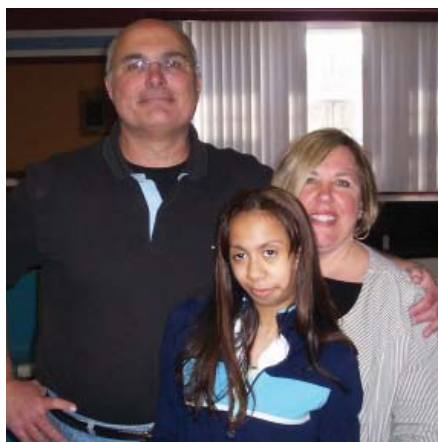


Helping people live positive and productive lives....since 1854

“Mentoring Out Loud” Reaches Out to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

“Mentoring Out Loud” (MOL) is a special mentoring program at Family Service that matches deaf or hard of hearing children with a “Big” (mentor) who is skilled in American Sign Language (ASL). In addition to meeting one-on-one with a Big, these children participate in group events



Mike & Sherrie Carroll with their MOL Mentee, Caroline

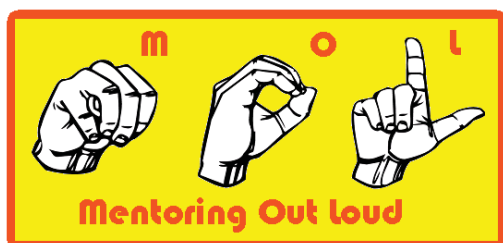
1-2 times per month. Group outings give MOL participants a chance to socialize with other deaf students outside of school.

Many of the children enrolled in the MOL program live in homes where no one in the family knows sign language, or can only communicate

on a basic level. As a result, they are very isolated and look forward to having the chance to communicate with peers and Bigs as part of the MOL program.

MOL currently has five children matched with adult mentors skilled in ASL and there are eight more waiting for mentors. Mentors are matched with kids based on geographic location, shared interests, personality and their ASL skill level.

If you, or someone you know is ASL fluent, please contact Amelia Paini at (978) 327-6642 or apaini@familyserviceinc.com to find out more about the program.



Family Service is the Only Agency in the State to Receive Parent Education Grant

In April, 2008, the **Children’s Trust Fund**, a quasi-state agency that supports parent education programs in Massachusetts, announced that it would award one grant in the state to a nonprofit to provide “The Parenting Journey” parent education classes. Knowing the struggles that many parents in Greater Lawrence face to raise healthy children, Family Service applied for the highly competitive grant. In late August, we received the good news. Family Service was awarded the grant and will hold its first group class beginning in December 2008.

The Parenting Journey is geared toward parents who have not had the kind of upbringing that lays a solid foundation for their own job as parents. The curriculum was developed by “The Family Center” in Somerville, MA, as a child abuse prevention program and has been well received by both parents and providers.

The Parenting Journey differs from traditional parent education
(Continued on Page 2)

The Crisis of Child Abuse in Massachusetts

- Massachusetts has the 2nd highest rate of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in the country. The rate in MA is twice the national average.
- The number of children reported as abused and neglected during 2007 in Massachusetts (which totaled 14,421) increased 12 children per day from 2006.
- The number of children confirmed as abused or neglected during 2007 in Massachusetts—37,209 children—would fill Fenway Park. Half were age seven and younger.

More information can be found at www.mctf.org

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The Parenting Journey *(Cont. from Page 1)*

classes. Rather than focusing on specific parenting skills, The Parenting Journey helps parents improve their self-esteem and self-awareness, which program developers believe is a necessary first step before skills-based education can be effective.

"We are honored to have been chosen by the Children's Trust Fund" says Kay Berthold Frishman, Executive Director. "The Parenting Journey will complement our other parenting programs and fill a real need in this community." The grant award will last four years, during which time Family Service hopes to reach 150 parents.

Parents and providers interested in learning more about the Parenting Journey are invited to contact Lisette Cid at 978-327-6622 or lcid@familyserviceinc.com



Family Service Welcomes New Board & Advisory Board Members

Richard (Rip) Haak joins us as Assistant Treasurer. Rip most recently was the CFO of EqualLogic, in Nashua, NH, and was responsible for their financial, legal, and human resource functions. He has served as Chairperson and Treasurer of the Christ Church Children's Center and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife, Nancy Weyer-Haak, live in Andover and have three children.

Matt Kushner, of Hookset, New Hampshire, works for Comcast Corporation and volunteers his time as a member of the National Society of Hispanic M.B.A.'s and the Cable and Telecommunications Association for Marketing.

Norah McCarthy has years of experience in the field of education as a past principal and Director of Academics in the City of Lawrence and finished her career in the Andover Public School system. She remains active in the Andover Coalition for Education and lives in Andover with her husband, son and sister-in-law.

Jeannie M. Scarpa, owner of JMS Designs of Interiors, LLC., is a board member of Northern Essex Community College, the Boston Medical Center and the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, and is affiliated with the American Society of Interior Designers and the Boston Design Center. Mrs. Scarpa has received awards for her service with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and was recently honored by "Cambridge Who's Who". She lives in Andover with her husband, Carmen, and their three children.

Family Service is also sad to note the passing of two past Board Presidents: **Rev. David Blanchard**, Minister Emeritus of North Parish Church in Andover, who served on the Family Service Board of Directors from 1972 - 1984 and was President in 1976; and **Priscilla Anderson** who served on the Board from 1974 - 1984 and was president from 1977-79, during which time Family Service greatly expanded its counseling and adoption services.

“Project Venture” Program Teams Up with Merrimack Valley Striders and TriFury

Family Service’s Project Venture youth program participants are in the best shape of their lives after diligently cross training (running and biking) for an entire month under the guidance of volunteers from the **Merrimack Valley Striders (M.V.S.)** and **TriFury** triathlon team. Project Venture participants completed their very first duathlon at the **Merrimack Valley YMCA Camp Otter** in May 2008.

Thank you to all the M.V.S. and TriFury volunteers, especially **Sharon Johnson** who lead all the training activities, warm-ups, and coached everyone to push harder.

And congratulations to all the participants of the duathlon. Your hard work certainly is to be admired!



Project Venture participants relax with TriFury and M.V.S. volunteers after a training session at Phillips Academy in Andover

Save the Dates

Family Service has a fun-filled year of special events planned for our 2009 fiscal year. Put these dates on your calendar, and we hope to see you there!

Bowl A Strike for Kids • October 24, 2008 • Pilgrim Lanes, Haverhill • Bowl A Strike for Kids is Family Service’s fundraising event to benefit the organization’s mentoring programs. See more on page 4.

Community Service Award Reception • November 13, 2008 • 60 Island Street, Lawrence • Presented to the Sidell Family. Ticket price (\$45.00 per person) includes complimentary wine, beer, nonalcoholic beverages and hors d’ oeuvres.

Latin Dance Night • January 23, 2009 • 60 Island Street, Lawrence • Hit the dance floor to learn the salsa, cha cha, merengue and more. Ticket price (TBD) will include light Latin fair, auction and raffle opportunities, door prizes, Latin Dance CD, and a dance exposition.

Rhapsody Gala • May 8, 2009 • Andover Country Club • Family Service’s signature dinner and auction gala is the main fundraising event for the year.

For additional event information, or to purchase tickets online, please visit www.familyserviceinc.com/events



CASA Welcomes New Volunteers

Family Service’s CASA program is pleased to welcome its newest group of volunteers who will advocate in court for abused and neglected children. CASA is always looking for dedicated volunteers who want to make a difference in the life of a child. For more information, please contact Connie Ricketts at 978-327-6615, email casa@familyserviceinc.com, or visit www.essexcountycasa.org.



(R to L) Lauren Daley, Victor Corbin, Les Lipkind, Honorable Mark Newman, Heidi Gengenbach, Linda Twomey, Michelle Hoven

Bowl A Strike for Kids ~ It's Not to Late to Join the Fun!



The mentoring programs of Family Service, "Big Friends Little Friends" (formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lawrence) and "AMIGOS" are hosting "Bowl A Strike for Kids" on Friday, October 24, 2008 to raise money to match youth with caring adult mentors.

Join the fun! Create a team to raise money for kids who need a mentor, then come and bowl for free at Pilgrim Lanes in Haverhill, MA. Food and prizes are included, making this a fun outing for friends, families and co-workers!

Family Service requests that each team member raise \$125.00 in sponsorships, all of which will go to supporting currently existing mentor/mentee matches and expanding the programs to match more young people with positive adult role models in the coming year.

For more information, call Mary Lyman at 978-327-6648, email mlyman@familyserviceinc.com or visit www.firstgiving.com/familyserviceinc.

Bowl A Strike for Kids has been generously sponsored by:



"This event isn't about bowling. It's about making sure that kids are able to have a positive adult role model in their lives. It's about mentoring. And mentoring works!"

Leah Feroce

Big Friends Little Friends

Program Coordinator

Family Service relies on the generosity of donors who make tax-deductible contributions to help us strengthen families. You may make a secure online contribution by going to www.FamilyServiceInc.com/giving.



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Family Service, Inc. is a member of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce