

## Our mission...

*Family & Children's Services is a non-profit multi-service agency based in Elizabeth and serving Union County and the surrounding area. Our mission is to strengthen families and individuals by providing comprehensive personalized behavioral health and social services with a priority on serving those most vulnerable.*

## Goals

- **Protecting** children, vulnerable individuals and families
- **Preventing** child abuse and neglect
- **Educating** and supporting parents and caregivers
- **Preserving** and strengthening relationships and families
- **Promoting** family permanency for children
- **Enhancing** individual capacity and self-esteem
- **Participating** in public education and advocacy for children and families
- **Collaborating** with organizations and communities to provide services, resources and opportunities for children, youth, adults and families.

## History

*Founded in 1893*, Family & Children's Services began as the Charity Organization Society. It was joined in 1898 by the Elizabeth Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Our commitment to these two organizations continues today with particular emphasis on disadvantaged families and vulnerable children, as we continue to provide a wide array of innovative and professional quality child

## Credentials and Qualifications

*Family & Children's Services employs a diverse, multi-disciplinary team* of skilled, experienced staff who individually meet respective professional licensing and certification requirements where applicable. The agency staff has extensive experience working with children, youth, adults and families who may need a continuum of services.

*Family & Children's Services* is state licensed to provide mental health and adoption services and is a certified partner of the United Way of Greater Union County. We provide therapeutic, case management, education and support services to children, youth and adults of all ages.



United Way

# Client Population

*Family & Children's Services serves individuals of all ages* and diverse families of all income levels.

We place special emphasis providing services to at-risk, disadvantaged and under-served families who may not otherwise have access to human services. Of special concern are children in need of protection, foster care or adoption and families in need of crisis intervention or reunification. Our programs address the needs of individuals and families who have experienced one or more of the following: Abuse or neglect, family disruption, crisis or conflict, domestic violence, mental health problems, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, truancy or other school-related problems, homelessness, job loss or other challenges of life.



*Family & Children's Services*

## Service Locations

MAIN OFFICE	MID-TOWN ELIZABETH
40 North Avenue Elizabeth, NJ 07208 908-352-7474 908-965-3227 (fax)	16 Jefferson Avenue Elizabeth, NJ 07201 908-372-1007 908-372-1018 (fax)

## Family & Children's Services

# KINCARE

# KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM



*Strengthening Families, Building Futures Since*

## ***Kinship Legal Guardianship***

### **Rights as a Kinship Legal Guardian:**

- making decisions concerning the child's care, safety, and well being,
- consenting to routine and emergency medical and mental health needs,
- arranging and consenting to educational plans for the child,
- applying for financial assistance and social services for which the child is eligible,
- The Kinship Legal Guardianship is the most permanent ,legal option, next to adoption.
- Kinship Legal guardianship ends when the child turns 18 or graduates high school.

### **The Parents Retain:**

- the right to visit with the child as determined by the judge,
- the authority to consent to adoption or a name change of the child,
- the obligation to pay child support.

### **When can you become a Kinship Legal Guardian:**

- you have legal, biological, or emotional relationship with the child,
- the child has resided with you for the last 12 consecutive months,
- the parents are unable, unavailable, or unwilling to parent their child for the foreseeable future,
- you are committed to raising this child to adulthood,
- services offered to the parents were not accepted or did not fix the problem that caused the child to be placed in your home, it is unlikely or not feasible that the child will be adopted.

## ***KINCARE***



The KINCARE Program provides short-term counseling, respite and support services to families in Union County.

Our goal is to strengthen the family unit and facilitate the family's adjustment to living together.

Family & Children's Services provides the following services for families who have Kinship Legal Guardianship:

- In-Home or In-Office Counseling
- Behavioral Support
- Information / Referral
- Respite Services

## ***Eligibility***

**Families who would like to participate in this program should have:**

- Completed the Kinship Legal Guardianship process,
- the child currently residing with the family,
- residency in Union County.

Access to this program is through self-referral or by DYFS.

Our KINCARE staff consists of therapists and counselors who have experience working with families who are adjusting to kinship placement.

