

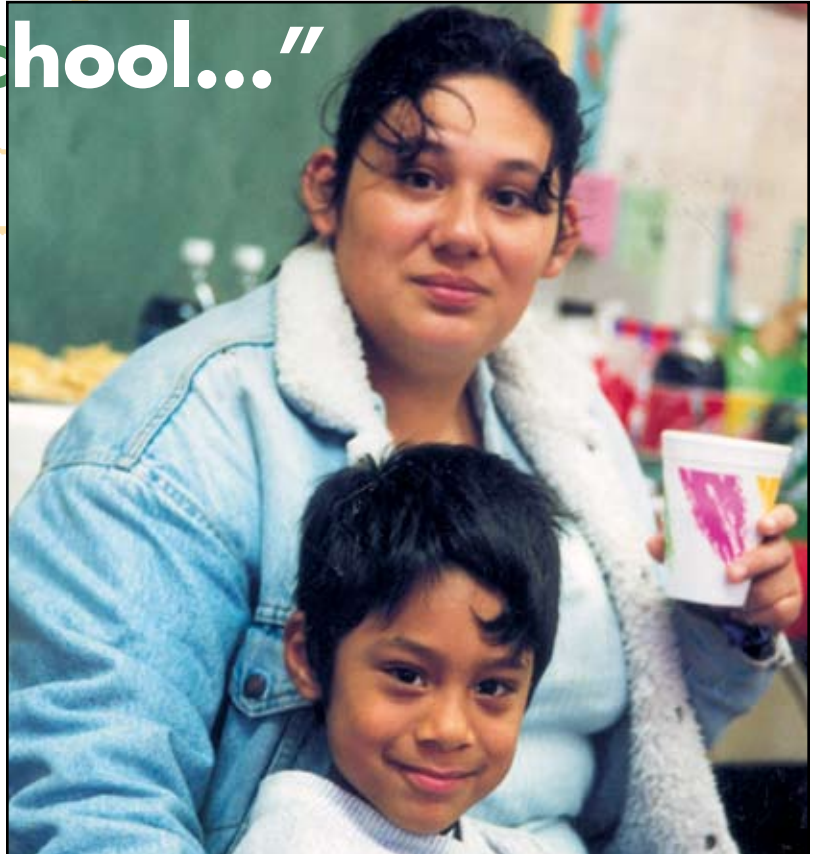
Because children are our future...  
families are our **FOCUS**.

“...doing so much better in school...”



“When I am at Calling All Kids, my mind feels good and my heart feels big. If only the world will talk about things like we do instead of killing or doing violence or doing drugs, the world will be in peace.”

—Jorge R., age 9, **FOF Calling All Kids Program**



“I have learned the importance of reading with my children and teaching them that through reading we can travel to many imaginary places. I see my children doing so much better in school and I feel like I am a very important part of their lives.”

—Maria S., **FOF FamilyRead Program**

“...taught me to be more responsible...”



“The Young Dads program has taught me patience... to be more responsible. It opens my eyes to how precious children are. I feel like I’m not the only guy who goes through being a dad at a young age.”

—Mike R., **FOF Young Dads Program**





# About Friends of the Family



## MISSION

### Mission

Friends of the Family is among the most highly regarded family resource centers in Southern California. The organization is renowned for its development and implementation of innovative, practical, and successful programs that build strong families and set the wheels in motion to give all children access to their birthright of hope, dignity, safety, and love. The mission of Friends of the Family is to foster strong, self-sufficient families and resilient children by providing effective mental health and human development programs in the greater Los Angeles area.

## HISTORY

Friends of the Family is a model family resource center committed to fostering an environment that values parenting and families, that views human diversity as a strength upon which solid foundations for family and community can be built, and that promotes the credo that strong, caring families are the basis for a strong, vital community.

## PROGRAMS

### History

For over three decades, Friends of the Family has supported and taught parents how to create safe and nurturing homes where children can grow into healthy, joyful young people. The idea for Friends of the Family grew from a belief by the founding group of community members that the time had come for a community counseling and education center with a family focus, an idea that was revolutionary at the time. The community response was tremendous and enthusiastic. From its humble beginnings, starting in small office space totaling 300 square feet with an annual budget under \$10,000, Friends of the Family has continuously grown and expanded so that this year, with a budget of \$1.7 million, **almost 8,000 children and adults will participate in the creative, responsive programs and services.**

## PARTNERS + FUNDING

### Programs

Throughout the year, families and individuals, children and adults, participate in a wide range of programs and activities. Services are provided both at the Center's centrally located facility in the mid-San Fernando Valley and out posted at a wide-range of easily accessible community

## FUNDING

## FUTURE PLANS

locations including more than 50 elementary, middle and high schools, community centers, hospitals, parks, temples, and churches. Counseling services are provided on a sliding scale basis; all other services are provided without charge to participants.

During the past year, programs and activities that produce significant, positive outcomes have served hundreds of children and families. **They include:**

- **FamilyRead** and **B.A.B.Y.** (*Birth and Beginning Years*), our family literacy, parent support and community building programs based on the idea that when families read together, the family bond is strengthened, parents become reading role models for their children and children become better readers and better learners;
- **Oaks to Acorns** our leadership development and support program for mothers and their 11 to 14-year-old daughters, designed to strengthen the mother/daughter bond;
- **Young Moms/Young Dads** our comprehensive parent education and personal development programs focusing on pregnant and parenting teens, designed to break the teen pregnancy cycle and improve outcomes for two generations of our community's children;
- **Calling All Kids and All Kids Arts** our after-school programs focused on children ages 5 to 11, designed to help enhance and develop their academic and social skills, improve resiliency, and increase cultural awareness and tolerance;
- **4 R Boys and 4 R Girls** our social skills and problem-solving programs, designed to teach 4th and 5th grade children thinking skills that can be used to help resolve or prevent problems with teachers, peers, and family members;
- **Parent Pride, Home Sweet Home, Family HeArt, Practical Parenting, ParentCare, Parents and Children Together** our parent education programs designed to support parents through the challenging, critical passages of family life and to teach them effective parenting skills, attitudes, and behaviors;





# We invite your involvement in making this dream a reality.

- **Family Violence Prevention and Treatment, including Next Step, Turning Point, Family to Family, Pillow Project, and Garden of Angels**

our series of programs and services designed to help children and adults move from victim to survivor to thriver;

- **Community Counseling** our easily accessible counseling and mental health services, which help participants learn how to live in more caring, self-sufficient, and responsible ways.

At Friends of the Family single mothers, family members who are the victims of intimate violence, children struggling with developmental difficulties and school skills, and fragile families are supported and guided so they can realize a better and brighter future.

The family support programs have resulted in much improved outcomes for participants served, including an 80% high school completion rate for teen moms, a 75% increase in strong school connections for struggling kids, a 90% increase in parents building bonds with their children through reading, and an 85% improvement in fragile parents' nurturing abilities. Friends of the Family's remarkable programs are a lifeline for more than 5,000 families each year.

## Partners and Funding

It is the partnership of Friends of the Family's diverse supporters that enable the provision of such a wide array of accessible, responsive services and the resulting positive impact on families in the community. Public funders include Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, First 5, the California Department of Health Services, and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Funding received from more than twenty-five private foundations and corporations and hundreds of individuals enables the development and implementation of cutting-edge programming designed to meet emerging and intractable family needs. The funds raised through the Families Matter Benefit and Celebration, the organization's signature fundraising event, contribute 20% of the annual budget. These funds, particularly, have been used to create better outcomes for children and

families by underwriting the Calling All Kids, All Kids Arts, 4 R Boys and 4 R Girls, and B.A.B.Y. programs.

## Future Plans

Subsequent to the completion of a current strategic planning process, plans are already in discussion to prepare for a major capital campaign that will result in raising the funds required to create a permanent home for the organization with expanded programming and service capability.

Program development plans for the upcoming year include the development and launch of several new programs including: **CHA-Ching!** – a financial training program for teenage girls, designed to teach personal financial planning and to inspire entrepreneurial ambition in this vulnerable population segment; and Every Mother's Village, a drop-in center for mothers of children from birth through kindergarten, providing a casual, comfortable gathering place where the children can take part in age-appropriate play activities while the mothers get information and support from staff and other parents or find a quiet corner of respite from the never-ending responsibilities of parenting.

When Friends of the Family began delivering services in July 1972, its founders had the foresight to envision a comprehensive community center with a family focus. Three decades later the result of their vision is that we have become known for pioneering innovative, practical programs that strengthen families and give our children a strong start. Overall, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that values parenting and families. As a leader for the national family support movement, a commitment to diversity, social justice, and vibrant communities is embedded in every aspect of Friends of the Family's work.

## Please Join Us

Families are a child's haven, the place to be loved, cared for and guided into adulthood. Families are the cornerstones of resilient communities. We welcome your partnership in this effort to assure all families the supports they need to become the best they can be.





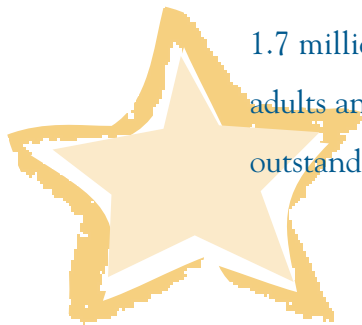
## Friends of the Family ...Because Families Matter



**Friends of the Family** is among the most highly regarded family resource centers in Southern California. For over 30 years **Friends of the Family** has been supporting and teaching parents how to create safe and nurturing homes and in the process helping children to develop into healthy and joyful young people.



From its humble beginnings with an annual budget under \$10,000, **Friends of the Family** has continuously grown and expanded so that currently with a budget of 1.7 million almost 8,000 children and adults annually participate in the outstanding programs and service.



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