



## FAMILY SERVICE & CHILDREN'S AID

Strong Families build Strong Communities

### Programs of FSCA

**330 W. Michigan, Jackson, MI 49201.**

**Telephone: 517-787-7920 [www.strong-families.org](http://www.strong-families.org)**

**November 2018**

#### Adoption

#### Behavioral Health

### November is National Adoption Month!

#### Breakout Drug Education

#### Employee Resource Center

#### Foster Care Services

#### Guardian

#### Home Again

#### JC Oasis

#### JUMP

#### Parent Education

#### School Counseling

#### Trauma Informed- Community Collaborative

#### Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Family Service & Children's Aid Adoption Program finds homes for foster children who cannot be safely reunified with their birth families. Our program serves children 0-17 years of age. We provide adoption services for children in the foster care system, and we do adoption home studies for families who are interested in adopting a child out of foster care. According to the most recent State of Michigan statistics, there are 13,700 children in foster care in Michigan. Many of those children will not be able to be safely reunified with their birth families and will need a new forever family.

The greatest need is for families who are willing to adopt sibling groups and children over the age of 10. During this holiday season, there is a media offering that people interested in potentially adopting might want to view. The movie, **Instant Family** opens on November 16, 2018 and you can view the trailer on YouTube. Go to [mare.org](http://mare.org) to see the 300 children in Michigan who are currently without an identified family. To learn more about adopting out of the foster care system, contact our agency at **517-787-7920 or email [adoption@strong-families.org](mailto:adoption@strong-families.org)**

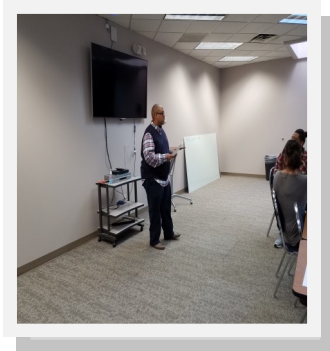
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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK!

FSCA could not do all of this good work in our community without the generous support of our partners, donors, and friends. Our highly skilled staff work hard every day to assist adults, children and families to lead healthier, safer lives. Our staff are serving both the youth and the older citizens through our schools and courts. In order to continue to provide quality services within the Jackson Community, we need the financial support of individuals and businesses in our community. If you would like to give financially to our mission, please send your donation to our facility or go to our website at [www.strong-families.org](http://www.strong-families.org) and click on the donate button. If you would like more information about the programs featured in our newsletter, please contact Stasia Milligan, Chief Program Officer, at [stasiamilligan@strong-families.org](mailto:stasiamilligan@strong-families.org) or 517-787-7920.

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## FSCA'S PARENT EDUCATION HELPS PARENTS LEARN NEW SKILLS!



Corey Duncan, Parent Ed

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FSCA's Parent Education Program has been serving family's in Jackson County for over 10 years. Every Tuesday morning from 10am-noon and Thursday evening from 6pm-8pm, we hold a parent education class. There are eight sessions and classes can be started at any session.

Our educator uses an evidence based, nationally recognized parent education program called Nurturing Parenting. Some of the topics include: Safety and Protecting

Children, Body Talk, Setting Boundaries, Guiding Behavior, Managing Stress, Routines & Schedules and What Babies Teach Us.

Jackson County continues to have high rates of confirmed abuse and neglect cases. According to Kids Count 2016, there were 1237 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect. Jackson County's rate of **35.4%** surpassed the state rate of **17.9%**

Parent Education helps reduce child abuse neglect in our community, and helps parents learn safe and healthy ways to guide children.

## BREAKOUT DRUG EDUCATION STARTS A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



Shelly Milligan, Breakout Program Coordinator

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The Breakout Program is an eight day, school-based, drug prevention education for middle and high school students. Classroom presentations include the short and long term affects of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalant use, prescription medication, decision-making (five step model), negative peer pressure vs. positive peer culture, peer refusal techniques, avoiding high risk situations, economics of drug use, social impact, effective communication and planning for the future. Each of the classroom presentations includes multi-media presentations, games, role play, small and large group work and visual aids.

Recently, the Breakout staff returned to the classroom where they are expected to conduct approximately 970 presentations for an estimated 3,000 students. For 27 years, Jackson County schools have partnered with the Breakout Program in an effort to address adolescent alcohol and other drug use. During that time, Breakout staff worked with teachers and school administrators to align the program with National Core Standards for Health Education. In addition, Breakout added a graded curriculum for middle and high school health class.

## FSCA'S GUARDIAN PROGRAM FAITHFULLY SERVES SOME OF JACKSON'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

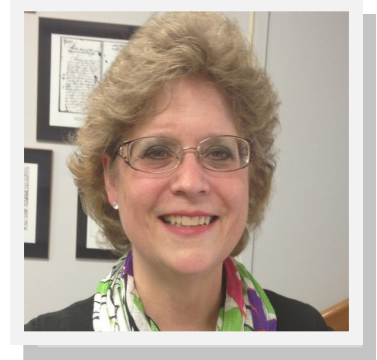
In 2007, FSCA took over the Jackson County Guardian Service from Jackson County government. The FSCA's Guardian Program currently serves 323 vulnerable adults in Jackson County. The County Court or Social Security Administration appoints The Guardian Program to oversee the financial and/or medical decisions for vulnerable adults who are unable to safely make their own decisions. These vulnerable adults do not have appropriate family to step in. Guardian staff are responsible for coordinating and collaborating with other community providers to make sure the housing, medical care, and mental health needs of their clients are met. Guardian staff give consent for medical care, file paperwork to ensure Medicare, Medicaid, food and housing assistance is provided for clients. They shop for clients, and have regular face to face contact with clients to ensure that they are being properly taken care of.

Most of the Guardian clientele live below the poverty level and all have been determined by the Court to be "vulnerable". Many are referred by Adult Protective Services to our program when family is not able or willing to take appropriate care of these people. About 42% of clients have a developmental disability, and about 62% are receiving mental health services. Many clients suffer from dementia. The Guardian clients live in a variety of different settings such as apartments, nursing homes, and adult foster care.

Guardian Marcia Smith has been with the program since 1990, and she is nationally certified. Marcia won the Liberty Bell Award in 2013 for her work as Jackson County's Guardian. Judy Richardson, Debra Pugh, and Nicole Marchese are all in the process of becoming certified nationally as well.

## FSCA Celebrates Halloween with Foster Care youth!

Every year, FSCA staff dress up to greet foster children who have come to Trick or Treat. All of the offices are decorated and staff are on hand to give out candy to all the little ghosts and goblins and super heroes who come through our doors. Around thirty children participated in our event this year. A big thank you to all of the staff (and staff babies)



Marcia Smith, Guardian

*"She's the most selfless person I have ever met,"*  
*Jackson County*  
*Chief Deputy*  
*Probate Register*  
*Julie Kelley said*  
*about Marcia*  
*Smith after she*  
*won the Liberty*  
*Bell Award*



Denise Liles, Susan Robilliard, Seana Watson, Tracy Harris, and Stephanie Schweda (Babies)

*Family Service & Children's*

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Follow us on FACEBOOK

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[www.strong-families.org](http://www.strong-families.org)

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***Our Mission***

*To strengthen the emotional health and functioning of children, adults and families through counseling, education, foster care, adoption, advocacy and program development.*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Operation Good Cheer 12/8/18**

