

# Family Matters

## New Programs Expand Services to Central Marylanders in Need

For 155 years, Family and Children's Services has adapted to address family issues as societal changes create new challenges. Recently, FCS has put in place several new programs which demonstrate how the agency adapts to meet the needs of Central Marylanders:

### Safe House Opens in Carroll County

When victims of domestic violence become so fearful of their partner that they decide to leave their homes, they face numerous obstacles. In some cases, an abusive partner stalks the victim to continue his attempts at intimidation and control.

If she doesn't have family nearby, or money of her own, where can she go while she regroupes and makes a plan for her future without her partner? How can she protect her children?

At last, after years of planning, Carroll County has a "safe house" to shelter victims of domestic violence (DV) and their families. In partnership with with Human Services Programs, Inc. (HSP), Family and Children's Services can now provide shelter and support for as many as eight women and children in a home-like environment that is staffed around the clock, with security as the highest priority.

Volunteers from the community, churches and advisory boards worked hundreds of hours to help FCS and HSP staff prepare the location for clients.

HSP will manage the Safe House; FCS will provide counseling and other services. The circumstances of each

potential resident will be assessed by an FCS social worker to evaluate their environment and determine their level of risk. A victim, with or without children, may stay in the Safe House for up to 60 days if necessary.

For more information about our services for DV victims, please call 410-876-1233. Victims may call the DV Hotline at 410-857-0077 for support, assessment and placement.

### New Options Available for Seniors in Howard County

Family and Children's Services is pleased to introduce Elder Care Options, a market fee-for-service care management program for older adults who are experiencing difficulties that threaten their ability to remain in their homes.

Building on the expertise of FCS staff, Elder Care Options offers a one-stop program in which a professional geriatric care manager coordinates all of the health and personal services an individual may need to remain healthy and secure. Adults with permanent cognitive or physical limitations as well as those recovering from injury, illness or surgery can benefit from this program. Howard County is hosting the pilot program, which may be expanded to other areas in the future.

Here's how it works: the care manager has extensive knowledge about the costs, quality, and availability of resources in the community. She meets with the family, makes an assessment of the individual needing care, and

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## From the President



As a private nonprofit organization, Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland continually seeks revenue sources to fund its operations. While FCS enters into public and private fee contracts to provide specific services, a substantial portion of our budget depends on financial support from individuals, companies, foundations and the United Way.

Our fundraising events are designed to combine fun and fundraising. I would like to highlight our major fundraising events and acknowledge those who make these events so successful.

**Hunt Valley Antiques Show:** For more than 35 years the Auxiliary of FCS, a group of dedicated women from our community, have spent countless hours preparing for this annual event, which takes place in late February. The financial success of the Antiques Show has grown tremendously over the years. The 2005 show was well attended and well supported – a tribute to the hard work of the Auxiliary.

*Fundraising events are an important supplement to what we hope will be a generous personal gift from friends of the agency.*

**Chrysanthemum Ball:** For the past six years, another group of volunteers has worked very hard to organize a special evening celebration in the fall. This function has been most successful and the proceeds have become a very important part of our annual budget.

renovated Roland Park home, which was held for a week in March. More than 750 people attended. Laurie and Pat's generosity and the generosity of those who participated and attended made this an unanticipated revenue source for the agency.

**House Tour:** Laurie and Pat Fitzgerald invited FCS to be the exclusive recipient of proceeds from a house tour of their

**Golf Tournament:** On May 23, 2005, the third annual FCS Golf Tournament will be held at the Country Club of Maryland. Once again, a hard working group of volunteers has organized an enjoyable spring event.

Throughout the year, there are activities promoted and supported by members of our five advisory boards, staff and friends of the agency, who also raise cash or in-kind gifts in furtherance of the agency's mission.

All of these events have a common denominator – many hours of hard work by loyal and dependable friends of the agency. To all of our volunteers, we extend a sincere "thanks!" Through their efforts, substantial sums have been raised, providing essential program support throughout the year.

Let us not forget, however, that fundraising events cannot replace annual giving to Family and Children's Services. They supplement what we hope will be a regular annual practice of all friends of the agency, i.e., a generous personal gift in support of a most worthy cause.

## Breaking News: Fire at Park Heights Family Support Center

Just before this issue went to press, vandals set fire to the playground of our Park Heights Family Support Center (PHFSC). By the time the fire was extinguished, the building exterior had sustained over \$125,000 in damage, the outdoor play area had been destroyed and much of the Center's contents, including the entire child development area, were unsalvageable. Participants were shocked when they arrived for class the following morning to find the Center closed. PHFSC Director Linda Harvey said that the program will engage families with field trips and other off-site activities while waiting for repairs to be completed.

Family Matters is published by Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland, 4623 Falls Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4914. Phone 410-366-1980; fax 410-366-8530; e-mail [info@fcsmd.org](mailto:info@fcsmd.org); website [www.fcsmd.org](http://www.fcsmd.org).

Family and Children's Services is a private, nonprofit agency serving Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. We address the needs of families as they relate to single parenting, parent-child relationships, teen pregnancy prevention and parenting, adult relationship problems, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and issues of aging. FCS is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc., and is a member of the Child Welfare League of America, the National Assn. for Home Care, and United Way of Central Md.

For a copy of the agency's financial statements, call 410-366-1980, or mail your request to Margy Ryan at the address listed above.

Stanley A. Levi, LCSW-C,  
*Executive Director*

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*\*honorary*



## Fun and fundraising

**Annual Meeting:** Below, from left, FCS Board Vice President Hope Moore and Executive Director Stan Levi talk with Bonnie Copeland, Superintendent of the Baltimore City Public School System, after her keynote speech.



Hunt Valley Antiques Show: Nearly 250 people braved a snowstorm to attend the pre-view party. Guest Lecturer Charles Faudree's talk about French Country style, sponsored by Mercantile Bank, drew a record 180 guests. Top photo: former HVAS Chair and FCS



Board President Eleanor Hale, left, with Lisa Hayes, Vice President, Mercantile Bank.

Left: 2005 HVAS Co-Chairs Paula Campbell and Ashley Thayer.



**Chrysanthemum Ball:** The 2004 fall gala was our most successful to date. Over 250 guests attended the event, which was held at the Scottish Rite Temple. Over \$54,000 was raised for the agency. Mayor Martin O'Malley and his wife, Baltimore City District Court Judge Catherine O'Malley were among the 250+ guests. Flanking the O'Malleys, above, are CB Co-chairs Karen Evander, left, and Nancy Weintraub, right.

### New FCS Programs *continued*

develops a personalized care plan, which may include:

- screening, arranging and monitoring in-home help with personal care, household chores or other services
- reviewing the individual or family's financial, legal or medical situation and helping them conserve financial resources and avoid future problems
- assistance with conservatorship or guardianship
- acting as a liaison to families living at a distance, overseeing care and alerting families to problems
- offering counseling and support
- crisis intervention
- arranging a move to or from a retirement complex, assisted care home, or nursing home

Clients have access to a care manager 24/7. The care plan is reviewed regularly and adjusted as needed.


Families in need of professional help or families living far from their frail relative can call 800-274-1576 to learn more about Elder Care Options.

### Communities of Care Expands FCS Support for Foster and Adoptive Families in Baltimore City

Communities of Care (COC) is a program designed to provide permanency through adoption for children who might otherwise grow up in foster care. It complements our Children's Permanency program, which seeks permanent homes for babies affected by their mother's substance abuse or HIV infection while pregnant. The children in the new COC program

include sibling groups, children age eight or older, and children with emotional, physical or developmental challenges. All of them need and deserve the stability that comes with an adoptive family.

Our professional staff recruits, trains and supports adoptive families who are initially licensed as treatment foster/adoptive parents. To create a sense of community, COC families live in or relocate to the Ednor Gardens or Waverly neighborhoods. The families have access to professional staff, recreation, and therapeutic activities at the community center located in Ednor Gardens. Families receive services and support before and after the adoption.

For more information about our Children's Permanency programs, please call 410-669-9000. 

## Direct Your United Way Gift to FCS

As one of the 59 agencies in the Community Safety Net of United Way, Family and Children's Services competes for a portion of undirected gifts. If you give through United Way, please designate your gift to Family and Children's Services:

Business  
Campaigns  
Agency #

**049**

Government  
Campaigns  
Agency #

**8049**

If you would like to direct your donation to FCS, please skip section number two on the front side of the form, and instead fill out the top left section on the back of your United Way pledge form instead. Thank you.

## Family and Children's Services is Recognized for High Quality Services

Once again, Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland has been recognized by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for providing the highest quality services to our clients.

COA is an international accrediting body which sets standards for governance, fiscal management, human resources management and service quality improvement of organizations providing social services.

In a rigorous process that took over a year to complete, FCS

performed a lengthy self-study before COA peer reviewers visited agency offices. The COA accreditation is valid for four years, at which point the process is repeated. Family and Children's Services is now accredited through 2008.

"We are proud to be one of the 14 private organizations in Maryland accredited by COA. This honor reflects a tradition of commitment to quality services that goes all the way back to our founding in 1849," said Stan Levi, executive director of the agency.



# Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland

*Guiding Families. Strengthening Communities.*

4623 Falls Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4914  
www.fcsmd.org

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## Upcoming Events



### Third Annual Golf Tournament

*Monday, May 23*

*Country Club of Maryland  
1101 Stevenson Lane  
Towson, Maryland*

Last year's tournament began on a fine spring day and ended with hail the size of – no kidding – golf balls. Who knows what surprises are in store on May 23? Don't miss what is sure to be the highlight of the spring tournaments.

This year, the tournament moves to the Country Club of Maryland's par 70 golf course, designed in 1925 by nationally acclaimed golf architect Herbert Strong.

**Noon:** Cookout buffet

**1 p.m.:** Shotgun start

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and awards immediately following the round.

To order tickets to agency-wide events, please call 410-366-1980, ext. 245.

*Get updated details of all Family and Children's Services events 24/7 by visiting [www.fcsmd.org](http://www.fcsmd.org).*

### Tour de Carroll

*Saturday, June 4  
8 a.m. til noon*

*Dutterer's Park at Monroe and Winters  
Westminster, Maryland*

Please join us for this bike, trike and cycle extravaganza offering fun for the entire family. Proceeds benefit the FCS West End Place Adult Day Care Center.

### Crab Feast and IronBirds Game

*Thursday, June 30*

*Gates open 5:30, Game begins 7:05*

*Ripken Stadium  
Aberdeen, Maryland*

Tickets are \$60 per person, including all-you-can-eat crabs, hot dogs, corn on the cob and soda plus an authentic Aberdeen IronBirds baseball cap. Proceeds benefit Harford County FCS programs.

### Save This Date: Chrysanthemum Ball

*Saturday, October 22*

*The Grand Lodge at Bonnie Blink  
Hunt Valley, Maryland*

Details will be listed at [www.fcsmd.org](http://www.fcsmd.org) as they become available.

## Redesigned FCS Web Site Puts Information at Your Fingertips

Our updated web site, two years in the making, is now on-line. The site is designed to give visitors clear, easy-to-find information about agency programs, services, management and history. You'll find one-click access to office telephone numbers and location directions, photos from events, reference links about family issues, and more.

This project would not have been possible without the help of William V. Thompson, an MIS student at University of Baltimore, who has donated countless hours to the project. We thank Mr. Thompson for his dedication, enthusiasm and generosity.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the web site. Please visit frequently to check on our progress as new content is added:

*[www.fcsmd.org](http://www.fcsmd.org)*