successfully adopted a child either domestically, or through an international program.

During the 2006/2007 fiscal year, Families United Network, Inc. submitted an application to undergo the Council on Accreditation survey to become a Hague Accredited adoption agency. The Hague Convention is an international treaty created to protect children

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Families United Network, Inc. - Dedicated to Strengthening Families

From the Chief Executive Officer



We always seem to hear that childhood and adolescent problems are becoming increasingly more complex and difficult to treat. The effects of drug & alcohol use for both youth and parents, incarceration of parents, broken family units, neglect, truancy, decay of moral values, and physical/sexual abuse, to name a few are taking a huge toll on our youth. The expansion of the prison system is a testament to what can occur when problems are not addressed at an early age. At Families United Network, Inc., we see these trends through our referral system with County Children & Youth Agencies. We are informed of a child's problems when considering if they are suitable for our programs and when deciding if we feel we can make a positive impact on their lives. It appears that what we hear is true.

Families United Network, Inc. has responded to these trends by maintaining a constant vigilance on the quality and intensity of our programs. In the past year we have attained our agency-wide accreditation through the national Council on Accreditation (COA) as well as recognition for Hague Accreditation through COA and the U.S. Department of State for our International Adoption program. These honorable distinctions attest that our agency is meeting or exceeding the national benchmarks for quality of programming. These accomplishments, coupled with the dedication of our staff, have resulted in the rapid growth of our programs and increased opportunities to have a positive impact in the lives of many more children. This has occurred at a time when federal and local dollars are becoming more limited and many agencies, both public and private, are struggling.

We have many to thank for our blessings this year. Without the dedication of our staff working tirelessly with our resource/kinship parents, and biological parents, we could never have grown to having such a positive impact with so many more children in out-of-home placement. Our residential staff has been very busy with programs that have been nearly full throughout the year. Our adoption programs have consistently helped more children to have permanent homes year after year. We are thankful to our Board of Directors and our Advisory Board members for their leadership and strategic direction. Together we have succeeded in making a difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Neuhard

Thomas A. Neuhard
Chief Executive Officer

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 or permanency.

Families United Network, Inc. does not discriminate in regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, or sex.

Families United Network, Inc. Board of Directors



Pictured left to right: Mary Ann Tarantino, Secretary; Sheila M. Ross, Treasurer; Robert Wagner, Chairman; and Joseph O. Smith, Vice Chairman

Ashler Manor Advisory Board

Chris Smith	Corey Palmatier	Woody Shaner
Tonya Anderson	Paula Miller	Nancy Matter
Danielle Liddic		

Program Locations:

Administrative Office
P.O. Box 264 • Muncy, PA 17756

Foster Care & Adoption Program Offices

South Central
101 Old Schoolhouse Lane
2nd Floor
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Muncy
1825 John Brady Drive
Suite 400
Muncy, PA 17756

Mount Joy
406 South Angle Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Western Office
2735 Mossy Side Blvd.
Suite 400
Monroeville, PA 15146

Scranton
1006 Pittston Avenue, Ste 200
Scranton, PA 18505

Residential Programs

Arborevale Manor
2016 Millersville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

Ashler Manor
P.O. Box 264
Muncy, PA 17756

Affiliates



South Central Coalition of Foster Care Providers
The Northeast Foster Care Coalition

Who Are The Children We Serve?

Gender:	49% female,	51% male
Age:	6% 0 - 11 months	22% 11 - 15 years
	38% 1 - 5 years	7% 16 and older
	27% 6 - 10 years	
Race:	59% Caucasian	
	27% African American	
	7% Hispanic	
	7% Two or more races	

Private Adoption *continued from page 1*

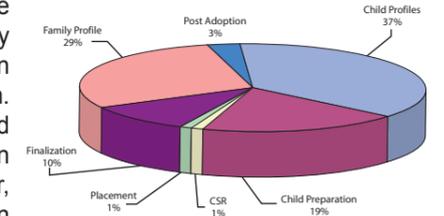
and prevent child abuse, abduction, and the sale or trafficking of children between participating countries. Hague Accreditation is required by the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) and the U.S. Department of State for any private agency to conduct international adoption work with participating Hague Convention countries. The Council on Accreditation (COA) was appointed by the U.S. Department of State as the only national accreditor for United States adoption service providers.

Families United Network has achieved Hague Accreditation through the Council on Accreditation through November 2011.

Permanency Program Highlights

Families United Network is committed to achieving the best possible permanency result for the children under our supervision. This focus was evidenced by a six percent increase in permanency over last year, despite the limitations in the Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network (SWAN) funding. The year also brought change, with the Adoption Program officially becoming the Permanency Program. The new name encompasses the array of services that can be provided regardless of a child's goal, and allows for more positive outreach to birth and kinship families.

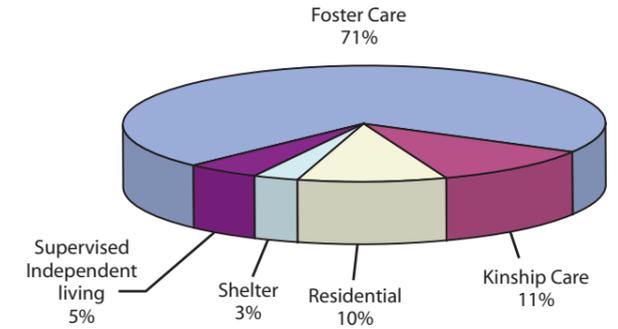
Permanency Services 2006-2007



The Permanency Program marked several accomplishments throughout the year. First and foremost, this was the first year all five office locations were fully staffed with permanency specialists, allowing for representation in every region. Families United Network, Inc. also continues to be recognized by SWAN for consistently completing timely and quality permanency services. Finally, with County Children & Youth agencies exhausting their SWAN funds early in the fiscal year, it created the need for several Counties to examine alternative ways to provide their children with permanency services. Families United Network, Inc. was fortunate to have the opportunity to develop partnerships with these Counties to aid in serving children and families with permanency services throughout the duration of the year.

As another fiscal year comes to a close, there is an overwhelming sense of excitement and enthusiasm for the possibilities that await us in the coming year. We envision expanding our program to a capacity that will allow us to serve more children and youth in their journey toward adoption, reunification, independent living, or placement with a fit and willing relative.

Clients Served 2006-2007



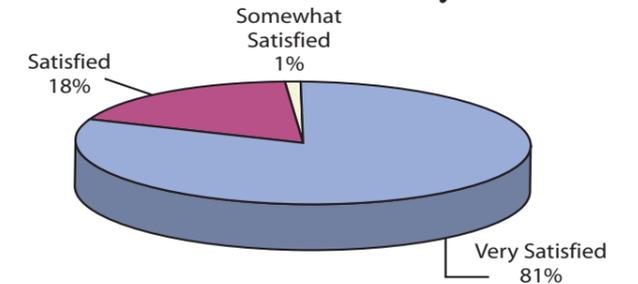
Foster Care: A Year in Review

The Families United Network Foster Care programs completed another notable year. Each regional foster care office across the Commonwealth saw an increase in referrals from counties seeking out-of-home placement alternatives for children. Actual placements increased by twenty-four percent in the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Kinship care grew significantly and represented eighteen percent of all children placed by the agency. The growth forced the Western Pennsylvania office from its Trafford location to more spacious accommodations in Monroeville. Several of our regional offices were contemplating moves due to the need for more space as the fiscal year ended.

Families United Network, Inc. is committed to providing foster children with positive permanency outcomes. Two hundred twenty-one children were discharged from the foster and kinship care programs from July 2006 to June 2007. Sixty-nine percent of these youngsters returned home (with birth family), were placed with other relatives, were adopted, or entered permanent legal custodianship relationships. The Families United Network team continued to explore innovative ways to improve on this success including our ongoing persistence in engaging families in all possible aspects of a child's life while in our care.

Ultimately, the unshakable commitment that continues to drive the exceptional work of our team is to ensure that "all we do is for the good of the children." There is no doubt that this principle will always serve as a strong rudder keeping the Families United Network team on the right heading.

Client Satisfaction Survey 2006-2007



We welcome your feedback!

Please direct any questions or comments to
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Visit us online at: www.families4kids.org