

The Family Center
Healing For All in Need

The Family Center provides care to enrich, support, heal, and preserve the spirit and wholeness of human life.

Our specialty is compassionate care for individuals, children, families, senior citizens, and groups. The Family Center's experienced therapists provide a presence that comprises the first step in clients' healing journey. People of all faiths, cultures, and economic background are welcomed. The Center's small staff, central location, home-like atmosphere, and fully personalized care options (flexible time and place) are added benefits for people in need. Visits often take place at a client's home, school, nursing facility, etc.

No one is turned away because of inability to pay.

In 2009, some 175 individuals and families benefited by The Family Center's services.



Core Programs

The Center's Grace Program offers grief counseling to individuals and families experiencing the tragic or untimely loss of a loved one, especially a younger parent or a child. Through guided discussions, clients are encouraged to experience death as a manifestation of grace and as preparation for a new life. Family members also learn to recognize and address each others' needs during the grieving process. These services extend beyond what most hospice services can provide.

Our Mary Margaret Program reaches out to low-income, single-mother families with individual and group counseling, educational programs and even on-site school visits. Mothers learn valuable parenting skills, share their challenges, and offer encouragement to one another.

The Therese Program reaches older adults through visits to their home or nursing facility. Professionals provide spiritual guidance and a caring presence to seniors and their families as they face many challenges in their "evening" of life. The Family Center works to help clients stay informed, connected, and as independent as possible during their final days, weeks, months, or years. For some clients, our visiting personnel may be the only person they see in a month's time. Presently the Therese Program is offered free of charge because most clients are on very limited incomes.

History

The Family Center was created in 1995 as a sanctuary from the complex challenges of both today's world and "managed" health care.

Founder and Executive Director Madeleine Lane, a licensed marriage and family therapist, had been serving at large, nonprofit agencies. "If you lost your spouse, your insurance company might authorize two counseling sessions," she recalls. "If you were dealing with a terminal illness, you'd get three. A client would get very sick, yet I was told, 'No, insurance will not authorize you to go to his home and see him.'"



To Lane, meeting a client's most basic, practical needs too often fell outside boundaries in this corporate setting. She was determined to initiate a new model of treatment whereby restoring wholeness within families would not fall prey to bureaucratic constraints. "You can't get to the deeper issues if somebody's worried about how she'll get home from your office or whether she has enough food for her kids," Lane notes.

In the years since, Lane has worked to ensure that people could find hope and healing through caring, personalized mental health services – along with whatever practical assistance might be needed.

"The Family Center remains small because our traditional health care system is so big and so complicated. Nobody knows you, nobody knows your story. This instills great fear and anxiety. Here, our clients feel known and safe, trusted, and cared for."

Today, The Family Center provides more than \$100,000 worth of counseling, spiritual direction, educational programs, group facilitation and outreach. Of this, roughly half is made available at reduced costs for those people otherwise unable to afford The Center's help. In 15 years, The Family Center has improved the lives of hundreds of children, families, senior citizens, and other individuals.

With deep **GRATITUDE** for the outstanding **GENEROSITY** of donors, we continue to help people open the door to **HOPE** as they make the journey back to wholeness.

Community Partnerships and Board of Directors

The Family Center enjoys a close relationship with a number of corporate sponsors, faith-based organizations, and non-profit agencies. This network includes individual volunteers, local attorneys and physicians, a growing donor base and very dedicated board of directors.

Our benefactors and corporate partners include:

AXA Investment Corporation
Moneta Group
Jewish Fund for Human Needs
Travelers Foundation
Microsoft Corporation
Emerson
Will Flores Fund
Whole Foods

Wellston Center
Let's Start Program
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Whole Health Outreach
Godiva Chocolate
Starbucks Coffee
Empty Nest



2009-2010 Board of Directors

Mary Jo Masterson, *President*

Robbye Toft, *Vice President*

Brett Pont, *Treasurer*

Mary McElroy, *Secretary*

Pat Dooley, SSND

Kenneth Dyson

Madeleine Lane, SSND, MA, LMFT

Nancy Miller

Gloria Strang

Client Stories

“Six years ago, I was going through a difficult crisis in my life. A friend told me about The Family Center. While I had been looking for counseling and therapy, what I found there was much more. The Family Center has helped me grow. And our relationship was not just ‘over’ when the crisis was over. **As a single mother, I depend on The Family Center as a resource in my life to help me manage my family, work and personal relationships. I know that when I need them, they will be there for me, no matter what. In this world of constant change, I have found my ‘rock’.**” **J.S.**



Ways to Give

The number of people needing the services of The Family Center continues to grow. Their crises – whether of finances or family or faith – remain an opportunity for those more fortunate to forge a meaningful partnership with



The Center as instruments of hope and wholeness.

Generous individuals support The Family Center in the following ways:

- making **tax-deductible gifts** of any amount
- **contributing in-kind gifts** to help “adopt” a family or senior citizen
- **volunteering** to help in many ways
- naming The Family Center in a **planned gift** such as a Will or bequest
- **establishing a gift annuity** or other tax-friendly contribution vehicle

Through your caring, The Family Center is able to build a gentle, ongoing presence that brings healing and hope. Every dollar is directed “carefully and prayerfully” to meet the greatest needs within The Center’s three core programs.