Newsletter

Family Support

Community Development Center



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Family Support Walk-N-Roll 2014



Brrrr! It was a very cold November morning for our walk this year, but that didn't stop families from participating in the 3rd Annual Family Support Walk-N-Roll fund raiser. We actually had more participants than ever.... 60 in all, with 20 of those served by FS either here or represented by family. Most of our morning was spent inside with plenty of hot chocolate and warm cider on hand, along with cookies, crafts and lots of door prizes! It was a great time of fellowship. We did make it outside for a couple of laps and this wonderful group picture!

The Purpose for our "Walk - N - Roll"

The idea for our walk began out of the need for a fundraiser for our FS program. As with most state-funded programs, there's never enough dollars to go around, and with more than 100 on our waiting list and ever increasing costs to administer the Program, the Local Council saw the need to raise additional funds.

The Walk is growing in popularity, which is wonderful, but even with more participants this year our fundraising dollars dropped. We raised just under \$1,000 (\$138 less than last year to be exact). So what's the solution? An event where the opportunity for fellowship remains, but at the same time raises the funds we are needing. The Local Council will be discussing this at their next meeting on January 12, and if you have any ideas we would sure welcome them. Also, there were a couple of families who didn't make it to the Walk, but were still going to try getting donations for the Program. If you were able to raise some funds, go ahead and send those in; it's never too late!

We'll let you know the plans for this year's Walk as we meet to sign up for the new fiscal year in the Spring.



This group didn't mind being inside at all! (Look closely at the picture. Can you find all **six** children???)



New Priorities Place Greater Importance On <u>You</u> Being at Sign-Ups This Spring! The selection process for the Local Council to allocate funding has changed.

Children have always been a top priority for The Family Support Program, and that hasn't changed. For this FS program, though, if you were already receiving services (child or adult) and the need was still there, then you were a priority when it came time to allocate funding in the new fiscal year. This has changed. Toward the end of this fiscal year, the Local Council will look at everyone in each county, those who are receiving services AND those who are waiting for services. We are currently serving 192 families and have 107 waiting for services, which means the Council will be reviewing the needs of at least 299 families when making the decision on how to allocate state funding.

For you this means, when it comes time for the Local Council to allocate funding, they need to know as much about you (the person being served by FS) and your needs for the new fiscal year as possible. This is why it will be very important for you to come to the sign-up time in your area and meet with Christy. Sign-ups will be in the Spring. Information will be included in the next newsletter. (After receiving the information about signing up, you realize you won't be able to make it, you will have to make other arrangements with Christy.)

Time to Write and Call Your Legislators!

Family Support Program Faces Being Cut from DIDD Budget, Yet Once Again

It goes without saying that each year about this time we are sharing the news that the Family Support Program is in jeopardy of losing our state-wide funding. And while thankfully, each year we have been included by the Governor in his budget, the worry still exists, and we need your help. It's time for letters, calls, emails and personal visits.

After several years of this uncertainty we feel our legislators know **who** Family Support is, but they need to be reminded **how** important Family Support is to you and your family. And we want to thank them for our funding for this year. Stories and a picture are what you need to share, and get your family and friends involved, too.

"Disability Day on the Hill" is set for February 4, 2015. This is a great day to visit with your legislators in person, just call ahead for an appointment. Representatives from the Community Development Center will be there to advocate for the future of Family Support. The Governor has asked each department to include a 7% reduction in their proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016. DIDD's budget includes **completely** cutting funds to the Family Support Program. Let's remind Governor Haslam and our legislators why this cut makes no sense and would hurt so many families.

Keep in touch. Let us know what you are doing, and especially any responses you get from your legislators. Feel free to give the office a call at 931-684-7673, if you have any questions about what to say, or how to make contact with your legislators.

Governor Bill Haslam

Governor's Office TN State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243-0001 bill.haslam@tn.gov

State Senate

(Dist. 16 - Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Van Buren and Warren counties)

Senator Janice Bowling

301 6th Avenue North Suite 310 War Memorial Bldng. Nashville, TN 37243 615-741-6694 sen.janice.bowling@capitol.tn.gov

(Dist. 14 - Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore and parts of Rutherford)

Senator Jim Tracy

301 6th Avenue North Suite 2 Legislative Plaza Nashville, TN 37243 615-741-1066 615-741-2255 (fax) sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

State House of Representatives

Dist. 39- Moore and part of Franklin, Marion counties

Representative David Alexander

301 6th Avenue North Suite 107 War Memorial Bldng. 615-741-8695 675-253-0314 (fax) Nashville, TN 37243 rep.david.alexander@capitol.tn.gov

Dis. 47- Coffee and part of Warren counties

Representative Judd Matheny

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Dist. 92- Marshall and part of Franklin, Lincoln, Marion counties

Representative Billy Spivey

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Dist. 62- Bedford and part of Lincoln counties

Representative Pat Marsh

301 6th Avenue North Suite G-19A War Memorial Bldg. Nashville, TN 37243 615-741-6824 615-253-0344 (fax) rep.pat.marsh@capitol.tn.gov



The absolute deadline for turning in all receipts and invoices is May 15, 2015.

Disability Day on the Hill Wed., February 4, 2015

Make an appointment to meet with your legislators.

Mark your calendar!

NEEDING donated items for the sale. Thanks!

FS Yard Sale Saturday, April 18 Shelbyville More details to come!

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER 111 EAGLETTE WAY SHELBYVILLE, TN 37160