



The Community

# L.I.N.K.

*Learning, Information, News & Knowledge*



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## Children & Families First to Lead Delaware's Nurse-Family Partnership Initiative

Children & Families First has been awarded a multi-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services to lead Delaware's Nurse-Family Partnership Program. Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, voluntary prevention program providing nurse home visitation services to low income, first time mothers. Nurses begin home visits early in the mother's pregnancy and continue visitation through the child's second year. Nurses provide support, education and counseling on health, behavioral and self-sufficiency issues.

The grant, \$497,298 per year for five years, will allow Children & Families First (C&FF) to lead a comprehensive community planning process to build local capacity to support improved quality in-home visiting programs. C&FF convened a planning group of key stakeholders this past summer to help work on the proposal. We are especially grateful for the important collaboration of community partners such as the Department of Services to Children, Youth and Families, Department of Public Health (Office of Maternal Health), Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, United Way of Delaware, Office of the Child Advocate, University of Delaware (School of Nursing), among others. This group will become the Community Advisory Board to guide the project. This collaboration and coordination process will result in improved screening of pregnant women, development of a centralized referral resource center, and a community plan to evaluate and leverage public and private funding into evidence-based programs. Outcomes will be evaluated through both a Process Evaluation and extensive Cost Analysis. Dr. Paul Solano, an economist with the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware will be the evaluator for this component. The Community Advisory Board will participate in the development of a comprehensive Logic Model for the Cost Analysis. At a time with increased expectation that public funds will be invested in effective programs, this project will provide one of the first comprehensive cost analysis of child maltreatment programs in the nation. The process evaluation and planning will be the main focus of the next 10 months.

The project will also include implementation of the proven Nurse-Family Partnership Program in a phased-in approach to evaluate implementation across different sites statewide. A team of four Nurse Home Visitors will begin in New Castle County. The next year the program will go statewide, adding Nurse Home Visitors in Kent and Sussex Counties.

More than 30 years of research on the Nurse-Family Partnership Program show consistent results in improved prenatal care, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased maternal education and employment, improved school readiness by the child, decreased childhood injuries and decreased criminal convictions.

"This is a very exciting opportunity to bring a gold standard evidence-based practice to Delaware with the important goal of reducing child maltreatment," explains Dr. Vicky Kelly, Director of Clinical and Prevention Services for Children & Families First. "The Nurse-Family Partnership has been demonstrated to produce profound positive results – not only in reducing child abuse, but also in improving pregnancy outcomes, decreasing infant mortality, and many other important long-term indicators of child and family well-being. Children & Families First's mission is to strengthen families and the implementation of the Nurse-Family Partnership program will help us do that by reaching out to first-time pregnant women and providing them with the support and skills they need to raise healthy children."



### Inside this issue:

Delaware Kinship Navigator	2
Volunteer Spotlight	2
DEASA Launches New Website	3
Upcoming Events	3

### *Our Mission*

**Our mission is to strengthen families; to help them manage their work and personal life responsibilities by providing social, educational and mental health services; and to enhance the supply and quality of care and education for children and elders.**



In response to the increasing number of grandparents and other relatives who have assumed responsibility for raising another relatives' child/ren, the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities has launched a new program designed to support and assist these relative caregivers. The **Delaware Kinship Navigator**, a new community service launched in April, provides a free one-stop-shop information and referral service for grandparents and other relatives who are currently raising related children, whose parents are either unable or unwilling to care for and nurture the children themselves. Many of these caregivers are older adults on fixed incomes, so the greatly increased financial, physical and emotional demands of parenting can easily become overwhelming. The Kinship Navigator can

help them find additional programs or services to support them, so they can continue to provide the children with the kind of loving care they need to grow into strong, healthy, happy adults.

The **Kinship Navigator** program is administered by The Family & Workplace Connection, a division of *Children & Families First*, with funding from CARE Delaware, via the Older Americans Act through the National Family Caregiver Support Program. Elder Care Specialists work directly with these caregivers to identify their specific needs and help them find and access programs and services – local, state or national – that may provide them with some added stability or support. For more information, please visit <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/kinshipnavigator.html>. To enroll for the program, call **302-479-1588** (in New Castle County) or **888-546-7449** (outside New Castle County).

## Volunteer Spotlight: *Anthony Grillo, Resource Mothers Volunteer*

Anthony Grillo joined Children & Families First in June 2006 following his retirement from The DuPont Company. The direct impetus for his decision to become a C&FF volunteer was his involvement with the Isaiah Matthew Fund, an outreach fund at his church, which had been allocating money to the Resource Mothers Program even before C&FF's merger with its parent, the Delaware Perinatal Association. One of the criteria of the Isaiah Mathew Fund was that at least one congregant needed to be involved with any organization for which the Fund provided support. Anthony's wife, Family Court Commissioner Carolee Grillo, had been on the Perinatal Association Board of Directors but was no longer serving in that capacity. Anthony took up the challenge and has been with C&FF ever since.



Anthony volunteers in the Tatnall Street office on Tuesdays and supports the Resource Mothers in a variety of ways, from collating packets to data entry. He does whatever he can to assist Shannon Senior and the other staff members there. Anthony also volunteers at the Interfaith Resource Center and the Blood Bank of Delaware Canteen on Market Street. He chooses to volunteer for two reasons: it is a way to give back to the community and a productive way to spend his time.

He is a native of Philadelphia and attended Penn State where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Science. He also attended Villanova, gaining his MS in Library Science. He has taught high school chemistry and biology. Anthony is the father of two grown children, Daniel and Andrea and grandfather of four.

This outstanding volunteer favors Italian food. He has had at least a half dozen opportunities to be in Italy, especially Sicily where he visits family. He is an avid gardener who raises fig trees. He likes reading, has done a lot of family camping in the past and looks forward to the possibility of another cross country trip in the future.

C&FF is very fortunate to have Anthony committed to being a volunteer and we value the time he spends working on projects at the Tatnall Street Office which helps to relieve the burdens of the Resource Mothers. Thank you, Anthony!

Children & Families First is always seeking committed volunteers. If you are interested in giving the gift of time, please contact Kathie Stamm at [Kathie.Stamm@cffde.org](mailto:Kathie.Stamm@cffde.org) or 302-777-9762.

## Delaware AfterSchool Alliance Launches New Website

The Delaware AfterSchool Alliance (DEASA) has developed a new website that will serve as a resource for parents, afterschool providers, youth and alliance members. The website, a requirement of the grant provided by the C.S. Mott Foundation, provides information about new research, best practices, promising programs, upcoming events, and activities that will inform parents, providers, and young people about the importance of high quality afterschool programs.



The Alliance hopes that the new website will encourage those involved with an afterschool program (parents, providers, and participating youth) to question whether or not they are providing, or are being provided with, the most successful and innovative afterschool program possible in the areas of safety, school success, social development, access to the arts, expanded and complementary learning opportunities, healthy lifestyles, and more.

The AfterSchool Alliance decided on the appearance, construction, and content of the website, which is easy to navigate with clean, easy-to-read pages. The website is updated weekly to add new links and information and to remove outdated information. DEASA welcomes content suggestions from the community. For more information and to join the DEASA e-mail list, please visit the NEW DEASA website at [www.deasa.org](http://www.deasa.org).

## Upcoming Events

**CELEBRATE!** On Saturday, November 15, please join us at The New Candlelight Theatre in Ardentown for dinner and to honor **P. Clarkson Collins, Jr., Esq.** with the J. Thompson Brown Award. The evening includes a private performance of Meredith Wilson's hit musical, *The Music Man*, a full-course dinner buffet, silent auction, raffle of a Wii entertainment system, and presentation of the J. Thompson Brown Award. \$100 per person/Open Bar. All proceeds benefit Children & Families First's community programs. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.cffde.org](http://www.cffde.org).

Family Service Delaware, now Children & Families First, established the J. Thompson Brown Award in 1981 to recognize and honor dedicated service that contributes to strengthening family life in our community.

The award commemorates J. Thompson Brown, a Wilmington philanthropist, industrialist, and family man who served on Family Service Delaware's Board of Directors for 37 years. He was instrumental in changing the focus of the agency from charity to service, and for recognizing the importance of trained social workers.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Plans are already underway for **A Taste for Art 2009**. Another delightful evening featuring local artists and delicious creations from local culinary arts students is scheduled for March 7, 2009 at the Greenville Country Club. *More details to come...*

For more information about all of our events, please visit [www.cffde.org](http://www.cffde.org).

## Get Involved!

There are many ways you can support Children & Families First:

- Donate to the Friends Campaign
- Designate a gift to C&FF through United Way:  
*Delaware: #299 (partner agency)*  
*Southeastern PA: #1466*
- Designate a gift through:  
*Combined Federal Campaign of DE: #50028*  
*State Employee Charitable Campaign: #50300*
- Donate items such as:  
Diapers  
Baby Formula  
New Toys  
New Baby Clothes  
New/Gently used children's bicycles
- Give the Gift of Time! Become a Children & Families First volunteer. Our team of volunteers is made up of people like you, who give the gift of time to help us help Delawareans in need. For volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at [www.cffde.org](http://www.cffde.org) or contact Kathie Stamm at 302-777-9762 or [kathie.stamm@cffde.org](mailto:kathie.stamm@cffde.org)

## Stay Connected!

Stay in touch with C&FF throughout the year. Send us your e-mail address, and we'll keep you informed of current happenings, special events, and more. E-mail [Jennifer.gallo@cffde.org](mailto:Jennifer.gallo@cffde.org) with "E-mail Contact" in the subject line. Please include your name, phone number, and current mailing address.





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[www.cffde.org](http://www.cffde.org)

[www.familyandworkplace.org](http://www.familyandworkplace.org)



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