

FOR THE FAMILY, INC.
Building a stronger community through its families

For Immediate Release

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A COMMUNITY MUST BE LARGER THAN ITS LIMITATIONS

Tampa, Florida – People are more mobile now than at any other time in history. The Tampa Bay area is just one of many being transformed into a melting pot of residents from every part of the nation, not to mention from other countries.

Personal mobility gives Americans the opportunity to better their lives, but many new arrivals must build a support system to better deal with life. A lot of long-time residents also face this situation, especially if *their* friends, relatives, and neighbors disappear. It's more difficult when people feel they're going it alone

Isolation can make somebody's challenges seem overwhelming, though they often suffer silently. Everything is up to them to resolve, with uncertain results. If the lid blows off, parents, children, and families can be immediate casualties...but the fallout is also felt in crime, human misery, and a cumulative decline in our overall quality of life. When we hear about specific people who are affected this way, we sadly wish that something could have been done in time.

- MORE -

**730 South Sterling Avenue, Suite 200
Tampa, Florida 33609-4514**

A COMMUNITY MUST BE LARGER THAN ITS LIMITATIONS

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For The Family makes that possible for adults who are mentored through the three branches of our Family Referral Network: the Parental, Motherhood, and Community Mentoring Initiatives. Each service involves connecting a Mentor's targeted life experience to an Associate's specific need in an ongoing telephone dialogue. We brief each Mentor and Associate about the other, but they only know the first name of the person they are talking to.

The Network's effectiveness is greatly enhanced by this blend of awareness and anonymity, and all information is totally confidential. Associates can be referred to other services if their situation is too serious for a Mentor to help. For The Family has operated this landmark early intervention service since 1998. It enables people to honor the Golden Rule by being their brother's keeper.

Meanwhile, Shelter Is Golden serves the same purpose for people who must evacuate from a Category 1 or 2 hurricane with maximum winds of 110 mph. These Guests are connected to Hosts based on compatibility, which is confirmed to their mutual satisfaction through a face-to-face meeting before the storm. Each Sheltering Arrangement continues from when a hurricane warning is issued until people staying in public shelters are officially allowed to return home.

All For The Family services are offered at no charge. While this Media Kit provides a basic overview, strongercommunity.com fully illustrates the approach that makes For The Family not just another agency...but a statement of purpose.

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FAMILY REFERRAL NETWORK – CLINICAL STANDARDS

For The Family, Inc.

1. Mentor Criteria

Note: A Mentor's ability would not hinge on a complete satisfaction of the following criteria, which will serve as a guide during our assessment of their potential for offering insight. However, our screening of prospective Mentors will be augmented by the perception of referring organizations. Their awareness of our standards will allow these organizations to serve in a de facto pre-screening context.

- A. **Mutual Support:** Encouraging the personal growth of friends and/or family, and a willingness to share in successes, challenges, and failures.
- B. **Mutual Respect:** Honoring the individuality and privacy of others, and treating people with dignity and respect.
- C. **Trust:** Earning and maintaining trust, and trusting others unless circumstances warrant.
- D. **Commitment:** Continuing family and personal relationships through thick and thin.
- E. **Caring:** Exhibiting genuine concern for the well being of others.
- F. **Togetherness:** Sharing time with others as circumstances allow.
- G. **Balance:** Displaying a sense of perspective in the face of personal challenge.
- H. **Flexibility:** Deriving a degree of personal growth from the disruption caused by challenging circumstances.
- I. **Structural Continuity:** Stable residence, absence of recent bankruptcies, chemical dependency, current legal/criminal problems, and ongoing personal crisis.

2. Associate Criteria

Note: Our standards reflect sensitivity to Mentors who cannot be expected to advise people in severe crisis. If any of the following existed, the Family Referral Network would offer more suitable care options.

- A. **Involvement in counseling or therapy:** Mentor insight cannot replace professional mental health care, but instead provides an alternative for solving problems before they get that serious. The only exception would be when the therapist specified that a Mentor could assist someone in dealing with issues that were not being addressed in therapy.
- B. **Physical violence or abuse:** Again, professional care is more suitable.
- C. **Pending divorce or separation issues:** The expertise of a Mentor cannot replace marriage counseling.
- D. **Network enrollment by minors:** Mentor insight would not be appropriate for minors because they may not have the perspective to properly apply it to their circumstances.
- E. **Extreme cases of substance abuse or compulsive behavior:** While a Mentor's insight would not compare to professional crisis counseling, it may be possible for them to serve in an aftercare context.

FAMILY REFERRAL NETWORK PROCEDURAL STRUCTURE

For The Family, Inc.

Affiliate

- A. Identifies Network participants according to whether:
 - 1. The individual has the potential to effectively share personal insight with someone in need
 - 2. The individual faces a dilemma that personal insight can resolve **before** it turns into crisis
- B. Assists prospective Mentors and Associates in completing Network Enrollment Forms
- C. Mails completed Enrollment Forms to the Family Referral Network
- D. Consults with Family Referral Network to offer procedural advice whenever needed



Family Referral Network

- A. Enters responses from Mentor and Associate Enrollment Forms in Network database
- B. Determines circumstantial compatibility between Mentor and Associate
- C. Screens each Mentor and Associate to confirm their suitability
- D. Briefs each Mentor and Associate so that they will have general knowledge of one another before their telephone dialogue begins (**Note: complete confidentiality will be maintained**)
- E. Schedules initial telephone contact
- F. Sends each Mentor a Training Manual that outlines how to respond to potential obstacles
- G. Monitors progress of dialogue, and consults either with Affiliate or a qualified mental health professional to resolve any obstacles in Mentor/Associate Dialogue
- H. Refers Associates to alternate treatment from qualified service providers as warranted
- I. Verifies dialogue outcomes through Mentor Contact Logs and Associate Exit Interviews



Volunteer Mentor

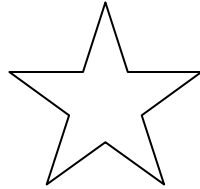
- A. Knows the Associate by first name only
- B. Calls the Associate at least once weekly; total dialogue lasts a minimum of one hour/week
- C. Schedules all subsequent conversations
- D. Keeps a Contact Log outlining discussion topics, duration, and date of each conversation
- E. Refers to Training Manual on a regular basis
- F. Calls the Family Referral Network immediately whenever questions or problems occur
- G. Informs the Family Referral Network once the Associate Dialogue has run its course



Associate

- A. Knows the Mentor by first name only
- B. Calls the Family Referral Network as questions arise
- C. Completes an Exit Interview once the Mentor Dialogue concludes
- D. Is referred to appropriate treatment options

GOOD ADVICE IS HARD TO BEAT WHEN LIFE GETS TOUGH



*The Family Referral Network can help you
find your own way
through the challenges that anyone can face*

Everyone has hard times now and then. Talking on the telephone with someone who knows what it's like can make all the difference. An hour a week is all it takes...

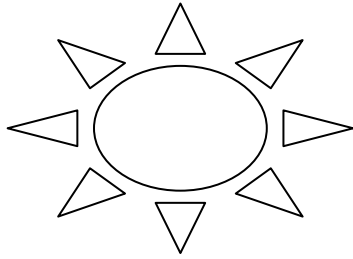
This can give you the tools you need
to stop trouble in its tracks.

All information is totally confidential. We can't guarantee
positive results, but the Network may be just what you need.

***WE WANT YOU TO BENEFIT
FROM THE LESSONS OF A LIFETIME***



**YOUR GOOD ADVICE CAN
MAKE PARENTS STRONGER!**



*Be a Guardian Angel for an Adult
who can really use one.*

**Help someone else deal with challenges that you can
relate to on the phone, without leaving home.**

**You will already know what they are going through
(without getting too personal).**

**They'll only know your first name and
how you can help them find their own way.**

Please complete and mail the attached form to:

**FAMILY REFERRAL NETWORK
P.O. Box 15884, Tampa, FL 33684-5884**

FAX: (813) 354-1702

HOW THE PARENTAL MENTORING INITIATIVE WILL BENEFIT THE PARENTS OF 1ST TIME JUVENILE OFFENDERS

The Pre-Trial Diversion Program

- A. Refers parents of 1st time juvenile offenders as Associates according to its perception of how a repeat juvenile offense can be prevented through the insight and support of a Mentor
- B. Refers prospective Mentors according to its perception of how they can help an Associate parent develop a strategy for preventing a repeat offense, as well as enhance the skills and motivation needed to successfully implement it
- C. Helps maximize the impact of the Mentor Training Curriculum
- D. Provides procedural advice and expertise whenever needed



The Parental Mentoring Initiative

- A. Conducts Mentor and Associate intake interviews and assesses Enrollment Form information
- B. Develops Mentor Training Curriculum along with juvenile justice officials; trains all Mentors
- C. Gives each Mentor a Post-Training Manual that outlines how to respond to potential obstacles that may occur during their dialogue with an Associate
- D. Determines circumstantial compatibility between Mentor and Associate
- E. Screens each Mentor with assistance from the FDLE
- F. Briefs each Mentor and Associate so that they will have general knowledge of one another prior to their telephone dialogue (*complete confidentiality will be maintained*)
- G. Schedules initial telephone contact
- H. Monitors progress of the Mentor/Associate dialogue, and consults with Diversion Program staff, the supplemental care provider, or a mental health professional to resolve any obstacles that may arise
- I. Refers Associates to supplemental care providers as their circumstances warrant
- J. Verifies dialogue outcomes through Mentor Contact Logs and Associate Exit Interviews



The Mentor

- A. Receives training according to the curriculum developed by the Family Referral Network and partner organizations within the 6th and 13th Judicial Circuits
- B. Calls the Associate at least once weekly; total dialogue lasts a minimum of one hour/week
- C. Schedules all subsequent conversations
- D. Keeps a Contact Log outlining discussion topics, duration, and date of each conversation
- E. Refers to Training Manual on a regular basis
- F. Calls the Family Referral Network immediately whenever questions or problems occur
- G. Informs the Family Referral Network once the Associate Dialogue has run its course



The Associate

- A. Knows the Mentor by first name only and cannot call that person without prior consent
- B. Calls the Family Referral Network as questions arise
- C. Completes an Exit Interview once the Mentor Dialogue concludes
- D. Is referred to supplemental treatment options as circumstances warrant

HOW FOR THE FAMILY COLLABORATES WITH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

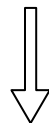
For The Family

- A. Learns of a circumstantial or issue-oriented obstacle in the Mentor/Associate dialogue as expressed by either party, but primarily by Mentors
- B. Determines whether the obstacle can be resolved through consulting with a designated mental health professional
- C. Develops a written summary of the obstacle that does not disclose identifying characteristics of either the Mentor or Associate
- D. Forwards this generic summary to the mental health professional via e-mail
- E. Calls the mental health professional within one business day to confirm e-mail receipt and answer questions



The Mental Health Professional

- A. Reviews the generic summary of circumstances leading to the Mentor/Associate obstacle
- B. Asks questions that would further clarify these circumstances without the answers divulging Mentor or Associate identities
- C. Provides a reasoned assessment of how the obstacle might be resolved either within the Mentor/Associate dialogue or through a referral to supplemental care options (*NOTE: Because this assessment is based on a generic summary that does not include identifying characteristics, it is intended only as an advisory opinion so that liability can be minimized*)
- D. Consults with For The Family as questions arise



For The Family

- A. Shares the obstacle resolution assessment with whoever originally disclosed the obstacle (Mentor or Associate)
- B. Refers the Associate to supplemental care options if the assessment calls for action outside the scope of the Mentor/Associate dialogue
- C. Arranges for the Associate to either be connected in an alternate dialogue if the assessment is not thought to offer a workable solution, or be referred to alternate care options
- D. Forwards any questions about the assessment that call for a clinically-based answer to the mental health professional
- E. Monitors how the Mentor/Associate dialogue is proceeding in the wake of the earlier obstacle, consults with the mental health professional in the event of a recurrence

MENTORING AN EXPECTANT MOTHER: *WHO AM I?*
For The Family, Inc.

I may be expecting a child, but I AM SOMEBODY.

Other people may judge me according to their prejudice, but I AM COUNTING ON YOUR WISDOM TO GUIDE ME. WITH YOUR KINDNESS, MY LIFE WILL NOT BE DEFINED BY MY PREGNANCY...BUT ENHANCED BY IT

There is an 85% chance that I am African-American

There is a 69% chance that I am not married

There is a 37% chance that I have less than a 12th Grade education

There is a 21% chance that I am 19 or younger

There is a 17% chance that I either had or will have another child within one year

There is a 3% chance that I am not getting the pre-natal care my baby and I need

THERE IS A 100% CHANCE THAT YOU CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE BY LOOKING AT MY POSSIBILITIES...NOT JUST MY PERCENTAGES.

AS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND CENTRAL HILLSBOROUGH HEALTHY START HELPS MY BABY AND I STAY HEALTHY...YOU CAN HELP MY SPIRIT STAY POSITIVE.

THE FACT THAT YOU CARE WILL MEAN THE WORLD TO ME, AND ENCOURAGE ME TO MEAN THE WORLD TO MY BABY

THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME FOR WHO I AM