



WINTER - SPRING 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR (1)
- MOM2MOM GROUP KICKS OFF (2)
- GUARDIAN-CHILD ACTIVITIES HELD MONTHLY (2, 3)
- GIVING TREES KEEP TRAVELING (3, 4)
- STUDENT HYGIENE NEEDS SUPPORTED AT LOCAL SCHOOLS (5)
- NEW FSC COORDINATOR JOINS TEAM (5)
- FSC OUT AND ABOUT IN COMMUNITY (6)
- QUARTER IN REVIEW (6)

Marshall County Family Support Center
1501 Second St., Moundsville, WV 26041
P: 304-845-3300
E: mcfrcn@comcast.net

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

*Traci Kinney, Director
Marshall County FSC*



Happy Spring!

The FSC staff are excited about our upcoming spring activities that we have planned for children and families in Marshall County. We look forward to getting outdoors, celebrating the beautiful spring weather, smells of the blooming flowers, and the opportunity to participate in outside activities. The Family Support Center will be sponsoring many spring activities including a free family pool party, cooking classes, Mother's Day Circle of Parents celebration with flower planting, and a roller-skating party fun for all ages. If you would like more information on our programs/events or are in need of resources and referrals, please feel free to reach out to the Marshall County Family Support Center staff at 304-845-3300.

Thank you!

MOM2MOM GROUP KICKS OFF

The FSC is trying to start a new and expectant mothers' group to provide connection, support, and empowerment for mothers. Depending on group wants and needs, training may also be offered, on topics related to parenting, child development, or safety. The group will first try meeting virtually to gauge interest and scheduling, with the hope of moving to in-person meetings in the near future. The first virtual group was held on February 7, but unfortunately, no one attended. The FSC offered another virtual group at a different time in March and also offered an incentive in an effort to boost attendance. The second virtual group was held on March 6, with two community members participating. The group discussed what sorts of training and activities they would be interested in; the FSC is looking into offering an infant first aid and CPR class based on requests. The next group is scheduled for April 30.



GUARDIAN-CHILD EVENTS HELD MONTHLY

The FSC is looking for ways to increase or expand its program offerings. During the third quarter, the FSC planned, coordinated, and offered once monthly guardian-child activities. These activities are open to any caregiver and child, it doesn't need to be a parent. The FSC purposefully chose to name the events for guardians since we serve all families in our area. The activities offered are free, promote family engagement and bonding, and incorporate other aspects like mental health awareness or physical activity. For January, the activity was family yoga led by a certified instructor, along with making a stress ball, and a mindfulness story with corresponding activity offered by NAMI Greater Wheeling. Two adults and three children participated in the event. While attendance was lower at this activity, the FSC believes attendance will increase as offerings become more known in the community and winter weather decreases.

Continued on next page



For February, the FSC offered a “Paint and Snack” activity. Children and adults were guided through a painting activity and enjoyed refreshments. Nine children and ten adults participated in the Paint and Snack, which the FSC was pleased with. In March, the FSC joined the City of Moundsville to participate in their drive-thru Easter event. At the event, families were able to drive-thru, receive a treat bag, and visit with the Easter Bunny. FSC and PAT staff had tables at the event and passed out items to families. Approximately 250 community members attended, 170 of which were children. Upcoming planned activities include a family pool party, children’s cooking classes, and a roller skating party.



GIVING TREES CONTINUE TRAVELING

During the quarter, the FSC’s Giving Trees continued traveling around different locations in the county to distribute items. The Giving Trees are tree-shaped and have attached clips to hang items on the tree. The FSC likes to place the trees at highly utilized locations, or at locations families already visit for other services or programs.

Continued on next page



Many different items can be hung on the trees and allow for personal selection based on preference. Beginning in November, the FSC placed a tree at the Moundsville City Building, filling it with toothbrushes, toothpastes, deodorant, hats, gloves, scarves, books, and small hygiene items. City staff shared that the tree has been frequently utilized and it is helpful to have on the premises for individuals needing assistance. The tree remained there through January. In February, Wesley Park reached out to the FSC to inquire about hosting the Giving Tree onsite. Wesley Park provides income-based apartments for those aged 62 years or older. The FSC prepped the tree, filling it with an assortment of personal care, hygiene, and household items. The tree was placed there in February 20 and remained stationed at Wesley Park until the beginning of March.

The FSC connected with the Unity Center to see if they would be interested in hosting a Giving Tree at their location. The Unity Center provides services to individuals who use substances or are in recovery, and serves an at-risk population that benefits from additional resources, like concrete support. The FSC prepped the tree, filling it with an assortment of hygiene and personal care items. The tree was placed at the Unity Center on February 23 and remained there through March; additional items were also provided during the month and the FSC will check in during April. Lastly, in celebration of World Book Day, a Giving Tree was stationed at the Moundsville City Building and filled with assorted children's books. The Giving Tree has been placed at the City Building several times over the past year; the FSC finds this to be a good fit, as many residents come to the City Building for services, information, or resources. The FSC periodically checked on the tree throughout March and stocked it as necessary. 100 books in total were provided to be hung on the tree. The FSC plans to station the Giving Trees at additional locations in the fourth quarter.



*Above, left: FSC Director, Traci Kinney, with Mary Hess of the Unity Center and the Giving Tree
Above, right: Outreach Coordinator, Sara Wood Shaw, with Moundsville City Manager Rick Healy and the Giving Tree*

STUDENT HYGIENE NEEDS SUPPORTED AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The FSC works closely with the local school system, often partnering for programs and projects. This provides a great way to receive feedback on students' and families' needs and also gives opportunities to embed services. During the third quarter, the FSC supported students' hygiene needs at several local schools. Central Elementary reached out to the FSC for additional lice kits for families. The FSC provided two packages, containing a lice treatment kit, laundry detergent, trash bags, and tip sheets, to the schools for distribution to families. Following this, the FSC connected with the other local schools to see if they had a need for additional lice treatment kits. Many of the schools reported that they had distributed all the lice treatment kits provided to families and were in need of more. The FSC assembled 12 Healthy Classroom Essentials packages containing the kits, laundry detergent, trash bags, and tip sheets and distributed them to the schools in need.

The school nurse at Central Elementary reached out to the FSC seeking feminine hygiene bags for the growth and development classes. Privacy bags were assembled containing feminine hygiene items, cleansing and stain remover wipes, along with a menstrual cycle tip sheet. These are essential items that help to ensure young girls are prepared. 40 bags were provided to the school to support the class. Lastly, the FSC had an excess of toothpastes on hand with various expiration dates. It connected with two local schools that have large and heavily utilized student hygiene closets. 50 toothpastes were provided to each Moundsville Middle School and Cameron Middle and High School for their closets.

NEW FSC COORDINATOR JOINS TEAM

At the end of January, former FSC Coordinator, Caroline Brannan, relocated and vacated her position. While we were sad to see her go, we wish her the best of luck on her new adventure.

Please help us extend a warm welcome to Jodi Clark, new FSC Coordinator, who joins the FSC team in April. Welcome, Jodi!



FSC OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

FSC staff have been busy participating in community events and conducting outreach! Check out some of the places we have been this quarter!



Above: FSC and FRN Directors at Inclusion on Ice (left), SafeTALK training coordinated and held at the FSC/FRN (middle), FSC and FRN Directors at the Marshall County Health and Business Expo (right)
 Below: FSC Director receives feminine hygiene bags donation (left), FSC Director and Outreach Coordinator at Easter Drive-Thru event (middle), Circle of Parents participant wins door prize from March group (right)



THIS QUARTER IN REVIEW

