

## Open House at New Location

Two days of festivities showcased the new offices of the Family Service Center, which moved around the corner to 730 East Vine Street. This location was previously occupied by the Central Illinois United Way.



*Josie Rocco, FSC executive director and Karola Bearhinger, FSC president, (center) board members and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce ambassadors cut the ribbon.*

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, October 24 in conjunction with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

The ceremony was preceded with a variety of musical selections by students of Blackhawk Elementary School with Pam

Garcia, choir director. “This new space allows all our programs and services to be in one building, making it more convenient for clients and staff,” said

Karola Bearhinger, president.

“We’re excited about our new offices and its expanded space for additional therapy and meeting rooms,” said Josie Rocco, executive director.

“A fresh coat of paint, new carpeting and other updates has created a more comfortable and inviting atmosphere for all our many activities.

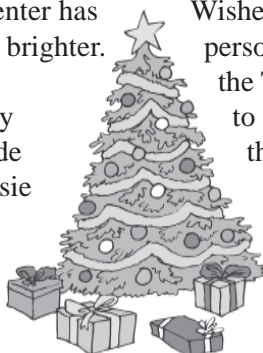
*Continued on page 2*

## 25th Annual Tree of Wishes Brings Joy to Many Families in Need

For 25 years Family Service Center has been making the holiday season brighter. “This year, many people in our community will not have a merry Christmas unless we help provide gifts for those in need,” says Josie Rocco, executive director.

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.

Just choose a name from the Tree of



Wishes, then purchase a gift for the person you selected and return it to the Tree of Wishes booth for delivery to the recipient. We are located at the gingerbread house booth in White Oaks Mall’s lower level near Sears from Nov. 22 through Dec. 20.

Tree of Wishes provides gifts during the holiday season to more than 1,000 clients from FSC and other local service agencies.

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We’ve moved . . .  
just around  
the corner to  
730 East Vine Street.

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

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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)



Children inspect gauges of a Springfield Fire Department truck during the FSC Grand Opening.

**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  
President

Most of us would consider Family Service Center's upcoming 146th birthday on February 12 as a milestone. And there are many smaller just as important milestones in the lives of families served by our caring and dedicated staff. The adoption that is finalized for a loving family, the reunion of a mother and child after a separation, and the resolution of anger issues by a stressed parent are all milestones.

Another milestone that occurred very recently is the move of all FSC programs to 730 East Vine Street. Now you can find staff who support programs, supervisors and managers who work closely with employees, and staff that work directly with families are all smiles. They now have space dedicated to their particular program yet find themselves in close proximity to other staff with whom they share their daily work.

To help pay for the revitalization of the Vine Street building, the Board of Directors is planning fundraising events. The culmination of planning and finally the move and ribbon cutting event has definitely reached a milestone for FSC.

Helping thousands of needy children and seniors since 1986 through the Tree of Wishes is another milestone because the results are so important to its recipients. The event has also become a milestone for the donors. When volunteering to work the Tree, you have a chance to visit with people who give gifts to the needy out of the goodness of their hearts every year, even in years that may be lean for them personally.

If you want to help with any of our milestones or achieve one of your own, contact Family Service Center at 217-528-8406 or check out our web site to find out more about our programs and history at [www.service2families.org](http://www.service2families.org). The Board and staff at FSC appreciate your kindness.

Karola E. Beahringer

### Open House *Continued from page 1*

On Saturday children's activities were held from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children enjoyed face painting, inspecting a Spring-



Blackhawk Elementary School chorus performs musical selections.

field Fire Department truck and Springfield Police Department squad car. The L & M Gymnastics team and the Grace Under Fire band performed in the afternoon. Refreshments included a chili and hot dog lunch.

"We are very grateful for the event sponsors: Walmart, Bunn-O-Matic and Noonan's True Value," said Rocco.

Congratulations to Jeanie Norton, winner of the 50/50 drawing. Other raffle winners are Amy Gorens, RFC game basket; Charlene Brown, family photo; Shanda Raglin, football party basket; Loretta Tenbusch, "pamper me" basket.

### Tree *Continued from page 1*

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; Neuhauf Media; Kerber, Eck, and Braeckel, LLP; R W Troxell & Co.; Sears; Springfield Electric and White Oaks Mall.

"Volunteers and corporate sponsors are welcome to participate. Approximately 250 volunteers are needed each year to help make the Tree of Wishes a heart-warming experience for people in need," explained Anna Merker, event coordinator.

"Volunteer opportunities include working a shift at the tree site in the mall." For more information, call 528-8406, e-mail [fsc@service2families.org](mailto:fsc@service2families.org).

# Adoptive Parent Says Thanks to FSC

“The Family Service Center is one of the best things that has happened to Zach and me during these past nine years. They have been a Godsend with all the help provided to us,” says Judy Walsh, an adoptive parent from Taylorville.



Judy Walsh and grandson Zach

getting help for Zach, she was encouraged to make an appointment with the FSC. Here she learned about a different testing, sensory integration therapy, which proved helpful. They also recommended a source for financial aid to help pay for the testing.

Zach, 11 years old, has lived with Judy, his grandmother, since he was 17 months old. When he was 2-1/2 years, she began seeking help for his behavioral problems – going from one doctor to another.

“I had no idea what was involved with getting Zach the services he needed,” explained Judy. At the time he started school, she became overwhelmed. “I felt like we were spinning our wheels,” she said.

After experiencing much difficulty with

In addition, Judy received information about taking care of Zach’s needs. Through the FSC Adoption Preservation program, Cathy Wells, adoption preservation therapist, has provided a “constant source of strength, encouragement and informaton. Her support included attending family education meetings with me,” explained Judy.

“I could not have been able to provide the help Zach needed without FSC,” she added.

## 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, 730 East Vine 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa Card

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Adoption Placement

◆ Couples or individuals who are interested in becoming foster parents or adoptive parents, and

◆ Any mother who might be considering placing her child for adoption may call Ron at 528-8406 or call toll-free

**1-800-877-ADOPT30**

## Foster Care Halloween Party



Forty children and their parents attended the foster care Halloween party on October 23. Festivities included a costume contest, games and treats.

## Wish List

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

- ◆ Diapers (all sizes)
- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Baby bottles
- ◆ Baby blankets
- ◆ Baby bibs
- ◆ Sippy cups
- ◆ Socks (kid sizes)
- ◆ Onesies
- ◆ Dish clothes
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Cleaning supplies
- ◆ Laundry detergent
- ◆ Paper products
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products
- ◆ High chair



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



## FSC Staff Helps Children and Families



Ron Suter works with adoption, licensing and respite. He helps couples become licensed foster parents and works with birth mothers contemplating

placing their child for adoption.

Suter joined FSC in 2004 as a foster care caseworker after retiring from City Water Light & Power. Suter earned his bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

He and his wife, Betty, have three grown children, Tricia Mahoney, Tracey and Michael Suter as well as two grandchildren.



Marla Johnson is a family support specialist who works with teen parents in the Young Parent Support Services program. She makes home visits and edu-

cates mothers on child development, nutrition, completing their education and finding employment.

Johnson joined FSC in 2003. She earned her bachelor's degrees in child, family and community services and visual arts from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

She and her boyfriend, John, have eight children and three grandchildren.

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