

## MENTORING ~ ONE VOLUNTEER'S STORY

Through Family Service's Big Friends Little Friends program, I have been Justin's "Big" for over a year and I cannot express in words how great an experience it has been! When we first met, Justin and I both were a little quiet. We got along very well, but we were slightly unsure of each other. But very quickly -- after time spent going to the library, playing basketball, or going down to the bowling alley -- we got to know each other better and better.

Here we are still, a year and a half later, hanging out almost every Sunday, seeming like a pair of lifelong buddies. Not only do Justin and I enjoy our diversion from everyday life, but we also learn from each other. Justin remembers to open a door for a stranger and I am reminded to be polite. I stop and look both ways in the parking lot and Justin is reminded to exercise caution. It is truly wonderful that we are able to learn and smile at the same time.

It's not about the things we talk about or the activities we do. It's about us being together. Family Service allows the Big Friends Little Friends program to happen and, in turn, the program allows Justin and I to lead better lives.

~ Mentor, John Dowaliby

## YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAMS EXPAND!

Providing young people with positive adult role models is the most effective way to help kids succeed in life! Family Service is proud to support 255 youth-mentor matches in its five mentoring programs.

Since 2007, Family Service's youth mentoring programs have expanded dramatically! We now offer a variety of opportunities for adults looking to give back -- and for youth looking to reach their full potential. Family Service's youth mentoring programs include:

- **GRAD** (Graduation Results in Achieving Dreams) focuses on matching mentors with young people identified as very high risk for dropping out of the Lawrence Public School.
- **AMIGOs** (Achieving More Improved Grades and Opportunities) provided academic mentoring, during the school day, to students in Lawrence middle schools.
- **Big Friends Little Friends** carries on the tradition of community-based mentoring by



Alan Collopy (Left) and his mentee, Nick, take in a Red Sox game at "Mentoring Night" at Fenway Park, 2009.

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## "FAMILY FEVER" DISCO DANCE BENEFIT FOR CASA



L to R: Anna Rivera, Racquel Mendez, Rosey Gonzalez

Certainly a good time was had by all on November 13, 2009 at Family Service's "Family Fever" Disco Dance. The event was held to raise funds to support Family Service's CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program. We are happy to report that, with the generosity of so many, we exceeded our goal and raised over \$20,000 for CASA.

The CASA program uses specially trained volunteers to advocate in court for children who

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have been abused and neglected. CASA currently advocates for 75 children in the Lawrence Juvenile and Newburyport District Courts. The money raised at the Disco Dance event will help CASA continue to advocate for kids, even as program funding from the state has been eliminated.

Thank you to our Event Committee, especially the event Co-Chairs, **Justine Quimby, Kathy Hammond and Norah McCarthy.**

Thank you also to our generous event sponsors:

- The Smith Family**
- Polartec**
- GES Realty**
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*Event Photos (Top to Bottom, L to R): Dutchy Goossen, Julie Bernardin, Kathy Skala, Thyra Sherman, Andrea Spang, Justine Quimby, Chris St. Jean, and Cindy Hanlon.*

**MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT FAMILY SERVICE**

So many individuals and businesses give generously to Family Service each year – and to them, we are extremely grateful! Family Service is pleased to provide many different giving options to those who wish to help us strengthen families:

- **Monthly Giving** - How much do you spend for coffee each month? \$10.00? \$15.00? Over a year, you could give a significant gift to Family Service through monthly installments equal to what you spend on coffee each month.
- **Automobile Donation** - Donate your used vehicle to Family Service and you will help us strengthen families and receive a tax deduction for your contribution.
- **In-kind Donations** - Have a special item, talent or certificate that you would like to share? Consider an in-kind donation to support one of our many auction and raffle fundraisers.
- **Event Sponsorship** - If you are interested in supporting Family Service and promoting your business, then event sponsorship is right for you. Family Service works hard to give our event sponsors significant publicity in recognition of their charitable support.
- **Gifts of Securities** - Family Service is able to accept gifts of appreciated securities.

For more information on these giving options, please visit [www.FamilyServiceInc.com/Giving](http://www.FamilyServiceInc.com/Giving).

## WINTER IS A GOOD TIME FOR A WALK IN THE WOODS

Not ones to let cold temperatures and a little snow get in their way, the young people who participate in Family Service's Project Venture program spent time hiking at Pinkham Notch this past December.

*“It was cold and we walked far. It was hard, just like life. But I was able to overcome it. And that's why I like this program”*

*~ Giomaris, age 13*

Family Service's Project Venture program helps kids gain important life skills in the areas of communication, leadership development and problem solving. These skills are taught largely through outdoor experiential education activities that require young people to work hard and achieve a positive goal. Thank you to the **New Balance Foundation** and the **Highland Street Foundation** for their generous support of Project Venture!



## EAP UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE ~ [WWW.FAMILYSERVICEINC.COM/EAP](http://WWW.FAMILYSERVICEINC.COM/EAP)



Family Service's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides confidential, accessible services to employers and employees that help to restore and strengthen the health and productivity of employees and the workplace.

Accessing EAP services just got a lot easier for our client companies. Family Service is pleased to unveil its new EAP website at [www.familyserviceinc.com/EAP](http://www.familyserviceinc.com/EAP). There, employers and employees can find information and forms that facilitate easy and confidential access to EAP services, as well as bulletins and newsletters on workplace health related topics.

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- matching young people from throughout the Merrimack Valley with adults, couples and families.
- **Mentoring Out Loud** provides group programming and matches young people who are deaf or hard of hearing with an adult mentor fluent in American Sign Language.
- **Mentoring Children of Promise** provides one-on-one mentoring for young people from throughout Merrimack Valley who have a parent or caretaker who is incarcerated.

There are many children on our waiting list to be matched with a mentor. Be the difference for them. Become a mentor. For more information, call Lina at 978-327-6638, e-mail [lserna@familyserviceinc.com](mailto:lserna@familyserviceinc.com), or visit [www.FamilyServiceinc.com/Programs](http://www.FamilyServiceinc.com/Programs).

## BECOME A MENTOR AND GET A FREE DAY AT DISNEY

Disney is providing a thank you gift for becoming a mentor. Through Disney's "Give A Day. Get A Disney Day" Family Service volunteers will receive a complimentary one-day admission pass to Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort. Current and interested volunteers should visit [www.disneyparks.com/celebrate](http://www.disneyparks.com/celebrate) to sign up.

# Paint the Town Red



## Reserve the Date

Friday, May 7, 2010 at 6:30 PM

Andover Country Club

Event Emcee, Susan Wornick, WCVB Boston

*Please Join Us For:*

*Family Service's Rhapsody Gala*

*Dinner*

*Dancing*

*Auction*

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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