



Family &
Children First



Merger Announced to Expand Child Abuse Services

Last week, the Boards of Family & Children First and Family Place agreed to merge into a new organization to provide expanded services for families and children affected by abuse, neglect and violence in Jefferson and surrounding Kentucky and Southern Indiana counties.

“Uniting the expertise of these two organizations is about reaching more families and more children, growing and enhancing current services,” said Dan Fox, Executive Director of Family & Children First. “There are immediate opportunities to enhance current services, as well as develop new programs that employ specialized skills we will have after we merge.”

“Merger bolsters important services for families and children, including the Child Advocacy Center and Visitation Center,” said Pamela Helms, President of Family Place. “We will continue trauma, assessment and treatment services in the child-friendly Child Advocacy Center and Family Treatment clinical services for sexually abused children. We anticipate making therapeutic services available in the safe environment that The Visitation Center provides for supervised visits among separated family members.” The nationally accredited Children’s Program early childhood education service will continue its great work as well.”

Discussions began over a year ago. Fox will be Executive Director and Helms will be Chief Operating Office. Staff and boards of the agencies will combine and facilities remain open.

“The need for child abuse prevention and treatment programs is greater now than ever before in our history in Louisville,” Helms said. More than 81,000 children are reported to be abused or neglected each year in Kentucky, and another 90,000 in Indiana, she added. “Sustained commitment from our loyal donors will enable us to meet more of the needs of children and families,” Fox said. “Our goal and hope is that everyone who has supported our individual missions in the past will see this merger as an opportunity to amplify what we can do together to bring peace to families and smiles to children in our community.”

Family and Children First (www.familyandchildrenfirst.org), celebrates its 125th birthday this year as a not-for-profit organization with six locations in Kentucky and southern Indiana. Its mission is to strengthen the community by helping families with children maximize their emotional, social and physical well-being through an array of behavioral health, social services and advocacy efforts. The organization offers Child and Family Services, Child Advocacy Centers, Family and School Service, HANDS, and Homeless Prevention Service.

Family Place (www.familyplaceky.org) is observing 30 years of helping area children and their families heal the hurt of child abuse. Family Place has three programs for children and families: [Children’s Program](#), [Clinical Program](#), and [Visitation Center](#).

For further information, please visit the web sites or contact Ira Goldberg at 893-3900 x262.