



Enrich, Empower, Enhance & Embrace



## The Donor Dish January 2018

Happy New Year! The Donor Dish is our quarterly e-newsletter created to keep you up-to-date on the latest FSI happenings, featured FSI programs, and current donor and volunteer news.

### Generous holiday giving

Hooray! You helped us to reach our 2017 Annual Appeal Campaign goal...and more! Thank you!

### Donor opportunities

#### SAVE THE DATES

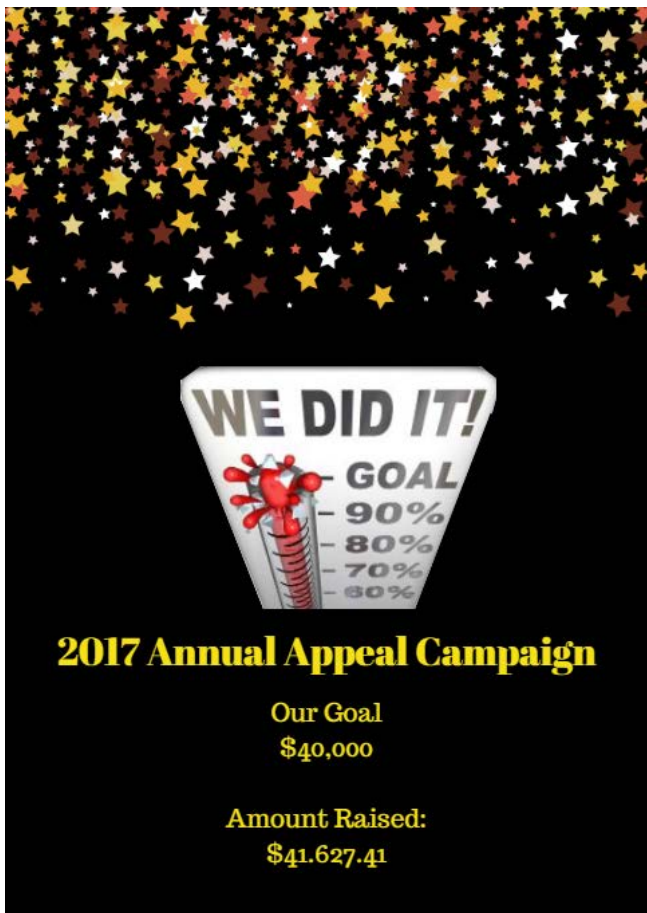
Join NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Maryland for the 2018 [ADVOCACY DAY IN ANNAPOLIS](#)

This is your chance to meet with your state legislators and make your voice heard!

- February 22, 2018
- 8:00am-12noon
- 142 House Office Building
- 6 Bladen Street
- Annapolis, MD 21401



Come enjoy yourself at our 4th Annual Corks for



### A band of brothers deliver joy for our families

Growing up in Darnestown, MD, the three Sbily brothers remember wonderful holidays filled with traditions like cutting down their family's Christmas tree each year at the nearby Smoky Glen Farm. Christian, George and Alec credit their parents, Chrys and Peter, with instilling the values of family, faith and tradition, which led them to launch an amazing holiday project for Family Services.

The brothers partnered with the nonprofit [CHRISTMAS TREE SANTAS](#) and seven different tree farms to donate 70 Christmas trees, 70 tree stands and 70 spools of tree lights to individuals and families served by FSI. Ornaments were donated by the Sbily family and their friends.



For three nights in late November, the Sbily family delivered the trees and helped with set up and

a Cause to raise funds for children's mental health.

- Saturday, April 28, 2018
- 6:00PM - 9:00PM
- [PINKY AND PEPE'S GRAPE ESCAPE](#)
- 223 Kentlands Blvd
- Gaithersburg



Ticket cost includes: admission, one drink ticket and hors d'oeuvres. Also enjoy a Silent Auction featuring exciting items including getaway vacations, gift baskets, wine tastings and more! Stay tuned for more information and to purchase online tickets.



Mark your calendars for our inaugural golf tournament, *Tee Up for Mental Health*.

- Monday, June 4, 2018 at 8:00am
- [OAK CREEK GOLF CLUB](#)
- 600 Bowieville Manor Lane
- Upper Marlboro



We'll be raising money to support our mental health



decorating as needed. They also offered a pick up date for families to get their tree and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies to kick off the holiday season.



The brothers are looking to grow this initiative in 2018 as an official Maryland chapter of Christmas Tree Santas. Denise Popevis, Community Service Director at FSI, said, "Witnessing these brothers' tireless efforts to provide a holiday tradition in hopes to spread goodwill and joy within their community was remarkable. It was clear they were able to touch peoples' lives sharing the Christmas spirit." We look forward to working with the Sbily family next holiday season!

### **Our Hope for the Holidays giving project was a huge success thanks to YOU!**

We used Sign Up Genius this year which made it easy for donors to "adopt" an individual or a family for holiday gift giving. With your help, we made the holidays bright for over 100 families, including 55 adults and 192 children, through our Sign Up Genius site.

We also served nearly 200 more adults and children through generic gift giving and donation drives from individuals, faith-based organizations, local businesses and county agencies. Many thanks to all who donated gifts, gift cards, warm coats, hats and gloves, and so much more this holiday season!

programs in Prince George's county.

## **FSI Features**

Welcome to one of the newest programs at FSI: the **Safe Passage Center**, Montgomery County's Supervised Visitation & Monitored Exchange Program. We celebrated the grand opening of the Safe Passage Center on Friday, January 19, 2018, complete with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting!

The Safe Passage Center (SPC) is a "family friendly" and safe access site for families in Montgomery County, MD with a Montgomery County Court Order. The Center's goal is to enable children to remain close to both parents regardless of the family situation or parental conflict. The Center is staffed by trained visit monitors and security guards who remain neutral in family disputes. The Center has evening and weekend hours, and features separate parking lots, entrances and waiting rooms so that parents do not meet on site.



Services available at the SPC are supervised visitation, which allows parents in high conflict or high-risk situations to maintain their bond with their children and have access to their children in a safe and supervised environment, and monitored exchange, where staff supervise the transfer of a child from the residential to the visiting parent at the start of the parent/child contact and back to the residential parent at the end of the contact.

Referrals to the SPC are from the District and Circuit Courts. Services are offered free of charge to Montgomery County residents and are by appointment only.



Funding is provided by Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services. The Center is a member of the Supervised Visitation Network (SVN), an international membership network that establishes standards and ethics, promotes education, and advances professionalism in the field.

For further information on the Safe Passage Center, call 301-417-8939 or email [safepassagecenter@fs-inc.org](mailto:safepassagecenter@fs-inc.org).



## \$25,000 grant targets FSI kids

Family Services was grateful to receive \$25,000 from the Robert H. and Monica M. Cole Foundation last October.

Part of the grant was used to create 24 mobile play therapy kits for all FSI programs providing mental health services for children and adolescents. Each kit includes puppets and dolls, and therapeutic games and art materials.



Other funds are being used to create the Cole Studio, an art and music center at Watch Me Grow, FSI's MSDE Accredited Child Development Center which provides high quality child care for children 6

## Volunteer news

### Volunteers made the holidays bright at FSI

Volunteers organized gift drives and wrapped presents. They baked cookies, led sing-alongs, and cooked up amazing lunches for the Thanksgiving and December holidays.

Over 140 volunteers offered their time, energy and skills to Family Services just during the month of December. Many helped at our various holiday events listed above, while others continued to offer their regular monthly support as tutors working with children and adults, child development assistants and administrative aides.

We welcomed adult and lots of student volunteers, while folks from Choice Hotels, Cisco, Holiday Inn Gaithersburg, Journey's Crossing Church and Revere Bank also pitched in to help.

Thank you to these and all our volunteers in 2017.



weeks through age 12. Teachers purchased art easels, a pottery wheel and oven, a variety of musical instruments, and art and craft supplies. A small STEM lab with activities and supplies was also purchased.



Finally part of the donation was used to redesign the Watch Me Grow playground to provide a safe and eco-friendly surface for the children.

To see more photos of the many volunteer events over the last year, check out our [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) and like us!



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Here's our roll call of all who made a donation to FSI in October, November and December.  
Your support truly makes a difference for Family Services, Inc.**

3 Blessings Christmas Tree Farm / Sala Aghkekian / Elizabeth H. Ahern / Ruth Aloras / Alpha Psi Omega / Diane Ambur / Kristina Angell / Lee Bennett / Glenn R. Berlin / Philip Berman / Scott Birdsong / Lisa Blackwood / Danielle Blair / B'nai Israel Congregation / B'nai Tzedek Sisterhood / Faye Bobb-Semple / Dave Bonnell / John Boston / Ryan Boswell / Krista Brick / Yajaira Briganty / Nancy Brouillette / Frederick J. Brown / Margie Bryant / Douglas Burch / Dede Burrell / Cameron Mericle, PA / Kate Champion / Capital Bank / Capital Restaurant Group-Paisano's / Carey International, Inc. / Gilbert Carpel / Jay Chan / Robin Chernoff M.D. / Tonia Cheung / Christ Episcopal Church for The Bargain Box / William Clem / George Cohen / Emmanuelle Collie / Ralph Colling / Comfort Cases / John G. Compton / Sandy Corrales / Laura Covington / Joseph Crawford / CRB Consulting Engineers / Marilennis Cruz / Dave and Busters - Silver Spring / Lawrence Davidson / DaVita, Inc. / DC Diaper Bank / Maria Del Roio / Neha Dhir / Maria T Diaz / Doubting Thomas Small Faith Group / Dreamland Christmas Tree Farm / Cameron Dryden / Roxanne Dryden-Edwards / Marc

Duber / Dawn Durbin / E&E Trees Tree Farm / Susan Eisendrath / Diane Ennist / Larry Epp / Linda Erbe / Ruth Escobar / Jen Evans / Darryck Farmer / Joseph G. Feinberg / Sara Feldman / Genoa Fields / First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Gaithersburg / First National Bank / First Transit - Location #55440 / Brenda Fischetti / Fit4MOM Montgomery County / Barry Fleishman / Janice Flug / Sheryl Frank / Jude Franklin / Sara Freed / Leslie Frei / Stephanie French / Paula Furman / Login Geiges / Julie Georgelakos / Girl Scouts of Service Unit 32-4 / Megan Gleason / Glickfield Family Foundation / Lori Golino / Nate Gonzalez / Goodshop / Goodwill Industries International Inc. G11 / Jeanine Gordon / Cindy Gottfried / Brittany Gould / Leslie Janet Graham / Lauren Gross / Katherine Grossman / Siti Gunawan / John Hagner / Roxanna Hakimi / Shanicia Hanson / Lisa Haun / Carol Hayes / Stephanie Healy / Amorurat Hedden / Maryann Hekimian / Edward Helme / Erica Henze / Clare Herington / Barbara Hernandez / Highlight Church / Susan Hines / H-Mart / Karla Hoffman / Sheri Holzel / Anthony Horos / Simone Hudson / IBM Employee Charitable Campaign / Helma S. Irving / Ryan Ivy / Tamara Jack / Jill Jacobs / James Clifford Haight Charitable Gift Fund / William Jordan / Austin Katz / Lisa Katz / Patricia Kauffman / Ronny Kempenich / Gary Kessler / Sarah Kessler / Cindy Kim / Vandana Kishore / Chad Koratich / Margery Korzeniowski / Nancy Kronheim / Heather LaDuca / Mitchell Lahr / Cathy Lamaze / Danielle LaSure-Bryant / Tyler Laudenslager / Darlene Lawver / Learning Ally / Donna Lee / Ivana Lee / Carolyn Lee-Smith / Jessica Marie Lerma / Vivian Levi / Jill Levine / Kimberly Levine / Andrew Levy / Linda Lewis Parker / Olive L. Lewis / Judah Lifschitz / Heather Locraft / Jim Long / Love You More Inc. / Peter Luongo / Lutheran Church of St. Andrew / Andrea Mangiulli / Ashia Mann / Daniel F. Mann / Dean A. Manson / Maya Maroto / Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School / Sandra Martinez / Sara Matthew / Carol May / McCollum & Associates, LLC / The McDonald Family / Maryann McKenzie / Mead Family Foundation / Mega Market International / Marilyn Mense / Andrew Milisits Jr. / Ferne Miller / Karen Miller / Kristine Minami / Walter Minerbi / John Mitrione / Montero Law Group, LLC / Montgomery County Board of Elections / Montgomery County Federation of Women's Club / Montgomery County Maryland Department of Police Homicide/Sex Section / Montgomery County Sheriff's Office / Montgomery County Volunteer Center / Kevin Mooney / Subash Mulghan / Kevin Murphy / Mary Murphy / Katie Myers / Meredith Myers / Naughty Pine Nursery / B.H. Nilsson / Karen Null / Kenneth Oestreicher / Betzayda Olan Almodouar / George Omari / OshKosh B'gosh/Carter's - Clarksburg Premium Outlets / Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. / Patricia Ovelar / Robin Owens-Wright / Gabriela Parra / Fredric W. Parsons / Nisha Patel / Carin Patterson / Dana Pauley / James Pauley / William Pearson / Percontee, Inc. / Stephen Perloff / Susan Peters / Carol Petrov / Jonathan Peyer / Harold Pincus / Robert Pincus / Janice Pohlman / Kara Pokras / Tammy Polsinelli / Prime Fitness / Project Management Institute - Montgomery County, MD Chapter / Joell Raabe / Rashard Rabsatt / Kaylee Rattie / Francesca Recanatini / William Reinsch / Revere Bank / Doreen Reynolds / Robert Ridgeway / Mary Ridgway / Ronald Rivlin / Don & Karin Rodrick / Summer Rosenstock / Alyson Ross / Rossmoor Woman's Club / Bruce Rothrock / Mary Rouse / Mary Rulow / Kenneth Sandel / Alexander Sbily / Christian Sbily / George Sbily / School Readiness Consulting / Marie Schram / Judith Schwartz / June Seckler / Sewell's Farm / Shady Grove Medical Center-MBU / Ronald Shapiro / Marge Shiflet / Susan Shinderman / Katie Showers / Showvaker's Quality Evergreens / Christine Silvestre / Milva Simoes / Daniel Sloan / Sandra Smith / Social & Scientific Systems, Inc. / Eva Sofillas / Rajiv Sood / Philip Soper / Anne Spence Core / Solveig B Spielmann / Sport Chevrolet / St. Matthews Presbyterian Church / St. Raphael's Catholic Church / David Steffes / Holly Stewart / Kristina Sweigard / The Goddard School of Clarksburg / The Robert H. and Monica M. Cole Foundation / The Woman's Club of Bethesda / There is Hope Christian Church / Ingrid Torres / Towels for Tears / Toys for Tots, Montgomery County, MD / Chengbiao Tu / United Way of the National Capital Area / Marguerite Van Ness / Elizabeth Varghese / Linda Wallen / Mark Wallen / Betsy Walser / Carol Walsh / Barbara Warman / Stanley Watkins / Wegman's / Katie Weigle / Paul D. Weir / John White / William S. Abell Foundation / Anissa Williams / Dustin Williams / Patricia Williams / Jim Winn / Rachel Wong / Woodworkers for Children Charity, Inc. / Jane Workerger Farfan / Karina Wu / Palmyra Yamson / Linda Yankie

