

# The Family Times

October 2008

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Playground

**Dedication** Page 1  
**Celebrating 100 Years**

Page 1

**Executive Director's Letter** Page 2

**DV Awareness Month** Page 2

**Division News** Page 3

**Harley Party Results** Page 4

## Bank of America Donates Playground Funds: Dedication & Ribbon-Cutting Set For Oct. 23

A generous \$10,000 donation from the Bank of America has made possible a beautiful new playground structure for Center City Child Care.

The newly renovated playground will be dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, Oct. 23 at 4:30pm. Please join the Board of Directors, staff, and Amarillo Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the gift from Bank of America that made the play structure possible. The children of Center City Child Care are sure to enjoy a colorful, interesting and safe play structure for many years to come.



**It's Fun To Be A Kid At Center City.**

**Thanks, Bank of America!**



**United Way**  
of Amarillo & Canyon

**Program Provider**

**Family Support Services**  
1001 S. Polk  
Amarillo, TX 79101

**Telephone: 806-342-2500**

**Fax: 806-372-2433**

## SAVE THE DATE:

## FSS Celebrates 100 Years of Service Dec. 4th

Family Support Services traces its roots back to 1908, when the first social services organization in Amarillo began. Even though Family Support Services as it is known today was incorporated in 1994, the rich heritage of preceding decades is still an integral part of the agency's history. In honor of 100 years of service to the

community, Family Support Services will host a celebration in conjunction with the 2008 annual meeting. Please mark your calendar for this milestone event in the history of Family Support Services:

**Thursday, December 4, 2008**

**4pm-6pm**

**Ambassador Hotel**

Not only will the agency's history be celebrated, but a look into what the future holds will be presented. All those who have contributed to Family Support Services' success will be invited and recognized at the event. Donors, event sponsors, Board of Directors, community leaders, staff, and others interested in the agency's growth and future are all invited to this very special event.

### From The Executive Director

At Family Support Services, we work directly with victims and offenders of domestic violence every day throughout the year. In an effort to increase awareness in the community, we also distribute information regarding the effects of domestic violence and services that are available.

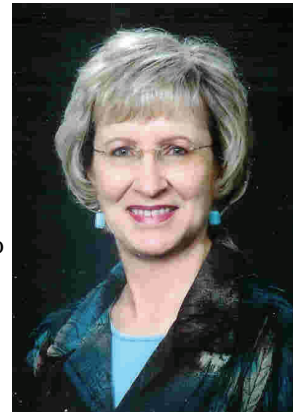
October is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and efforts will be intensified throughout the State of Texas to educate and inform everyone of the devastating impact that domestic violence has on all of our lives. In order to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence, it is important that each of us take responsibility for breaking the silence that so often accompanies this type of abuse. We must support victims without placing

blame or implying that they provoked the abuse. We must not hesitate to ask if someone needs help, and then make certain we follow through with assistance. We must continually educate the public that domestic violence is not about "losing your temper," but is a systematic pattern of power and control over an intimate partner. The tactics utilized to maintain power and control typically include physical abuse and assault. Other tactics include isolation, emotional abuse, intimidation, and threats.

Family Support Services offers support groups for domestic violence victims, battering intervention groups for offenders, legal advocacy, ongoing counseling, shelter for victims, safety planning, 24-hour crisis hotline (374-LIFE), prevention

education for any community group, and play therapy for young children who have experienced domestic violence.

Please speak up when you witness abuse and don't look the other way. It is up to all of us to examine our own beliefs and actions and to do our part in ending domestic violence.



*Janet*

Janet Byars

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month: A Time To Break The Silence

The Crisis Services Division of Family Support Services has announced several events to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

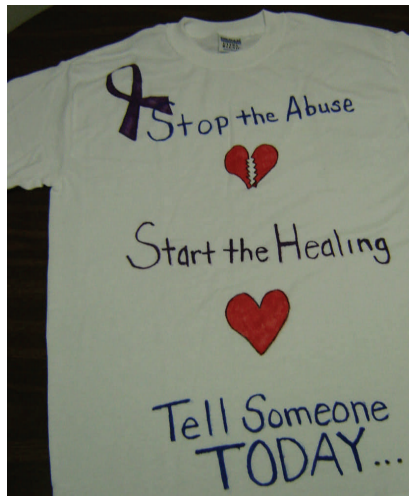
The Amarillo City Commission will sign a proclamation declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness month on Oct. 14 at 3pm.

Clients have designed t-shirts with messages about domestic violence. The shirts are on display at FSS.

Placemats with facts about domestic violence are on display at participating restaurants.

Television and radio public service announcements will run throughout the month.

A Domestic Violence Awareness television campaign, funded by the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health in Amarillo and



produced by Univision, will educate Hispanic women.

Shelter clients and staff have prepared thank you cards for local law enforcement.

FSS will distribute purple ribbons throughout the month.



### End of An Era

Polk St. Boutique, the thrift shop operated by Family Support Services since 2000, closed as of October 1st. FSS leadership hopes to utilize the space for future growth.

Clients of Family Support Services will still be provided clothing for emergency needs through a Resource Room on the premises. In addition, the agency has entered an agreement with Downtown Women's Center to provide clothing and household goods to FSS clients.

# News from our Divisions

## Education Division

The Education Division now offers an eight-week Skills for Life Class. Topics covered include communication skills, career mapping, self-awareness, health and wellness, budgeting and using credit wisely. The program will be offered three times a year and there is a \$10 per class fee. For information, contact Chris Griego at 342-2538.

The Families and Schools Together team has recently begun new cycles at Whittier Elementary and Horace Mann Middle School. Families from Carver Academy are also participating at Whittier. Two members of the FAST Youth Group at Mann are members of the United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet.

Education Director Brandi Reed was named FSS Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2008. Brandi serves as FSS' Loaned Executive for United Way and also as the agency's United Way campaign coordinator.



## Crisis Division

The Family Violence Shelter recently received a \$20,000 one-year grant from the Mary Kay Ash Foundation. The Foundation assists family violence shelters across the United States.

Five new Crisis Volunteers graduated from training recently. The next Crisis Volunteer training class will begin in January. The 30-hour program trains volunteers to serve as advocates for victims of sexual assault and family violence. After the training and a period of shadowing an experienced volunteer or staff person, the new volunteer signs up for on-call shifts and goes to the hospital to assist victims in the emergency room. For more information, contact Volun-

teer Coordinator LaViza Hollingsworth at 342-2532.

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## SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

If your organization would like to schedule a presentation on primary prevention of family violence or sexual assault, please contact Angela Stovall at 342-2527.

## Behavioral Health & Wellness Division

BHW Director Molly Rafferty and Supervised Access Visitation and Education (SAVE) Coordinator Barbara Hughes recently attended the annual Access & Visitation Conference in Austin. The primary topic was "fragile families," which will be the focus of SAVE funding in the future.

Family Support Services offers an eight-week **Anger Management** course, held Tuesday nights 6pm-7:30pm. Enrollment is continuous. For information, contact Rodney Goff at 342-2513.



**Youth enjoys FASTWORKS, a follow-up program for those who have graduated from Families and Schools Together (FAST), during a picnic outing.**

## Center City Child Care

Center City Child Care has 15 pre-school students preparing for kindergarten with teachers Sabrena Anderson and Leah Tomblin. The class utilizes the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) which helps assure successful entry into school.

## Bell Helicopter Training Event



Employees of Bell Helicopter conducted a Six Sigma "Waste Walk" training event at FSS Sept. 25-26. They examined various areas of the agency's facilities and operations and made many helpful recommendations. Thanks to these team members:

Green Belts - Robert Trevino, Ed Mathes, Bob Leder, Davinia Chism, David Platz, Jason Henderson, Victor Huebner, Brian Blandford, Davida Dane, Jesse Valle, Brad Blenden, Mike Mullins, Jay Smith, Jim Regan, Ric Powell, Duston Morrow, Jeff Knobloch, Tom Priest, Randy Wheeler, Juan Romero, Lary Blankinship, Kevin Henry, Adam Cope, Mel Ballard, Lance Bodine, and Fred Winchester; Black Belts - Mike Rivera, Bill Villard, Barbara Drolet, Steve Crist, Julie Sutton, Denise McFather, Don Cersovsky, Ross Raburn, Linberg Hezekiah, and Mark Redus.

Special thanks to FSS Board member and Waste Walk coordinator Mike Rivera for making the training event possible.

# Thank you to our Generous Donors

Gifts from individuals and businesses, foundations, state and federal grants, the United Way of Amarillo and Canyon, and many other entities all enable Family Support Services to help individuals and families. We could not accomplish our mission or offer more than 40 programs to the community without such generous support. During fiscal year 2008, FSS received support from the following:

Amarillo Area Foundation  
Amarillo Independent School District  
Amarillo National Bank  
Bank of America  
Bivins Foundation  
Brumley Foundation  
Centergas Fuels  
City of Amarillo  
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Dr. Charles R. Kelly  
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M.H. Little  
Kayla McCoy  
Raenell McDonough  
Office of the Attorney General of Texas  
Leslie O'Loughlin  
Parmer County  
Permian Basin Area Foundation  
Polk Street United Methodist Church  
W.E. Scott, Jr.  
Shelter Alliance  
Cheryl Stallings  
Bill and Billye Talley  
Texas Dept. of Family Protective Services  
Toot'n Totum Food Stores  
Trevans, Wells Fargo Bank  
United Way of Amarillo and Canyon

United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet  
Wal-Mart  
Loyd and Miki Warren  
Western Builders  
*In Memory of Michael Dick*  
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Bright and Theresa Newhouse  
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Rusty Roush, CPA  
***Harley Party 2008 Food and Beverage Vendors***  
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Chili's  
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# Thank you to our Generous Donors

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## ***September 2008 Donors***

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Robert R. Leder  
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W.E. Scott, Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Bob Stafford



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*Celebrating 100 Years of Service*

## Congratulations, Harley Winners!

A second straight sell-out crowd enjoyed Harley Party 14 on July 26, 2008. The event raised a record \$86,834.89 to support the programs and mission of Family Support Services.

Bright “Bubba” and Theresa Newhouse of Clarendon, long-time sponsors of the Harley Party, were the winners of the reverse drawing for a limited edition Rocker C Harley valued at about \$20,000.

This event would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of hundreds of community volunteers and the financial support of businesses and individuals (see newsletter insert). Special thanks goes to this year’s Harley Committee: Cheryl Stallings, chairperson; Bryan Hedrick, co-chairperson and facilities; Jason Tripp, bike show; Janey Walter, Mike Fogiel and Christy Bertolino, food; Jinger White and Gina Watts, tickets; Sheryl Barron and Natalie Woods, volunteers; Dan Gorman, entertainment; Mike Rivera and Mary Kay Kuhrts, sponsorships; Scott Stark, number board; Erin Palacio, concessions; Steve Brown, consultant.



Harley Party Co-Chairs Cheryl Stallings and Bryan Hedrick, along with Jason Tripp of Tripp’s Harley-Davidson, congratulate Bright “Bubba” and Theresa Newhouse of Clarendon, winners of the 2008 Rocker C.