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Pictured: Mike Dominisse, Lisa Dominisse, FSSI President/CEO and Congresswoman Susan Brooks at the 28th Annual Crystal Ball

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Family Service Society, Inc. earns Three-Year CARF Accreditation

The Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International announced that Family Service Society, Inc. has been accredited for a period of three years in the following programs:



- Case Management/Services for Adults, Children and Adolescents
- Outpatient Treatment: Alcohol and other Drugs/Addictions for Adults
- Outpatient Treatment Mental Health services for Adults, Children and Adolescents

This is the first accreditation that the international accrediting body, CARF, has given to Family Service Society, Inc.

“Accreditation demonstrates FSSI’s commitment to reducing risk, addressing health and safety

concerns, respecting cultural and individual preferences and providing the best possible quality of care.” said Lisa Dominisse, President/CEO of Family Service Society, Inc. “Accreditation is a public statement that our organization strives to ensure that our services are of the highest possible quality.”

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

Family Service Society, Inc. will be holding an hors d’oeuvres reception for the community in celebration of this designation on April 12, 2018, from 4 pm to 6 pm, with remarks at 5 pm, at 101 S. Washington St. Marion, IN 46952. It is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

To learn more about CARF– www.carf.org

28th Annual Crystal Ball sets Fundraising record with over \$71,000 donated

Family Service Society, Inc. held its 28th Annual Crystal Ball on Saturday, February 24, 2018. The Crystal Ball is a fundraiser that benefits services and programming provided by Family Service Society, Inc. to help change lives for good.

Iris Brunner, Marketing & Development Director of Family Service Society, Inc., said, "We came into this evening with a minimum goal of raising \$60,000; and to ultimately bring in over \$71,000 in a single fundraising event is game changing for us at FSSI. We are thrilled with this outcome and inspired by the generosity of our community. To say thank you alone will fall short of showing our appreciation to those who support the work that is done here at FSSI. We look forward to helping many change their lives for good."

The evening featured a dinner, auction and dancing. Indiana District 31 House Representative Kevin Mahan served as emcee for the evening's program and auctioneer for the live auction.

"It was such a pleasure serving as emcee and auctioneer for Family Service Society. The team at FSSI is on the front lines working with children and families and making our communities stronger. I continue to be impressed and inspired by not only the programs and services provided, but the way in which the entire team considers how to get the best results for all the communities they serve," said Mahan.



Pictured: Mary Eckerle accepting History Award from Lisa Dominisse, President/CEO

Congresswoman Susan W. Brooks (R-IN05) was also in attendance for the evenings events, stating "It was an honor to be a part of the Crystal Ball and to be surrounded by so many supporters of Family Service Society as they celebrated their continued commitment to help our friends and neighbors in need."

Family Service Society, Inc. honored Mary Eckerle with the History Award at the event.

"Mary has served on the Family Service Society board of directors and committees over the course of our history and even after officially leaving the board, has remained engaged in committee work always with a focus on helping children and families. Additionally, Mary has provided wise council to me over my tenure at the agency and has provided that just in time cup of coffee when I really needed it. I consider her a dear friend of the agency and certainly a friend to me," stated Lisa Dominisse, President/CEO of Family Service Society, Inc.



Pictured: Tab McKenzie accepting Vision Award

The 2018 Vision Award went to Mississinewa Schools Corporation.

"Sometimes you come across a partner organization that sets a new standard for relationship—Mississinewa Schools Corporation has done just that in partnership with Family Service Society. The leadership in the Mississinewa schools have been willing to take risks and experiment with programs and services to students always with a focus on positively impacting the social and emotional learning of kids. We are so excited to honor their work in partnership with Family Service Society," said Dominisse.

Please Save the Date of Saturday, February 23, 2019, for the 29th Annual Crystal Ball. If you are interested in committing to sponsorship now please contact Iris Brunner (765) 662-9971 ext 103. For more information about the services provided by Family Service Society, Inc. and the mission we serve, please visit www.famservices.com.



April is **Child Abuse** Prevention Month

Child abuse is 100% preventable and we each play a part in keeping the children of our community safe. The most effective way to prevent child abuse is within communities that support parents and take responsibility for preventing abuse. Other protective factors include:

- Nurturing parenting skills
- Stable family relationships
- Household rules & child monitoring
- Parental employment
- Adequate housing
- Access to health care & social services
- Caring adults outside the family who serve as mentors

If you witness child abuse & neglect, please report it the Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-800-5556

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FSSI

Mississinewa Schools introduces Telehealth

Mississinewa Community Schools is thinking innovatively about students' social, emotional and physical health. MCS will be partnering with Family Service Society, Inc. and Marion General Hospital to provide Telehealth services that allow students to virtually meet with a counselor or healthcare physician without missing days at school or waiting for an appointment.

The services are for students who would benefit from receiving counseling or being seen by a licensed healthcare provider while at school and appointments can take place without a parent being present. Though, parents/guardians do have the option to be present.

The benefits of the program include:

- Seeing a counselor or healthcare physician anytime during the school day.
- No child is denied healthcare because of inability to pay.
- Children do not miss class.
- Parents/Guardians do not miss work.

For counseling services, the student and parent/guardian will first be seen in person at Family Service Society, Inc. to assess if the student would benefit from Telehealth services. Once the initial appointment is con-

ducted, parent/guardian gives consent for the student to receive confidential counseling services using a two-way video conferencing service.

When a student visits the school nurse with an illness, the nurse will decide if linking to a provider is necessary. Consent from parent/guardian will be collected for the student to be seen by an MGH healthcare provider. With special equipment, the medical provider can diagnose strep throat, rashes, pink eye, ear infections, influenza, bronchitis and more. The purpose of the clinic is not to replace your primary care physician but to improve access to care.

FSSI is excited to be on-board with MCS and their innovative approach to providing students with the best care to allow them to be the best students possible.

Should you have more questions or to make an appointment for your Mississinewa Community Schools student, please call (765) 662-9971 x 203

Hands of Hope gains National Attention

Hands of Hope, with the funding of a Delta Focus initiative Grant, has been working in our community to provide safe, stable, nurturing environments and relationships. For this work, Hands of Hope and the program has garnered national attention.

Some of the initiatives included renovating a city owned neighborhood green space called Barnes Park, implementing Natural Helpers, a Peaceful Bus program and a culture of respect at Mississinewa School Corporation.

In addition to these programs, the work also garnered some national attention including.

- Two national webinars hosted by Prevent Connect where Hands of Hope Director Linda Wilk facilitated nationwide training.
- The publication of PreventConnect/Prevention Institute report, *Toward Community Health and Justice: Themes and Summaries from the 2017 PreventConnect Web Conference Series*
- Two Center for Disease Control and Prevention Case Studies - on Barnes Park and about the programming at Mississinewa School Corporation.
- The printing of a web based Rural Health Information Hub (RHihub), that highlights the Peaceful Bus program at Mississinewa Schools and the Hands of Hope Prevention Education programming provided by Rosalyn Turcott in all Grant County schools.

While officially the Delta Focus initiative ended March 2 after five years of funding, the initiatives around safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments stays strong and will continue to be a significant focus of Hands of Hope as we continue to change the culture and norms around domestic violence.

Celebrating Families

FSSI is proud to announce the graduation of our first Celebrating Families class!

Celebrating Families is an evidence based behavioral support group for families that have struggled with addictions. The program works with every member of the family from ages newborn to adult to strengthen recovery, break the cycle of addiction and increase successful family reunification.

Great Work! We are proud of each of these families!



May is Mental Health Awareness Month



When you or someone you love is dealing with a mental health concern, sometimes it's a lot to handle. It's important to remember that mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. You do not have to make this journey alone. Family Service Society, Inc. can be a resource to provide you with the necessary help or connect you with an appropriate organization that can serve your needs.

If you or someone you know is struggling with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues, Family Service Society, Inc. can help. Please call, 765-662-9971 and we will get you to the right place for the right care. You do not have to struggle alone.

Grant County's Greatest Not-for-Profit Agency



Family Service Society, Inc. is proud to have been voted Grant County's Greatest Not-for-Profit Agency by the readers of the Chronicle Tribune.

Thank you for voting us Grant County's Greatest!

Calendar of Events

- April**—Child Abuse Prevention Month
12th: CARF celebration from 4-6 pm at FSSI
- May**—Mental Health Awareness Month
- June**—100 Good Men- Nominate your Good Men
- August 21, 2018** - Circle of Friends luncheon

FSSI Employee News 2018

Congrats & Celebrations

- **Congrats** to Brooke Whittman for achieving her CSAYC certification!
- **Congrats** to Karisa Vandeventer for achieving her LMHCA designation!

- **Celebration** of a great career— Help us wish Bobbie Stratton well on her retirement after 26 years.
- **Congrats** to Brett Boswinkle in his new role as Clinical Administrator of FSSI!

New Faces at Family Service Society, Inc.

We are proud to have a wonderful group of caring individuals who work at the Agency. Help us welcome our new teammates and celebrate our successes!

Welcome to the FSSI team!



Chyron Adams
Family Support Specialist



Melissa Armstrong
Recovery Coach



Ca'mella Fisher
Case Manager



Elizabeth Swanson
Recovery Coach



Alexandra Toy
Shelter Manager

Like what you are reading?

Help us change lives for Good! Donate today!



Family Service Society, Inc. • 101 S. Washington St. • Marion, IN 46952 • 765-662-9971 • www.famservices.com

To make a donation please visit our website or mail in a check made payable to Family Service Society, Inc.

