Children & Family Services / SAFE and STABLE FAMILIES

Promoting Safe & Stable Families (PSSF) Program

The primary goal of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program are to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption, or by another permanent living arrangement.

The PSSF Program offer support services that strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages, improve parenting skills and increase relationship skills within the family to prevent child abuse and neglect, while promoting timely family reunification when children must be separated from their parents for their own safety. Additionally the program is to help remove the barriers which impede the process of adoption when children cannot be safely reunited with their families and to address the unique issues adoptive families and children may face.

PSSF services are available countywide and include, but are not limited to: information and referral, childcare, family planning, parenting classes, educational support groups, youth activities, and domestic violence counseling. Services are provided by collaborations of community based organizations and are free of charge.

For more information on program development, email Rhonda Smith at the Employment & Human Services Department at smithr@ehsd.cccounty.us.

West County Community Partners:

- The "All That" Collaborative with Coronado YMCA, Youth Services Bureau and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Center for Human Development at Shields Reid Center
- Helms Middle School
- Community Violence Solutions
- Youth Services Bureau

Central County Community Partners:

- STAND! For Families Free of Violence collaborative with Monument Community Partnership
- EMQ/Families First
- Child Abuse Prevention Council

East County Community Partners:

- Ambrose Community Center
- Healthy Futures Collaborative with Brighter Beginnings, First Baptist Church, One Day at A Time, and STS Academy
- STAND! For Families Free of Violence
- From My Heart to Your Heart

Highlights from the first three years

- Nearly 1,400 families expressing family problems and a need for assistance improved family functioning through personal information and referral
- 700 teens increased their safety by learning the underlying factors contributing to violence in relationships
- 955 children participated in academic tutoring, self esteem building and substance abuse prevention activities, and/or recreational and educational field trips
- 300 people gained employment development skills and found new jobs
- More than 900 people increased their involvement in community activities through participating in Neighborhood Association Meetings and Family Forums

Quotes from PSSF Participants

"At first I was afraid to come to the support group. Now I know that I can be strong, and that there are others to help me. I have found the strength to move forward with the help of all of the women in this group."

—Spanish Speaking Support Group Participant

"A year ago, I was homeless, on drugs, without a concrete direction on where to go. After I had been in treatment and intensive counseling I still had one major issue to get my children back in my sole custody, and that was housing...the Baypoint Family Support Program was the answer to my problems."

—Bay Point PSSF Participant

"I am a parent of three children who have been involved in the CHD programs based at Shields-Reid Park. They have been involved in the summer day camp, the baseball team, the cooking class, and also in the after-school tutorial program...my children would not have had the opportunity to be involved in these programs had it not been for CHD."

—North Richmond PSSF Participant

"My husband and I were very excited, because we never had anything happen like this before. I can say the group [Americorps] did a commendable job, may God bless them."

—Woman whose house was painted by Americorps

"I am now clean off drugs for 16 months, received Shelter Plus Care December 1997, and found a place to live with the help of the Pittsburg Preschool/Bay Point FPSP."

—Bay Point PSSF Participant

"Thank you [Center for Human Development/North Richmond Family Preservation and Support (FPSP now PSSF)] for all the family support programs. The transportation program assistance provided me with bus tickets to get my son to the doctor 4 times...Please keep the transportation program because the community really needs it to help family and children for job interviews, employment, doctor appointments and food."

—North Richmond PSSF Participant