Dear Friend,

**Protect, Heal, Care.** These powerful words describe what we do for our community’s children. Almost every day we hear reports of local children that have been neglected, abused or abandoned. For every story we hear, there are hundreds more that never make the headlines.

At Family Services, we see babies living in drug houses, toddlers enduring physical and sexual abuse, kids contemplating suicide, and homeless youth living on the street. While this is very troubling, please know Family Services is striving to protect children from harmful situations, help them heal from their emotional scars, and provide the care they need to be successful in life. For example…

- **Our Healthy Families program** provides home visitation services to high-risk families teaching them positive parenting skills to ensure those children are safe and developing appropriately.
- **Our Crisis Center** provides immediate intervention and counseling for youth threatening suicide and other crisis related issues.
- **Our Transitional Living Program** provides safe housing for homeless teens and young adults while helping them complete high school, get a job, and learn important life skills.
- **Our Sexual Assault Center** helps children overcome the effects of sexual abuse.

These programs and many others provided by Family Services are vital to our community. Last year alone we helped to protect, heal, and care for more than 18,000 children and their families. In addition to the immediate support we provide, there is also an immeasurable lifelong impact. Without our help now, many of these children would continue to struggle throughout their lives.

These life changing services would not be possible without the generosity and support of people like you. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of area children. Consider a donation to Family Services today and help those we serve find hope for a bright future, strength to overcome challenges, and the opportunity to find happiness in life.

Sincerely,

Jeff Vande Leest
President & CEO

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**2014 Annual Appeal**

Yes, I would like to protect, heal and care for the children and families of our community with a one-time gift.

- Leader ($10,000)
- Mentor ($500)
- Guardian ($2,500)
- Friend ($100)
- Champion ($1,000)
- Advocate ($250)
- Other $__________

**Payment Method**

- Check payable to Family Services is enclosed.
- Credit card (circle one): MasterCard / Visa
  - Card #: ____________________________
  - Exp. Date: ______/______
  - 3-digit security code: _______

**Thank you! All contributions are tax deductible.**

*You can also give online at [www.familyservicesnew.org](http://www.familyservicesnew.org)*

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**Family Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.**
Creating Brighter Futures

“Heather” is a 17-year-old girl who attends high school, participates in school activities, loves to hang out with her friends... and, until recently, was homeless. She left an alcoholic mother and an abusive father to make a new life for herself on her own.

As a young child, she thought everyone’s family was like hers. The older she got, the more she realized this could not be further from the truth. That dads didn’t hurt their kids and say it was love. That moms didn’t start drinking early in the morning and pass out so she couldn’t take care of her kids. After enduring years of physical and sexual abuse from her father, and neglect from her mother, it had escalated to a point that Heather made the decision to leave - the only way she could think of to be safe.

Despite everything, she knew this was her best chance at a happy future. She now participates in Family Services’ Transitional Living Program, where she has her own apartment and is learning the skills she needs to live successfully on her own. She’s learning what it feels like to have healthy relationships, to feel safe, and contribute to the world around her.

Heather is one example of nearly 1,300 known homeless youth in Brown County. Some stay with their family, some “couch surf” and others, like Heather, want to overcome their past and learn to be independent. Currently, there are nearly 100 kids on the waiting list in need of these life-changing services. Your support provides hope and can help youth like Heather find a brighter future.

Uses of Funds

At Family Services, 91 cents of every dollar goes toward direct services to children & families in need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program &amp; Services</th>
<th>91.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Child & Youth Counseling 20.1%
- Early Childhood Development 20.4%
- Crisis Services 17.1%
- At-Risk Youth 12.6%
- Adult Counseling 13.4%
- Self-Sufficiency Programs 7.8%

Give Help, Give Hope!

A gift today can ensure a better future for our children tomorrow. Here are some examples of how your gift can change a life:

$2,500 will... Provide 1 year of home visits and resources for 1 high-risk family, ensuring their children are safe from neglect and developing appropriately.

$1,000 will... Provide 1 year of counseling and support to help 1 child heal from the effects of sexual assault or abuse.

$500 will... Provide 2 months of safe housing for 1 youth previously living on the street, while also helping them get a job and learn valuable life skills.

$250 will... Provide 7 sexual assault prevention presentations, teaching children how to protect themselves and get help when it’s needed.

$100 will... Help save 1 youth from suicide through the immediate intervention of our crisis center.

Protect, Heal, Care

Last year, we helped more than 18,000 children and their families through a variety of programs. Examples include:

- We helped 1,110 victims overcome the effects of sexual assault and provided prevention education to another 19,572.
- We intervened with 2,176 children and youth who had expressed suicidal thoughts and responded to an additional 39,000 calls and visits through our 24-hour crisis counseling.
- We provided 34,661 hours of service to 354 high risk families, helping them care for their newborns while ensuring they had the skills and resources to meet their child’s needs.
- 438 high risk kids participated in an after school and summer program that kept them off the street, in school, and away from crime.
- We helped 62 homeless youth find a safe home, complete high school, get a job, and learn life skills such as cooking, housekeeping and budgeting.
- We safely returned 168 runaways to their families and helped them resolve problems in their lives.

Strengthening Families

Sam was seven years old when he began working with a Therapist at our Counseling Clinic. At the time, he was very physically aggressive and was struggling at home and at school. Sam’s three-year-old sister was often afraid of him because of his name calling and physical abuse. His parents were frustrated because he lacked focus and had a difficult time following directions. His negative behavior also put his parents’ jobs in jeopardy since no day care would continue caring for him. At times, Sam felt sad and was very hard on himself. He had a history of threatening to run away, verbalizing that he didn’t want to live, and banging his head on objects when he was upset.

The first several months of counseling were focused on building Sam’s self-esteem, practicing to verbalize his feelings, and teaching him to go to his parents or teachers when he was upset. Our Therapist also worked with Sam’s parents to help them manage his behavior with the use of a behavior chart, where Sam was able to earn small treats or privileges for good behavior. In addition, Sam’s parents have learned a number of positive parenting techniques to stop Sam’s unwanted behavior. With these techniques and through ongoing counseling, they began to see significant improvement in Sam’s behavior at home and with his sister. His teachers are also happy with the improvement they’ve seen at school. Sam now has a sense of responsibility and is learning how his actions affect other people. His self-esteem has improved and he’s finally feeling good about himself and the world around him.