Mission

To provide for the safety and stability of children and families by strengthening the child protection system and involving neighborhood networks to ensure success.
Family Support Services of North Florida strives to:

- Develop a network of family foster care that is neighborhood-based, and makes every attempt to place children in their own communities.

- Reduce the number of children served in institutional and group care—shifting to family foster care and family-centered services.

- Lessen the number of children coming into foster care.

- Decrease the length of stay for children in out-of-home care.

- Reunite families quickly by implementing preventative measures.

- Streamline the adoption process and provide ongoing support to adoptive families.
As Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. (FSS) enters into its fifth year as Lead Agency for foster care and adoptive services, for Duval County, Florida, we are pleased to have been rated, for the second consecutive year, the Number One Community-Based Care organization by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) out of 22 lead agencies providing service to the State.

Along with a phenomenal growth in staff and the addition of six office locations, we achieved a score of 99.9% on monthly visitation to children in both in- and out-of-home care. And I am most pleased to report that, with the help of our families in the community, judges, workers, staff and partners, we exceeded our adoption goal of 141 by 100%, finalizing adoptions for 287 children in Duval County.

In September, we officially assumed responsibility for 203 foster care and adoption cases in Nassau County, after the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners ended its contract with the DCF.

A look ahead

This year, our Board of Directors set goals that will maintain the welfare of children, further develop our strategic vision, and manage the agency’s long-range sustainability through capital funding and recruiting of talented staff. We will continue to seek new opportunities and to solve many challenges as well.

The success of the agency continues to rely on the strength of its community partnerships, advocating for children in public forums, and interaction with government, schools and business leaders. On behalf of our children in care and all of us, thank you for your continued support.

Jim Adams

Message from the Chief Executive Officer
Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS) is a non-profit organization created to perform the duties of Lead Agency in the Community-Based Care project in Duval County and Nassau County, Florida. As the Lead Agency, FSS provides all child protection services previously performed by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).

FSS is governed by a Board of Directors specifically selected to represent Duval and Nassau County in developing and overseeing the child protection system of care.

A network of local community-based non-profit agencies—Children’s Home Society, daniel, PSI Family Services, Jewish Family & Community Services and Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC)—provides services to abused and neglected children and their families. Neighborhood service centers contracted by FSS provide, develop and support services within a designated catchment area of cases.

Board of Directors

Dr. George Armstrong, University of Florida Shands Pediatric Cardiology
Dedie Campbell, Atlantic Coast Bank
Christine Carr, Department of Juvenile Justice
Wayne Clark, Chief, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Dept.
John Drilling, Rock Creek Capital
Nancy Edwards, Community Representative
Patrick Healy, Freight Revolution, Inc.
Dr. Harriet Howe, University of North Florida
Dr. Dennis Lafer, Pediatric Surgeon
Joanne Lipp, Community Representative
Philip Mobley, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida
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Michael Mullin, Rogers Towers P.A.
Linda Rubens, Florida Statewide Advocacy Council
Michael Shorstein, Attorney, Family Practice
Kerrie Slattery, Baptist Health Foundation
Kimberly Waterhouse, Jacksonville Business Journal
Michael Widman, Vistakon/Johnson & Johnson, Board President
Hearts and F

Sweet, talkative and affectionate is how mom, Jasmine, describes her children Destiny, 4, and Khalia 1½. She also believes they are a blessing from God—with enormous capacity to give and receive love. Together, the siblings have brought tremendous joy to a couple that were waiting to adopt.

The parents saw the girls on CBS47’s Jacksonville’s Children and they knew immediately that these were their children—the ones they had been waiting for. The family was able to share Christmas together where Jasmine described them as their “little Christmas angels”. Two young lives and those of doting parents were forever changed on January 17, 2007 when their daughters’ adoptions became final. When Destiny was asked what adoption meant she said, “a Mommy and Daddy forever and ever!”

Jacksonville’s Children has become one of the most successful adoption recruitment efforts to date. Since it’s introduction two years ago, CBS47 News anchor Dawn Lopez and the CBS staff work to help First Coast foster children find new families through this weekly news series.

Christmas Angels Bring Joy
After nearly 10 years in foster care—moving from foster home to foster home—Jonetta thought all she had to do is follow the rules of each home and she would get by and she’d be okay.

Shy and reserved, she looked down and her kept her voice low during the first interview in June 2005. But Jonetta’s desire to be adopted spoke loudly to one St. Augustine couple watching Jacksonville’s Children.

“We never even talked about adoption until we saw Jonetta,” said her new Mom. “My husband and I both knew she needed us—and we needed her.” Jonetta had almost run out of hope, but her faith in God kept her strong.

In 2006, that same faith and hope brought her loving parents who couldn’t imagine their life without her.

Since fall 2006, Jacksonville’s Children videos are posted on Family Support Services’ Heart Gallery web site www.heartgalleryjax.org, which averages 1,850 visitors per month. The series airs Fridays on FOX30 News at 4 p.m. and Mondays on CBS47 at noon. To see previous videos, visit www.heartgalleryjax.org or click on the Jacksonville's Children link.
Family Support Services achieved a new record number of adoptions for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Through the combined efforts of its network of five local care-based agencies and the Fourth Judicial Court, 287 children were adopted into forever families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in Care</th>
<th>Children in Out-of-Home Care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,081 July 2006</td>
<td>2,070 July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,933 June 2007</td>
<td>2,033 June 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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By Age Group
- 0-4: 1,148
- 5-9: 719
- 10-14: 529
- 15-18: 386
- 18+: 151

By Racial Profile
- African American: 1,693
- Caucasian: 1,054
- Asian: 7
- Hispanic: 99
- Multi-racial: 80

By Gender
- Female: 1,449
- Male: 1,484

Active foster homes in Duval County: 379
Number of children in cases closed: 1,259
(adopted, reunited with family member, long-term permanent placement)
Family Support Services is committed to increasing awareness and support for our children in care. A special thanks goes out to our many partners and sponsors for helping us to continually provide quality services and programs.

Total Budget $36,870,000

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casework Service &amp; Related Support</td>
<td>$18.18 million</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention and Preservation</td>
<td>$0.64 million</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adoption Promotion and Support</td>
<td>$0.13 million</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>$0.14 million</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination of Health Care</td>
<td>$0.10 million</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Support</td>
<td>$0.70 million</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse &amp; Mental Health</td>
<td>$0.36 million</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20.25 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.9%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adoptive Care</td>
<td>$6.15 million</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td>$4.17 million</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
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<td>Shelter Care</td>
<td>$5.21 million</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>$1.09 million</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16.62 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.1%</strong></td>
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<td>Annual Community Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind</td>
<td>$379,000</td>
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Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Your support is needed. Please consider fostering or adopting a child. Monetary donations are welcomed and appreciated. Make an online donation today at www.fssjax.org.

Sponsored by the Department of Children and Families and the State of Florida.