

## SAVE THE DATES

### FAMILY FEVER

**When:** Friday, November 13, 2009

**Where:** Chester's at 60 Island Street, Lawrence, MA

**Why:** Dance Party to Benefit Family Service and its CASA Program

### BOWL A STRIKE FOR KIDS

**When:** Friday, January 29, 2010

**Where:** Pilgrim Lanes, Haverhill, MA

**Why:** Bowl-a-thon to raise needed funds to support Family Service's mentoring programs.

## FAMILY SERVICE REACCREDITED

Family Service has once again been accredited by the Council on Accreditation, Inc. Accreditation affirms that Family Service provides the highest level of quality service and that its administration and finances adhere to industry best practices.

This important designation means that Family Service's clients, donors, volunteers and staff can have confidence in the credibility and integrity of the organization.

## YOUTH PROGRAM KIDS COMPLETE DUATHLON

Family Service's Project Venture program helps disadvantaged kids learn that they can reach any goal they set for themselves. This important life lesson was learned by 12 Project Venture participants on June 20, 2009 when they completed a 4-mile all-terrain duathlon (run-bike-run).

Thanks to the **Merrimack Valley YMCA** and the **TriFury Triathlon Team** who worked with the Project Venture group throughout the spring to get them ready for this physical challenge.



*The top three female Duathlon finishers (L to R): Dayrelis Acevedo, Celine Dejesus, Nyomy Nolberto*

"I loved watching these kids give it their all. Their individual commitments and support for each other was inspiring. Every one of them earned their official 'Duathlete' status." ~ *TriFury Volunteer, Suzanne Kavanagh*



*Project Venture kids head out for the running portion of the duathlon.*

All of the TriFury volunteers have gained so much from this sport - it's a privilege to give back and help kids that might not otherwise have this opportunity. ~ *Sharon Johnson, YMCA Performance Training Program Director*

## RHAPSODY WRAP-UP



*Carolyn McInnis DiGiammo participating in Rhapsody's live auction*

Even in these tough economic times, Family Service supporters showed that they are still willing to invest in strengthening families! Family Service's annual Rhapsody Gala was held at the Andover Country Club on Friday, May 8. Over 300 people attended and helped the agency raise \$130,000, exceeding our goal for the event.

Once again **Dave Fazio** captured the room's attention for the live auction, assisted by **Carmen Scarpa** and also by **Peter Anderson** who helped Family Service recognize his mother, Priscilla

*Continued on Page 2*

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*Rhapsody...Continued from Page 1*

Anderson's years of service on the FSI Board of Directors. **Cindy Campbell of WCVB** moved the silent auction along, and the **Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation** once again lent their support to the event.

Our deep gratitude goes to everyone on the Rhapsody Event Committee, who work year-round to make each year more fun and profitable than the last.

**Event Committee**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Louann Basillio | Mary Lyman       |
| Richard Bass    | Maryanne Manozzi |
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| Mary Beth Finn  | *Co-Chairs       |
| Diane Huster    |                  |
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Special thanks also to our lead sponsors, whose support made this year's event a fundraising success.

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*Event Photos (Top to Bottom, L to R): Mary Beth Finn, Thyra Sherman, Sharon Coon, Louann Basillio, Judy Reghitto, Lisa McDonald, Hope Fabiani, Miss Massachusetts Alicia Zitka, Rosey Gonzalez, Jeannie Scarpa.*

**FAMILY SERVICE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Family Service, Inc. is pleased to welcome the following people to its Board of Directors and Advisory Board. The following begin their term on October 1, 2009: **Solanda Slaughter, Tad Bickford, Ed Deyton, Bob Cuomo, Judy Cronin, Kathy Hammond, Lisa Pustis, Jay Raghaven, Justine Quimby, Peter Reed, Jim Santangelo and Hank Sennott.**

## SAMARITANS AND BALLARD VALE UNITED CHURCH TEAM UP FOR TEENS

A couple years back, the Outreach Committee of the **Ballard Vale United Church** in Andover approached Family Service and asked if there was a project for which their church members could be helpful and make a long-term impact on the community. Family Service had just the project: bringing back the Samaritans' Teen Crisis Line.

Over 10 years ago, the Samaritans of Merrimack Valley (when it existed as an independent nonprofit) operated a phone line staffed by teen volunteers answering calls from teens in crisis. The line was eventually closed due to funding, but the need did not end. In fact, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that suicide is the third-leading cause of death for 15 to 24-year-olds in this country.

In 2008 and 2009, the members of the Ballard Vale United Church dedicated themselves to raising the funds necessary to re-open the teen line. We are pleased to announce that the line is once again operational and providing much needed support for young people in our community. The dedicated phone line (978-688-TEEN) enables young people in crisis to receive "TLC" (Talking, Listening, Caring) from a trained peer.

Teen volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Debbie Helms at 978-327-6671 or email: [Samaritans@familyserviceinc.com](mailto:Samaritans@familyserviceinc.com).

### TEEN SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Disinterest in favorite extracurricular activities
- Substance abuse, including alcohol and illegal and legal drugs
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns
- Neglecting hygiene and personal appearance
- Complaints of physical pain (aches, fatigue, migraines)
- Hard time concentrating and making decisions
- Declining grades in school/increased absences from school
- Risk taking behaviors
- Giving away prized possessions
- Using death themes in art and writing

If someone you know is exhibiting some of these signs, **get them help**. Talking with them is often the first step. You can also call:

- Samaritan teen line: 978-688-TEEN (8336)
- Samaritan help line: 978-327-6607 or 1-866-912-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

You can also talk with parents, family, friends, a counselor or therapist, teacher, coach, doctor or religious leader. In any case that you feel there is immediate danger, call 911.

## MAKING MILESTONES MORE MEANINGFUL

Several Family Service supporters have turned life milestones and accomplishments into opportunities to raise funds for an organization that they believe in. If you are interested in making a milestone in your life more meaningful by raising funds for Family Service, please call our Development Department at 978-327-6639.

- ▶ Long time Family Service supporters, **Paul and Lesley Whitley** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past Spring. To celebrate this milestone, the Whitley's requested that their family and friends make charitable contributions to Family Service and several other local nonprofits. Happy Anniversary to the Whitleys ... and Thank You!
- ▶ When **Jocelyn Cascio** set out to compete at the Ford Ironman Triathlon in Lake Placid, NY on July 26, 2009, her motivation wasn't just to complete the 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike and 26.2 mile run, she also raced to raise money for Family Service. Jocelyn chose Family Service as the beneficiary of her fundraising efforts after volunteering with the Project Venture program to train kids to complete a duathlon (run-bike-run) in 2008. Congratulations to Jocelyn on her impressive achievement!



*Jocelyn Cascio at the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon, making 112 miles on the bike look fun.*

## PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS SPRING INTO ACTION

**Advocates for Kids:** The **Honorable José Sanchez** swore in six new Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers in July 2009. These volunteers have been specially trained to help the Judge make informed decisions in cases of child abuse and neglect. Family Service's CASA program supports a total of 45 volunteers who advocate in court for 100 abused and neglected children. We are happy to add these six individuals to our volunteer roster and to be able to help even more child victims. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, visit [www.essexcountycasa.org](http://www.essexcountycasa.org).

**Youth Mentors:** As kids head back to school this September, they have the opportunity to learn all sorts of new things...not all of them positive. For kids who are growing up with out a positive role model, having a mentor is what keeps them on the right path and away from activities that could jeopardize their safety. Family Service is pleased to offer a variety of mentoring programs that help kids stay on track. Be the difference...Become a mentor! For more information on mentoring opportunities, visit [www.familyserviceinc.com/opportunities](http://www.familyserviceinc.com/opportunities).



*Newly sworn in CASA Volunteers (Left to Right): Kate Duffield, Deborah Armstrong, Michael Paolino, Pam Canning, Kristin Shavers and Chris Ann Smith with The Honorable Judge José Sanchez.*

**BREAKING NEWS:** Family Service was just notified that it has been awarded a grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to expand its mentoring programs! This highly competitive grant award will focus on providing mentors to students in the Lawrence Public Schools who are at risk of dropping out. More information coming soon...!

**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](http://www.FamilyServiceInc.com/giving).**

Family Service, Inc. is a member of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, Inc.



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