



## Families United Network, Inc.

Fiscal Year 2017



### From the President and CEO

It has been another rewarding year in child welfare and we have certainly felt the joy and satisfaction of helping so many children and families. We facilitated 71 adoptions this year and in our foster care and residential care programs we saw 206 reunifications with biological families. Our length of time in care is low which fulfills state-wide and national goals for the time children spend in foster or residential care. In August 2016, we opened White Rose Manor, a group home for adolescent females in York, PA at the request of the York County Children, Youth and Families agency. We combined two licensed programs in one facility. Our Life Readiness Program serves youth who are in need of a structured supervised program that focuses on teaching life skills. Our Transitional Living Program is designed for youth 17-21 years of age who do not require 24/7 supervision but who are in need of adult support as they work or attend school and prepare to transition to independence. We continue to work to grow this valuable service.

Throughout the last half of 2016 we were busy with construction of our expanded child day care facility, and in May 2017 we opened the area's premier child day care facility – FUN Academy. Enrollments continue to increase and we are working on our Keystone Stars Level 4 accreditation. In the new year we will be expanding our services to include Adult Care. Look for more exciting information in the future.

Thomas A. Neuhard

### The Clients We Serve

<i>Foster &amp; Kinship Care Children</i>	529
Providing services to children who can live with their family through 5 different offices throughout the state.	
<i>Foster &amp; Kinship Families</i>	378
Providing services to families offering their homes to children in foster care through 7 different locations.	
<i>Residential Dorm Clients</i>	97
Offering emergency and outcome group home services to children on our 33 acre property.	
<i>Life Readiness Clients</i>	70
Working toward independence we offer a home like setting in 3 different locations to male and female clients.	
<i>Transitional Clients</i>	70
Working with clients to live on their own, in two locations.	
<i>FUN Academy Clients</i>	80
Premier child care center offering an array of services for ages 6 weeks to 12 years old.	
<i>Drug and Alcohol Clients</i>	5611
Offering testing services to clients.	
<i>SWAN Adoption Units</i>	760
Foster Care Adoption services to assist in providing permanency for children.	
<i>Private Adoption Units</i>	262
Offering home study and post services to domestic and international adopting families, as well as our own domestic placements.	

# Program Highlights

## FUN Academy

FUN Academy, the area's premier child care center opened in our new building on May 1, 2017 after a successful inspection from the Department of Human Services licensing bureau. The Center has a licensed capacity for 168 children from 6 weeks to 12 years of age. FUN Academy has applied to Keystone STARS for a Level 4 status and is currently in the process of working with an assessor for a 10-day evaluation as they visit each of our classrooms.

The Center is equipped with a finger print security and entry system for parents and emergency contacts for ease when entering or exiting the building. We had a great opening and continue to grow each day. The children have settled in their new rooms and are enjoying the indoor gymnasium and outdoor play areas. The program offers services including: Infant Care, Young Toddler, Older Toddler, Preschool for 3 year olds, Preschool for 4-5 year olds, Before and After School Care Program, In-House Sick Bay, and Summer Programs for School Age Children.



## Classroom Openings



**ENROLL TODAY**  
**570-445-3813** [www.fun-academy.org](http://www.fun-academy.org)

## Who Are The Children We Serve?

### Gender

Foster Care: 55% Female 45% Male

### Age of Children:

39% age 0 to 5 years old  
30% age 6 to 12 years old  
30% age 13 to 19 years old  
Less 1% age 19 and older

### Referrals for Children

Foster Care: Declined 8%  
Residential Service: Decreased 4%  
Total Referrals of 1,749 children.

### Placements for Children

Foster Care: Increased 4%  
Residential Care: Increased by 16%  
Placing a total of 405 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 of Parents 22%  
Parenting Concerns 29%  
Behavior of Child 13%  
Alleged Abuse of child 9%

### Adoption Services

Increased 15%  
Completing 730 units of service

### Domestic Adoption Services

1 Adoption & served 91 families

## Foster Care & Kinship Care

The Families United Network foster care program continues to provide stellar case management services to the many children placed in our traditional foster and kinship homes. While the majority of the youth we serve are under the age of 12, we do also have homes for teenagers and pride ourselves on our work with them to enhance their independent living skills. This year we had four high school graduates.

In the South Central office, Ryan H., a very determined young man who hails from Cumberland County, was able to successfully graduate through a Pennsylvania cyber school program. He was accepted to Shippensburg University and started classes at the end of August, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Psychology. Ryan also holds a part time job at a restaurant in Shippensburg.

In the Western office, Keyara M. from Washington County, persevered through a long Senior year, graduated in June and is hoping to move forward to pursue a degree upon being accepted into college. She has applied to Hiram J. Andrews technical school in Johnstown, PA and in the meantime is diligently looking for employment.



We continue to be very involved in our local communities across the state and aim to be visible so we can share our mission. In May, we were able to celebrate Foster Care awareness month and offer activities across the state, such as a bowling event, trampoline event, and open house/fun fests. Additionally throughout the year, Families United Network staff has been involved in various Healthy Kid events, community walks, Pride Festivals, Little League World Series, hosted a roller skating event and even offered car seat checks.



## Arborvale

Arborvale Manor had the opportunity to receive support and work with several community organizations this year including The Junior League, Rainmakers, Washington Boro Church of God, Amos Herr Dream Park, White Rose Manor, and the Democratic Parent Election Campaign. Our clients benefited from a series of Independent Living Skills classes that were provided by the Junior League as well as several donations including reading and video materials for our library, new computer chairs and individualized recipe books for clients.

The Canassatego Rainmakers Association has supported Arborvale Manor with several monetary donations that have allowed us to participate in various activities, including a trip to Hershey Park. Pastor Dennis from the Washington Boro Church of God has become very involved with our program. Pastor Dennis visits with our clients weekly and has established a weekly activity group in which he spends time with our clients playing basketball, board games, and provides a listening ear of support. The church has also provided donations of food and monetary support.

Lastly, Arborvale Manor clients and staff have had the opportunity to give back to the community by providing volunteer services to help build a new community playground at Amos Herr park, complete some exterior clean-up and landscaping at our new residential program, White Rose Manor and assist with campaign efforts and voting during the presidential elections.



## SWAN Program

Our SWAN permanency program has continued to maintain a high volume of referrals for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This increase in referrals as lead the agency to expand in the Erie region which allows our agency to reach additional locations within the state of PA.

In June 2017, we celebrated the retirement of our Matching Specialist, Debbie Breim, who had been with Families United Network, Inc. for almost 12 years!

The program celebrates many adoptions throughout the year but was extremely excited for the adoption of three siblings that took over four years! These children had been through a lot, as have their adoptive family. The children were previously placed with one family who unfortunately were unable to continue to be a permanent resource. The children were then placed with their current adoptive family, where they remained for several years before they were finally adopted. The adoptive family included a parent who had been a foster child with our agency years ago. The family had to work through prejudices within the system, but with the support of our agency successfully completed the adoption process making them a happy family of 5.



## Private Adoption

Within the past fiscal year, Families United Network Private Adoption program placed one baby girl in March of 2017 with a loving family. We were also excited to welcome two families to our Available Family list, which can be viewed on our website under "Find A Family".

We are excited this year as we increase our partnerships and social media outreach to utilize different marketing tools to reach potential clients. This past year we received a total of 6 potential clients requesting information about placing their unborn children for adoption, resulting in one placement.

The Private Adoption program continues to grow slowly. The largest portion of our business involves completing home studies and post adoption services for families adopting internationally or in the Commonwealth of PA. Internationally, the climate has decreased but FUN remains Hague Accredited and ready to provide services to those families.

*Shaun & Kerri*



Pictured is one of the families from our Domestic Placement Program. This is a piece of their online social media marketing campaign. We post this photo to Facebook, Instagram, and our blog, Families United in Adoption



One of our families completed three successful adoptions from China (children pictured) when they decided to adopt again in 2016. They welcomed home their daughter in March of this year.

## Meet Andrew & Sarah




## Resource Family Management

During this fiscal year, Families United Network's work in resource family assessment, approval and ongoing management has grown in a notable fashion. In Dauphin County, the number of homes managed grew to 123 with 169 children in them by June 30. The program is under the supervision of Diana Scheidler who took over that responsibility in late January. Diana has been busy giving attention to the key areas of foster family support, training and making sure our children and families are well served. The Harrisburg office staff grew during the year to six resource family support workers who have shared the responsibilities for supporting approved homes and vetting new applicant families for Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth.

The similar program that our agency operates in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania for Erie County Office of Children, Youth and Families has also been quite busy with a very heavy emphasis on identifying new candidate resource homes. By June, the number of approved homes served out of the North West office had grown to 59 with 74 children placed in them. In both areas, like most parts of the Commonwealth, the need for temporary placement options for adolescents is very high. We are pleased to have these unique partnerships and very close working relationships with so many fine foster parents and the professionals in Dauphin and Erie Counties to assist in meeting these and other service requirements.



## White Rose Manor

This past year the agency was pleased to announce the opening of the White Rose Manor Program. This program is located in the city of York and provides services to girls in both our supervised independent living program and our transitional living program. The program is designed to assist teen girls who can no longer live with their families and need to prepare for their independence.



## Liberty Manor

In 2017-2017 Families United Network will continue their expansion plans to incorporate intergenerational care, integrating Child and Adult Day Services. Ground breaking began in October of 2017, with plans to be operational by April of 2018. This is an exciting new adventure offering services to a new client population. This new program will offer adult day programs, activities, meals, exercise and support for seniors.



## 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*



Families United Network, Inc. received a grant for \$2,500 from Enterprise Rental Car. Special thanks to the community support of our programs.



## 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

#### 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

145 Ashler Manor Drive  
Muncy, PA 17756

Visit us Online@  
[www.families4kids.org](http://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 61%, and clients leaving the residential program complete the program by 46%.*



2016 Member Agency

