

IFNL Celebrates 10 Years of Strengthening Ties Between Families and Communities



THE NEWSLETTER OF STRONG COMMUNITIES

Keep Kids Safe

The Year 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life (IFNL). A Public Service Activity of Clemson University, IFNL focuses its work on the relation of policies and programs to the everyday experience of families and neighborhoods in the United States and internationally.

You are familiar with STRONG COMMUNITIES, which has been the cornerstone of recent efforts of IFNL, and its supporting initiatives which include Building Dreams, a mentoring program for children of prisoners, and Safe Families, which provides shelter for children in families lacking informal respite care.

In addition to these groundbreaking initiatives to support families of young children, IFNL has also led the research and activity of many other projects to support families and benefit communities. These include:

- IFNL's PhD program in International Family and Community Studies and certificate programs with partner universities in Eastern Europe and the Caribbean.
- A national bullying prevention program.
- Schools Out Lowcountry, a six-year

initiative in partnership with five foundations to expand the afterschool programming available in the low-country of South Carolina.

- The South Carolina Rural Communities Compassion Project, a \$6 million initiative that has provided funding to 141 rural non-profits to

build their capacity to serve at-risk youth and families.

In celebration of IFNL's 10th anniversary, the institute will host an international symposium in Greenville, SC, March 30—April 1, 2009. The theme is Building Safe, Humane, and Responsive Communities for Children and Families.

*The vision of
STRONG COMMUNITIES
is for every child and
every parent to be
confident that someone
will notice and someone
will care whenever they
have cause for joy,
sorrow, or worry. You
play a role in making this
vision a reality in your
community.*

The symposium will focus on the experience of children and families in everyday life and in times of crisis. Participants will consider ways in which neighborhood institutions – schools, workplaces, parks, places of worship, health clinics, police and fire stations, etc. – can enhance “natural” social assistance to promote the well-being of children and families.

*For more information about the
symposium visit:*

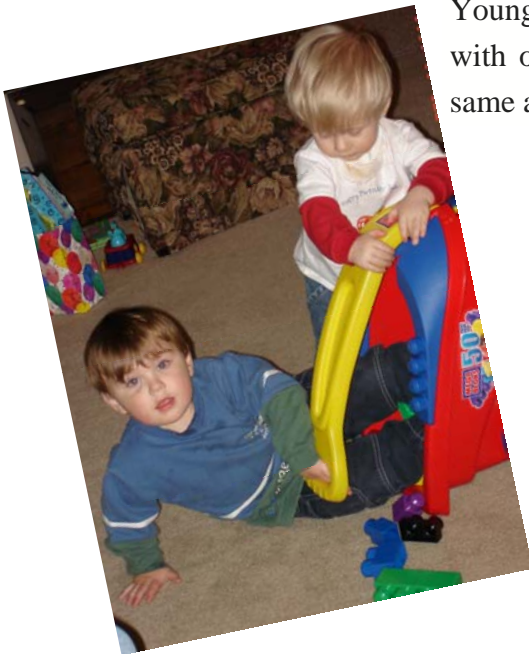
www.familysymposium.com

Family Activity Centers



Check out Family Activity Centers (FACs) in your community! These centers of STRONG COMMUNITIES activity are located in local churches, schools, fire stations, and other neighborhood sites. FACs provide family activities and support for families with young children. Some of the activities offered at area FACs this month can be found in this newsletter. For more information, call 250-4623.

Family Play Groups



Young children play while parents and other caregivers meet and socialize with others. This is a great way to get to know families with children the same age as yours! And it's free!

Mauldin

Mauldin United Methodist Church, 100 E. Butler Rd., Mauldin
Every Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.; age 18 months-3 yrs. old.

Williamston

Caroline Center, 1 School St., Williamston
Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon; snacks provided.

Parents' Night Out /Morning Off

Need a break or just want some "grown-up time?" Fun activities and safe care are available for toddlers, preschoolers and elementary-age children while you have time off. Some locations require minimal fees.

Fountain Inn

Climbin' High, 512 Georgia St., Fountain Inn
"Moms' Afternoon Out"
Monday-Thursday, 12:00-3:00 p.m.; cost \$15 per day; ages 2, 3 and 4.

"Parents' Night Out"
Every Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; cost \$5; ages 3 and up.

Parent-Child Activities

Enjoy free or low-cost, fun activities with your pre-school or kindergarten-age child and meet other parents with children the same age as yours!

Fountain Inn

New Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Church, 307 Fairview St., Fountain Inn

First Steps

Every Saturday, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; ages birth-5; breakfast provided.

Piedmont

Piedmont Library, 1407 Hwy 86, Piedmont

Story time

Feb. 4, 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Simpsonville

Center for Community Services, 1102 Howard Dr., Simpsonville

Parent Branch

Mondays. 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Reservations required. For more information and to make reservations, please call 688-2215.)

Valentines Day Crafts

Feb. 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Ages 7 and under.
(Reservations required. Please RSVP by Feb. 9 to Janine Sutter at 918-2720.)

Williamston

Lander Library, 925 Greenville Dr., Williamston

Giggles and Tales Story Time

Every Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.



Chat with a Family Advocate

Need help figuring out what to do about a family problem? Trained Family Advocates are available to help you solve problems, provide neighborly advice, and connect you with community resources.

Fountain Inn

Kingdom Outreach Ministries, 300 Wall St., Fountain Inn

Every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Greenville

Upstate Circle of Friends, 301 E. Dorchester Blvd., Greenville

Feb. 14, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Belmont Fire Dept., 701 Fork Shoals Rd., Greenville

Feb. 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Woodruff Rd. Christian Church, 20 Bell Rd., Greenville

Every Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or by appointment; call Steve at 288-1543.

Simpsonville

Center for Community Services, 1102 Howard Dr., Simpsonville

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Café Cultura at the Center for Community Services, 1102 Howard Dr., Simpsonville

Chat with a Family Advocate for Spanish-speaking families. By appointment. Please call 688-2224.

Financial Education and Counseling

Need help with budgeting, planning for a home purchase, or career planning? Attend a workshop, or obtain advice from a professional in financial services. In-home and group financial counseling available. Call 688-2247 for more information.

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Other Activities Offered at FACs

A Support Group for New Moms at the Mauldin Cultural Center, 101 E. Butler Rd. on Feb. 17 at 10:00 a.m. This support group is appropriate for moms with babies ages 0-12 months. Light refreshments will be provided.

Café Cultura hosted by the Center for Community Services at 1102 Howard Drive, Simpsonville, provides activities and support for Latino families. Call 688-2224 for more information.

GED Classes are offered every Tuesday and Thursday evening at Kingdom Outreach Ministries in Fountain Inn. The cost is \$5 per class. Call Selena Parker at 409-0048 for more information.

Grandparent Support Group at the Riley Child Development Center, 9130 Augusta Rd., Pelzer, on Feb. 9 at 12:00 noon. Lunch is provided, so please call Ann at 864-243-9568 to inform her of your intent to attend.

A Free Dental Clinic for children and adults will be provided by Greenville Tech dental hygiene students at the Center for Community Services, 1102 Howard Drive, Simpsonville on Feb. 11 and 25. Patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis and children age 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the Center for Community Services at 864-967-0288.

Immunizations for children ages 18 and under will be provided at the Center for Community Services, 1102 Howard Drive, Simpsonville on Feb. 9 and 23 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.. For an appointment, call 864-282-4311.

Car Safety Seat Inspection Station provided in cooperation with Safe Kids Upstate and hosted at the Center for Community Services at 1102 Howard Drive, Simpsonville, on the 4th Thursday of every month. Advance reservations are needed and require the height and weight of children. Call 688-2215 for more information or to inquire about making a reservation.

Do you want to live in a neighborhood where all families and children are valued and supported?

Do you enjoy volunteering but aspire to take your service to a higher level?

All families face difficult situations from time to time. For example, all families are vulnerable to illness and disability, and stability of employment is often not fully within one's control. Many families face extraordinary challenges that, although not "ordinary," are nonetheless disturbingly frequent (for example, poverty; separation and divorce; incarceration of a family member). Even daily hassles can be the "last straws" when parents by themselves face such stressors or when everyday challenges occur against a background of exceptional need.

In such circumstances, the consequences for children are often dependent on the support that the family receives—emotional support, information, or direct assistance. Sometimes such assistance is in person-power (for example, child care or "sweat equity" in home repairs). At other times, it is tangible (for example, help in paying and overdue bill). Lacking such resources, "difficult situations" can turn into "crisis" in which parents' ability to keep their children safe and to meet other basic needs is compromised.

Accordingly, STRONG COMMUNITIES seeks to build a network of volunteers willing to open their hearts, their appointment books, their checkbooks, and sometimes even their homes to children and parents in need of care and shelter. To enlist such volunteers and provide them with support, STRONG COMMUNITIES strives to engage partner organizations across the community.

STRONG COMMUNITIES seeks individual and family volunteers to provide:

- mentoring;
- occasional child care;
- materials assistance;
- help in problem solving;
- financial education and counseling;
- temporary care and shelter;
- activities for families with young children.



STRONG COMMUNITIES also seeks organizations to support such efforts:

- Leadership in mobilizing communities to give greater support to families;
- Enlistment of individuals and groups to offer their time and other resources to ensure children's safety and well-being;
- Support to volunteers who do assume such responsibilities;
- Planning and advocacy to ensure that help is available to all families with young children.

For more information, contact us at 864-250-4630 or by E-mail at scott5@clemson.edu.

Are you ready to make a commitment and open your home and heart to children in need?

Are you interested in entering into a partnership with a family to keep kids safe?

NOTICE: The United States Constitution requires schools to respect the right of all external organizations to distribute flyers to students at school if the school permits any such organization to distribute flyers. Accordingly, the school cannot discriminate among groups wishing to distribute flyers at school and does not endorse the content of any flyer distributed at school. The school encourages parents to assist their children in making choices appropriate for them.



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THE NEWSLETTER OF STRONG
COMMUNITIES

STRONG COMMUNITIES, IFNL

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The Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life of Clemson University celebrates 10 years of strengthening ties between families and communities. For more information see the article on page one.

IFNL's 10th anniversary logo was designed by Debbie Bzdyl of Impact Graphics and was inspired by the figures in Guillaume's sculpture *Family Gathering*, commissioned by IFNL for the celebration.

Keep Kids Safe is a publication of STRONG COMMUNITIES, a public service activity of Clemson University's Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life. STRONG COMMUNITIES is principally supported by a long-term, generous grant from The Duke Endowment. *Keep Kids Safe* is published to keep volunteers and supporters of STRONG COMMUNITIES informed of activities and news related to the initiative. Address all correspondence to Lori Bailey, editor. E-mail lbaile@clemson.edu or call (864) 250-4623.