



News Exchange

October 24, 2005

Change is Good, Right?

By Lydia Pettijohn, Executive Director

On August 1st I came back from a wonderful vacation to a big surprise. Our office space on International Drive had been rented and we had 30 days to move. Swell, I thought. I marched right over to St. Joseph's Homes on Bel Air Boulevard where Margaret Lovvorn is the Director. We put our heads together, compared the gray, and came up with a win-win solution for both agencies.

The Family Center was relocated the Friday before Katrina hit and is now operating on the first floor at **601 Bel Air Boulevard**. We have the south side of the first floor while St. Joseph's has the north. This move has given us a much bigger classroom and two rooms for supervised visitation, not to mention a great kitchen/break area. We also have a "front" and "back" door now allowing for easier separation of parents when visitations are conducted.

The best part of the move is having the wonderful staff at St. Joseph's Homes dropping in throughout the day. Our shared kitchen space is always a good place to take my mind off the never ending work that faces us all and to remind myself that we're not in it alone. There are many dedicated people who are working to end child abuse and I'm proud to be a part of the home team fighting for our children here in Mobile, Alabama.

Please plan to attend our Holiday Open House on December 16th from 5-8 PM and take the grand tour of our new offices.

Monitored Exchanges Now Available

The Family Center is now offering monitored exchanges for the beginning and end of children's visitations with their non-custodial parents. For parents

who prefer to avoid contact with one another, the center will take care of transferring the child or children from one parent to the other at our offices. The charge for this service is \$10

per exchange per parent. This service will be available from 5-7 P.M. on Friday and Sundays evenings.

Court orders are helpful, but not required to use this service.

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Save the Date for our Events!!

Alabama Auburn Jamboree & Outback Raffle	11/19
Holiday Open House	12/16
Luck of the Irish	3/11/06
Blue Ribbon Week	4/2-4/8
That's Jake Golf & Silent Auction	5/6 and 5/7

Family Center Chosen for Pilot Study

Two programs offered by the Family Center were selected by the Children's Trust Fund staff to be included in a pilot project conducted by Auburn's Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Only seven programs statewide were selected for the pilot, and the Family Center is the only agency to have two programs in the pilot. The Parent Aide home visitation program and the Positive Parenting classes will be involved. The project represents CTF's move toward more rigorous documentation standards. The project will continue for the next three years.



"People aren't born knowing how to parent. They have to be taught. The state requires education, testing and a license before people drive. What is required to become a parent? Absolutely nothing. In fact, it is more difficult to take a pet home from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals than it is to take a baby home from the hospital.

Betty Wade Coyle, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads, 2005

Second Time Around

The Family Center was awarded a small grant from the National Exchange Club Foundation for their Second Time Around program. The program will offer support groups and educational seminars for grandparents who are raising grandchildren. The groups will focus on common issues to this group of seniors and provide a social support network for them. If you know a senior who is raising a grandchild, please have them call us. We are canvassing interested seniors now before deciding on a meeting day and time.

Pettijohn Attends National Symposium in Salt Lake

Executive Director, Lydia Pettijohn, attended the National Exchange Club Symposium for center directors in Salt Lake City, Utah July 13-16, 2005. This annual event is held to support and train Exchange Club center directors from around the country. Special emphasis was placed on our national Parent Aide program

and the accreditation process for centers.

At the closing Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast, the Mobile Family Center was recognized for winning the national grant for child abuse prevention centers. Federally funded research on the Parent Aide program is ongoing in North Caro

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lina and additional research is in the works.

New Board of Directors Elected for 2005-2006

The newly elected officers are as follows:

President, Lisa deShazo

Vice President, William Saliba

Secretary, Margaret Lovvorn

Treasurer, Julie Hornady

Members include:

Louis Colston

Karin Eckert

Tim Spafford

Bob Thomson

Board training and retreat for all members was held June 28th and July 5th at the home of Lisa deShazo. Excellent training was provided by Katherine Rouse of APAC and Margaret Lovvorn of St. Joseph Homes.



Children's Trust Fund Announces Grant Awards for 2005-2006

The Exchange Club Family Center will receive funding for three programs totaling \$75,000. The three continuing programs are **Parent Aide, Positive Parenting Classes and Daddy Days Supervised Visitation.** Parent Aide is the nationally recognized home visitation program

used by all Exchange Club Centers in the U.S. which provides a parent mentor to at-risk parents for one year. Positive Parenting is a series of 12 parenting classes covering discipline, home safety, communication, stress and anger manage-

ment. Daddy Days provides supervised visitation for non-custodial parents in our offices.

For more information on any of these free programs, please call 479-5700.

It generally costs \$33,000 to hospitalize an abused child compared to \$3,000 to provide a home visitor to teach parenting skills for one year.

Fun, Funds and Funnies

RAFFLE- \$100 Outback Steak House Gift Certificate

Call Lydia at 479-5700 or Julie at 680-7935. Drawing will be held at the Jamboree below:

ALABAMA AUBURN JAMBOREE—November 19th at St. Luke's

\$100 per two for all the food and liquid accompaniments you could ask for, plus the chance to win \$1300 twice. Come watch the game with us on big screen TVs. If you're not into football, just come eat, drink and watch the fans go crazy when you win the pool instead of them!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND CHARITABLE APPEALS

December 16, 2005 from 5-8 PM in our offices at 601 Bel Air Blvd. Eat, drink and be generous!

A wealthy man died and went to heaven. He stood at the pearly gates holding two large sacks. St. Peter asked what they contained and the man showed the bags of gold bricks and begged to bring them in. St. Peter stared in disbelief and replied, "Pavers? You want to bring pavers?"



Healthy Start Never Shake a Baby Program

Alabama Department of Public

Health has again funded our program for new parents. The program was developed at the request of ADPH in 2002 and offered to four area hospitals. The program in-

cludes stress management information for parents and the highly effective "Cuddle Cure" developed by Dr. Harvey Karp. The private classes are offered in hospital rooms after childbirth and also include information about the dangers of Shaken

Baby Syndrome. The renewed funding was provided for the purpose of expanding the program to other Alabama counties. Volunteers are currently needed for Mobile.

"The program should be mandatory for all families who have just welcomed a new baby into the world," Ashley Rich, Assistant District Attorney, Mobile County.

THAT'S JAKE 20TH ANNIVERSARY - MAY 14-15th

Jake Vest and his Mobile buddies hit the links for the 20th annual That's Jake Golf Tournament to raise Cain as well as money for the Exchange Club Family Center. Jimmy Adams of Adams and Son Construction, one of the only sponsors who has been around since the first year, was feeling under the weather, but showed up at the Linksman anyway to show his support and bid on auction items. That's the kind of folks that play in this tournament every year. The ones who truly care about our kids.

One of the new players this year, Richard Corrigan, had the privilege of playing with Jake. He complained of side-splitting laughter to his wife,



Greater Mobile Chrysler Jeep's Team took home 1st Place on their first try at the tournament. Congrats to the following team members: Bill Jones, Ted Milanowski, Tom Bates, and Ronnie Lanier pictured with Jake Vest, celebrity host.

Lee, who was in charge of the Silent Auction. Guests were able to bid on items ranging from a fur-trimmed tote bag from Jack and Jill to a live animal trap donated by Mike Spafford. Needless to say, there

was something for everyone!

Our dear friend, Dot Golab from Montgomery came again and presented Lydia Pettijohn with

with a \$500 donation from her Exchange Club in Montgomery. All in all, the tournament raised almost \$9,000 for the Family Center with the help of hardworking volunteers from the club and the



community.

Hats off to the event chairman, Jim Lovorn, and the entire posse of Exchange volunteers. *Mark your calendar for NEXT YEAR'S event on MAY 6th and 7th. Location TBA.*

When you help a child today, you write the history of tomorrow.

You Can Make A Difference TODAY

Volunteer Opportunities

- Parent aides/mentors
- Childcare workers during classes
- Office/clerical workers
- Fundraising sponsors & teams
- Speakers and media pros

Wish List

- Bus passes
- Toys and Games
- Disposable Diapers and Wipes
- Ink Cartridges (HP 15 & 78)
- Walmart Gift Certificates
- Stamps
- Copy Paper

Other Ways to Help

- \$35: Home visit with family
- \$50: Supervised Visitation
- \$100: Parenting Class for 20
- \$500: Annual Office Supplies
- \$1,000: 1/4 Annual Mileage
- \$2,500: Be a Prevention Pal
- \$5,000: Be a Prevention Partner

Lydia Pettijohn, M.S., FDC
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