



Fiscal Year 2013

From the President and CEO



We are very excited about a new building project, as part of our strategic plan, which is now under way on the Ashler Manor Campus in Muncy, PA. For the past 18 years, our Administrative offices for our entire Pennsylvania operations have been housed in a beautiful Victorian building that is now 150 years old. As we have grown and acquired new technology, our needs have exceeded the availability and type of space in this existing building, which is located in the midst of our female community residential program.

At our present location, we have a 33 acre campus located in Lycoming County, in the heart of Central PA. Since we are blessed with enough acreage to meet our growing needs, we didn't have to look too far for an ideal location for expansion.

We anticipate that the office building will be approximately 12,000 square feet in size and will be located near the front of our campus along John Brady Drive. Upon completion, we will move our administrative offices into about one-third of the building. The second third of the building will house our North Central foster care and permanency programs, which are currently located nearby in Montoursville, PA. The final third of the building will be owned by Intrada Technologies, a local information technologies firm located in Williamsport, PA, and who has filled our agency IT needs for many years.

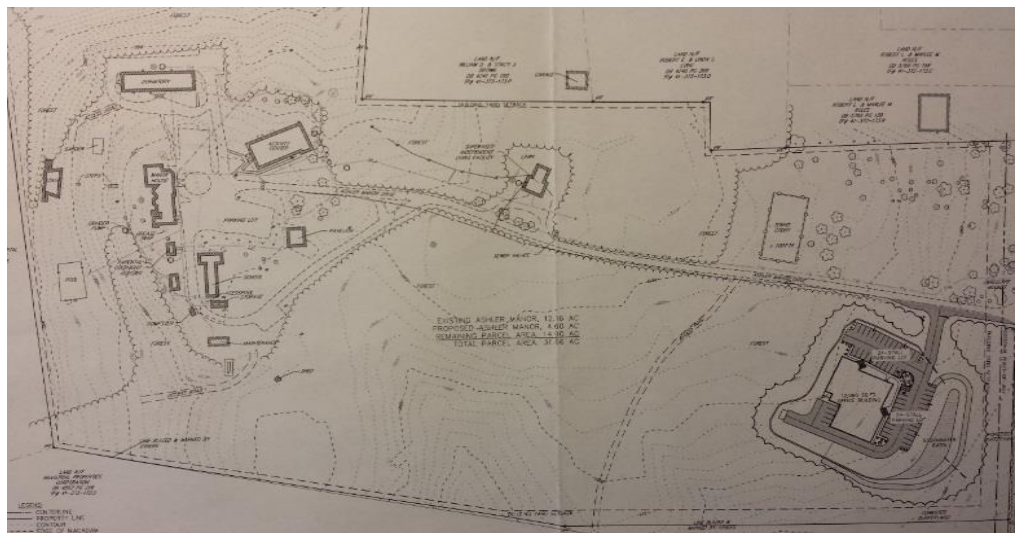
Currently we are working through the zoning and land development processes, and are hoping for a summer groundbreaking if all goes well.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Neuhard

Thomas A. Neuhard
President & Chief Executive Office

**New
Office Complex
at Lower right
of picture**



Who Are The Children We Serve?

Gender
53% Female 47% Male

Adoption Service Units: 539

Foster Children: 466 Children

*3% less than 1 year old

*44% 1-5 years old

*25% 6-10 years old

*16% 11-15 years old

*10% 16-18 years old

*2% older than 18 years old

Kinship Children: 88

Life Readiness Program: 37

*71% 16-18 years old

*29% older than 18 years old

Private Adoption Service Units: 150

Residential Children: 72

* 23% 11-15 years old

*71% 16-18 years old

*6% older than 18 years old

Program Highlights

Residential

The past year has been one of continued growth and development for the residential programs at Ashler Manor. We were blessed this year to experience a strong census. Interest in our services has remained consistent and we've worked hard to provide clients with opportunities they might not otherwise experience. Examples of such experiences include a client who successfully discharged from care directly into student housing at Penn College to begin her college career, another who is set to do so in January, and a third who is about to begin a program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. We're overjoyed to see clients using their placement experience as a tool with which to further their education, and in doing so, expand the opportunities available to them post-placement.

In addition to client accomplishments, the past year also saw several new improvements to our campus. Among other projects, we remodeled the bathrooms in our dormitory program – including real tile floors and shower doors, repainted the interior of the dorm, and converted our pool from a chlorine pool to a salt water pool. In addition, we painted a number of additional areas of campus and added new equipment such as new swing sets, a smart-board for our on-campus school building, and we hired two chefs who are both graduates of the Pennsylvania College of Technology School of Culinary Arts. Suffice to say, the food is wonderful! We were sorry to see our former chef move on to new opportunities and chapters but likewise feel very blessed to have the two new chefs that we have.



SWAN

Families United Network, Inc.'s SWAN Permanency Program continues to experience tremendous growth. The agency received 499 referrals and completed 541 billable units of services during the last fiscal year. Full time Permanency staff positions have been added in the Western, North Central, and South Central offices in order to meet the growing needs of county agencies. Families United Network, Inc. has recognized the need to assist foster children, particularly older youth, in identifying long term supports through the Child Specific Recruitment unit of service. As a result, referrals for Child Specific Recruitment have nearly doubled since the previous year. Families United Network, Inc. is ensuring that all Permanency Staff have training specific to family finding in an effort to provide the best services to these children.

Recently, in September 2013, Families United Network, Inc. was asked by SWAN to participate in a pilot program, along with other affiliate agencies, to begin utilizing a new assessment tool, Juvenile Inventory For Functioning (JIFF), for post permanency services. It is a computer based program that will directly involve the youth, ages 9 and older, and it is presumed to be more child friendly as the youth will be able to answer the questions and record their responses through the program. If it is successful, it may replace the current assessment tool in the future.

Arborvale

At Arborvale Manor, one of our Life Readiness Programs, we said good-bye to some of our senior staff as they moved on to new phases in their lives. We also had the opportunity to welcome three new staff who have quickly become strong links in our team. Census numbers have remained positive as the program has consistently maintained a waiting list for services throughout the year. Utilizing a client centered focus we have continued to focus on positive outcomes. Clients discharged from the program in 2013 left with an average of \$3,223 through their various savings programs. 90% of clients achieved employment during their stay, and 100% of clients either achieved their educational goals or were on pace to achieve educational goals at discharge.



The Permanency Rate for the Residential program increased by 10% reaching a total of 77% this past year



Program Highlights

Private Adoption Highlights- International

In recent years we have seen a decrease in the number of families seeking to adopt a child internationally. This decline has been felt across the country. During this past year we have seen Russia and the Congo close to American families seeking to adopt. Change continues to occur in many other countries sometimes making it difficult for families. Currently, China continues to be strong and steady in the area of adoption. China has a waiting child program that focuses on children with special needs. Families have been successful in adopting these waiting children. This past year, 26 children entered the United States to be adopted by our families, including 8 From China, and others from the Philippines, Mexico, Uganda, Ghana, Jamaica, Russia, Hungary, and Ethiopia. The agency continues to assist families in need of home studies to adopt internationally.



Kinship Story

All of our offices provide kinship care in one fashion or another. In some cases, our recruiters or kinship specialists complete the family profile, and in others, maintain placement and ongoing supervision of the case. Our Mechanicsburg office services more than half of the agencies kinship placements. In 2012, more than 16 kinship homes were approved providing care for more than 25 children. In most cases, these families are either grandparents or aunts and uncles. In some cases, they are simply friends of the family or an acquaintance that stepped up to provide a loving home for children who they knew were in need.

Mr. and Mrs. Fry, are a couple raising two sons, ages 21 and 19. They met Mike and Jane (names are changed to protect the confidentiality of the children) when their son, met and developed a relationship with Jane at school in their special education class. The two became close friends and often "double dated" with Mr. and Ms. Fry. Over the summer the Fry's lost contact with Jane and later found that she and her brother went to live with another family. Mrs. Fry became concerned about Mike and Jane when she would meet the family to take them to Special Olympics with her son. She contacted the county agency and offered to be a resource for the two. Mike and Jane have flourished in the Fry's home considering their severe mental health issues. On top of it all, Mrs. Fry is being treated for cancer. The Fry's show unconditional love and care for Mike and Jane and do whatever is necessary to meet their needs and provide them with a loving and safe home.

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

Domestic Adoption Highlights

The agency continues to market to young women who may be experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and decide to seek an adoption. This past year we placed two children from birth into families who were waiting to adopt. What joy it was to bring these families together. Families United Network, Inc. continues to offer services to potential birth mothers as well as to write home studies for families adopting from out of state agencies. This past year, 8 families were matched with children who were placed in their home from birth. The program is still young at heart, but efforts continue to provide the best possible service to both the birth mothers and the adoptive parents.



Success Stories

Desiree from the Life Readiness Program

Desiree E. came to Ashler Manor in June 2011 and spent two and a half years in our Residential program working on her behavior and mental health struggles. Over time, Desiree made tremendous growth and progress relating to these issues and was able to transition to the Life Readiness Program in March 2012.

During her time within the Life Readiness Program, she was able to work on learning Independent Living Skills needed in order to help guide her to a successful discharge. She was able to obtain employment in the local community and held her job throughout the remainder of her stay, allowing her to save over \$3,500.00 in her savings account. Also during this time, Desiree's mother was released from State Prison and Desiree began to work on her relationship with her mother and siblings.

Desiree was able to begin having short visitations with her mother and family that eventually evolved into home visits to her mother's home. Desiree was able to continue with these visits until her discharge from the program in December 2013. Desiree did very well in accomplishing successful home visits with her family in order to strengthen and build upon a positive relationship. Desiree was successfully discharged to her mother's home on December 20, 2013 as she neared her 18th birthday. Desiree was provided with and demonstrated the skills of being independent in the community, holding stable employment, was able to successfully complete high school in December 2013 and is currently enrolled to begin college classes in January 2014.

Although she has mixed feelings about leaving the home she has had for over two years, Desiree is also excited to show that she has gained the abilities to use skills learned in the program to have a successful reunification with her mother and family. We wish Desiree all the best with her transition and are very proud of her accomplishments.



*In keeping with national trends,
the agency experienced a 5%
decrease in foster care referrals and
an 8% decrease in residential
referrals to our program.*

*Likewise, the agency experienced a
7% decrease in foster care
placements.*



Jack from Scranton

The Scranton office worked with a young boy named Jack. He came to our agency due to instability of supervision by his legal parents. Jack was just under 2 years old. Over the next year, our foster home and case manager worked with and supported the birth mother in order to have her son returned to her. During this time, our family was open with the birth mother and made efforts to make sure that she was part of her son's life. Jack's case manager made sure to schedule one on one time with the birth mom each month in person to help answer her questions and provide her the level of support needed. In July of 2013, Jack was able to return back to the care of his mother. At this time, under the direction of one of our permanency workers who was providing child prep services, several sessions occurred with Jack and his mom to make sure they were doing ok. At the time of Jack's discharge, our foster family created a special photo album with pictures of Jack alone and with their family for Jack and his mom. They wanted to make sure that both Jack and his mother had pictures and mementos from over the last year. Jack maintained a close bond with his mom during his time with our agency.

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www.families4kids.org

Success Stories

Pedro from Mount Joy



On 11/16/13, we saw one of our long-time youth turn 21 years old and age out of the foster care system. Pedro had been placed with us in 2010 at the age of 17 and had graduated from high school in 2012. He went on to attend Hiram G Andrews Center in Johnstown, PA where he earned a certificate in Kitchen Help in August 2013.

Following this achievement, Pedro returned to the care of Families United Network where he resided with a resource family until his 21st birthday. In that three month time span, our FUN Case Manager assisted Pedro in obtaining a full time job and then locating a suitable apartment. FUN has continued to support Pedro as he begins his independence, by arranging local individuals to “adopt” Pedro and provide him with gift cards, and other apartment necessities.

Cody from North Central

Cody entered kinship care in 2007 at the age of 13, living with his maternal grandmother. He maintained extremely high academic achievement through high school. He was awarded academic scholarships and decided to pursue an engineering degree at Bucknell University while remaining in foster care to continue the relationship with his foster family and receive independent living support. Families United Network, Inc. and other community resources, provided him with everything he needed to outfit his dorm room. The agency continues to provide support during college by providing supplies and food, etc. He is extremely education focused and has the drive to be a very successful individual. He also participates in indoor track and spring track and field at Bucknell University.



Foster Care Permanency Rate

The agency strives to improve the rate of permanency our children experience. This fiscal year, we experienced a significant increase and achieved a total of 78% of our clients being discharged to a permanent living situation.



Theraplay

Families United Network continues to be committed to expanding our services to best assist the children and families with which we work. This year, Tracy Drescher, Eastern Regional Director, attended a four day training on Theraplay where she gained more knowledge on how to apply this modality to our foster care, kinship, and adoption programs. Theraplay is a structured play therapy for children and their parents. The goal is to enhance attachment, self-esteem, trust in others and joyful engagement. The activities are fun, physical, personal and interactive, and replicate the natural, healthy interaction between parents and their children. Because the focus is placed on attachment and relationship development, Theraplay has been used successfully for many years with foster and adoptive families. We plan to draw from the research and our recent training to expand training to our staff across the state. In addition, we will also begin to integrate Theraplay into our practice with our resource and adoptive families, as well as our legal parents during visitation. We are excited about this new opportunity as it will improve the continuum of services that are needed as we continue to work on strengthening each family unit.



Board of Directors



Families United Network, Inc. Board of Directors

Pictured left to right, top row: Mary Ann Tarantino, Secretary, Robert Wagner, Chairman, Joseph O. Smith, Vice Chairman, Sheila M. Ross, and David C. Raker, Esq.
Pictured left to right, bottom row: Sharon Sutkins, John R. Brunette and Thomas A. Neuhard, President and CEO.

Ashler Manor Advisory Board

Chris Smith, Woody Shaner, Paula Miller

Foster Care & Adoption Program Offices

South Central

2 Market Place Way
Suite 4
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

North Central

1601 Sycamore Rd.
Suite 3B
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

Residential Programs

Arborvale Manor

2016 Millersville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

Ashler Manor

276 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756



or



EXTRAGIVE.ORG COMMUNITY RODGERS & ASSOCIATES


Mount Joy Office Participates in Extra Ordinary Give

On Thursday 11/21 and Friday 11/22, our Mount Joy office held Open Houses, promoting both foster care and adoption services and held in conjunction with Lancaster County's 2nd Annual Extraordinary Give event. We had a Bounce House and offered children's activities, refreshments and raffle prizes for attendees. FUN was one of more than 250 non-profit agencies in Lancaster County participating in the event which brought in over \$3.2million from donors. In our first year of participating, we had 20 donors raise \$890 in online donations.



Foster Parents Needed!

1-800-568-6449

 Families United Network, Inc.

www.families4kids.org