



Family Services, Inc.

An affiliate of Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Foundation

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For Immediate Release

Family Services Awarded Contract to Help Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

Gaithersburg, MD (September 30, 2010) – The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) has announced that Family Services, Inc. (FSI) has been awarded the Betty Ann Krahnke Center (BAK) contract to continue assisting women and children suffering from domestic violence and abuse. Family Services will be responsible for the staffing, programming, and overall facility management.

Since 1979, MCDHHS has provided a residential facility for domestic violence (partner abuse) victims and their children. In 2000, Montgomery County constructed the 17,000-square-foot facility offering immediate safety and supportive services for women and children, including short-term shelter, meals, counseling, and case management. The 18-bedroom facility with 54 beds provides a secure home base, enabling domestic violence victims to focus on accessing the treatment and resources they need to find safety within the community. The Center is named for Betty Ann Krahnke, who died from Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) in 2002, having served three terms on the Montgomery County Council and many years of leadership combating domestic violence and abuse issues.

"I am honored that Family Services has been entrusted with such important work, not only because of our long years of work with victims of intimate partner violence but because Betty Ann Krahnke was such a tireless worker for all the people of our community and their health and human services needs," said Thom Harr, Executive Director of Family Services, Inc. "We look forward to the work and will be inspired by Ms. Krahnke's dedication to service."

In 2009, the Betty Ann Krahnke Center served 182 adults, 206 children and 170 families. New resources are continuously sought out for clients, leading to their increased success in finding safety within the community. BAK reports that 90% of women and children leave the center for safer environments free from abuse.

"Family Services has a long history of responding to urgent needs in our community and we are very pleased to be part of the County's continuum of care for victims of intimate partner violence and their children," said Jennifer Crawford, Director of FSI's Outpatient Mental Health Center.

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