

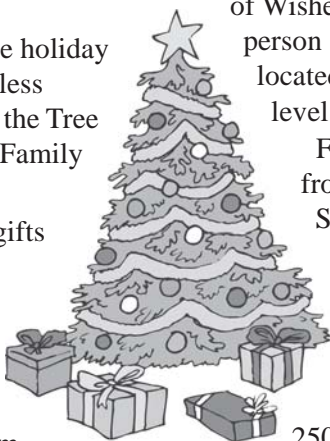
## Tree of Wishes Brings Holiday Joy to Those in Need

For many people in our community the holidays are a reminder of how great their needs actually are.

But you can help make the holiday brighter for people who are less fortunate by participating in the Tree of Wishes, a program of the Family Service Center.

Tree of Wishes provides gifts during the holiday season to about 1,200 clients from FSC and other local service agencies.

The program is made possible by contributions from corporate sponsors, government agencies, businesses and individuals. We thank all our donors including the major sponsors: CEFCU; Bank of Springfield; Brahler Lube and Tire; Clear Channel Radio; Kerber, Eck, and Braeckel, LLP; R W Troxell & Co.; and Springfield Electric.



To help make someone's holiday merrier, just choose a name from the Tree of Wishes, then purchase a gift for the person you selected. The tree is located in White Oaks Mall's lower level near Sears.

FSC begins receiving referrals from community agencies in September each year. The gifts are distributed to recipients in mid-December.

"Volunteers and corporate sponsors are welcome to participate. Approximately 250 volunteers are needed each year to help make the Tree of Wishes a heartwarming experience for many people in need," said Josie Rocco, executive director. Volunteer opportunities include working a shift at the tree site in the mall." For more information, call 528-8406, e-mail: [fsc@service2families.com](mailto:fsc@service2families.com).



**Volunteers are invited to help with the Tree of Wishes, call 528-8406.**

## First Annual Variety Night

The first annual Variety Night fund raiser provided a delightful evening of entertainment and raised funds to help support FCS programs.

The event, featuring a variety of entertainers throughout the evening, was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Meadowbrook Road in May.

"Our first Variety Night was a huge success. All the entertainers were wonder-



Cassy and Alyssa Gaddis

ful and everyone had a great time," said Danielle Outlaw, event chair.

Steve Bridge served as master of ceremonies. The evening's entertainment consisted of Cassy and Alyssa Gaddis, talented sisters who sang a selection of show tunes; Jacklyn Killenbeck and Jeff Martin,

salsa and contemporary dancers, Paula Mataya and Ron Bailey, swing and samba

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## Family Service Center Programs and Services

Our programs are designed to help families and individuals of all ages deal positively with the continuing challenges that occur throughout the family life cycle.

- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Adoption Preservation
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Respite
- ◆ Tree of Wishes
- ◆ YPSS (Young Parent Support Services)

**FSC Connection** is published for Family Service Center members, clients and supporters in the greater Springfield community. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Call 528-8406.  
 Editor ..... Ruth Slottag, APR  
 Contributors . Karola Beahringer  
 ..... Josie Rocco

## From Our President



Karola Beahringer

As the agency's newly elected President, let me introduce myself and express to you the great sense of pride I find in serving our community along with our Board of Directors.

Family Service Center has been at the center of my family's attention for many years. Both my husband Don and I have already served a nine-year term on the agency's Board. And I'm back for a second stint! I continue to serve on this Board because the work done at FSC by our dedicated staff really does make a difference in the lives of the many families served.

We look forward to giving back to the community through the Festival of Trees,

for example. Several Board members have gotten their creative minds together to design a unique tree which will be decorated with childlike fun and fancy of the season.

On a more serious note, many volunteers have helped make the Tree of Wishes a Springfield holiday tradition started by FSC over 20 years ago! In the spirit of giving, some 1,200 gifts will be shared with the needy this year.

I trust the community will respond in a very positive way to our membership drive in February 2007 which correlates with Family Service Center's 144th anniversary. That is certainly a milestone when I think of the many presidents who have served before me. It is gratifying to be a part of FSC's history and future.

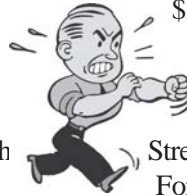
Your continued support of the agency is greatly appreciated!

Karola E. Beahringer

## Anger Management Class Offered

The next Anger Management class is scheduled to begin in January 2007. The class is a 14-week series designed to help people who have difficulty controlling anger.

The classes will help people acquire techniques for dealing with anger in difficult situations. It is an Anderson & Anderson certified program



taught by a FSC counseling staff member.

The fee for the class is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple plus a \$55 initial assessment and text book.

Classes are held at the Family Service Center, 1308 S. Seventh Street, Springfield.

For more information or to register, call 528-8406.

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dancers; John Brownback, magician; Ronte Harris, singer and keyboard player; and Asia, Alyssa and Holly, impersonators.

The silent auction included many items including a barbeque grill, LCD TV, MP3 player, Cardinals tickets, Fit Club membership, carpet cleaning and more.

"Many children and families will be helped



Danielle Outlaw and Debbie Raupp

because of the generosity of our contributors including major sponsors: Sikich, LLP; Bank of Springfield; Sorling, Northrup, Hanna, Cullen & Cochran, Ltd.; Meijer; Clear Channel Radio; Lee O'Keefe; and Mike Williams," said Outlaw.

"We also want to thank our volunteers and staff who worked very hard to make the event possible."

Watch for the date of second annual FSC Variety Night in May 2007.

# New FSC Supervisors Named

Two new supervisors were appointed recently at the FSC.



**Amy Wort** has been named Foster Care Supervisor. Her responsibilities include overseeing a team of three caseworkers, who ensure that the safety and well being of children are met.

The relative foster care staff work with biological parents, helping them complete the requirements for getting their children back. They also work with foster parents and children to address their specific needs.

Wort is a native of Mount Sterling. She earned her master's degree in social work at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and her bachelor's in social work from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

She and her husband, Mike, reside south of Springfield, with their two dogs.



**Kristal Perry-Gutierrez** is the counseling supervisor responsible for the Community Counseling and Adoption Preservation pro-

grams including five staff members and two interns.

The counseling program offers confidential, services including individual, relationship, and parent/child therapy. Adoption preservation assists adoptive families in dealing with difficulties encountered by life changes.

Perry-Gutierrez joined FSC in 2002. She earned her master's degree in human development counseling and bachelor's in English, both at Sangamon State University.

She is a native of Mount Sterling. She and her husband, Ed, reside in rural Pleasant Plains and have two children, Edna Carey and John.

## Wish List


A number of items are needed to help FSC continue to provide services to clients in our various programs.

- ◆ Diapers - all sizes
- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Formula
- ◆ Kitchen utensils
- ◆ Paper plates
- ◆ Napkins
- ◆ Glad storage containers
- ◆ Plastic cups
- ◆ Plastic silverware
- ◆ Storage bins
- ◆ Pot holders
- ◆ Dish soap
- ◆ Dish towels

Anyone wishing to donate items can call 528-8406 or drop them off at the FSC, 1308 So. 7th Street, Springfield.

## You Can Make a Difference!

Your membership donation is important to supplement the various programs and services of the Family Service Center. This is a good time help support the much needed community programs that strengthen families such as the Young Parents Support Services and family and individual counseling program. Please complete this membership form and send it with your contribution to Family Service Center, 1308 South Seventh Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

 **Membership Form**

**Yes**, I would like to become a member of the Family Service Center at the following level:

<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Founder \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Watch for the FSC  
Membership  
Drive  
Coming  
Soon!**

# Counseling Helps Homeless Family

Tom and Jill were homeless and at risk for neglecting their infant when they were referred to FSC.

They cared for each other, but having grown up in broken abusive homes, they had little understanding of what constituted a healthy relationship and fought constantly.

When they began counseling, they did not know how to communicate to each other. He was loud and domineering, while she was frozen into silence until she had enough and decided to furiously fight back.

They had developed their own survival

tactics to survive the trauma inflicted by abusive parents.

After several months of counseling, determination and hard work on their part, Tom and Jill were able to resolve their problems and gain new footing.

Now, three years later, Tom and Jill are happy and enjoying a pleasant life with their children.

Tom, who had raised himself on the streets as a teen, is now

working as a regional manager for a service company. Jill finds satisfaction in caring for her family.

*The names have been changed for their privacy.*



Visit our Web site  
[www.service2families.com](http://www.service2families.com)



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