



# DePaul Family and Community Services

November 2012

EMBODYING THE VINCENTIAN MISSION

FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Our Mission & Vision

DePaul Family and Community Services (FCS) strengthens and empowers families and communities through innovative, evidenced-based, community-oriented services and the training of culturally-competent, socially responsible professionals.

### Vision

To provide **quality** services that are flexible and responsive to the individual needs of clients, their families, and their communities;

To provide services that are **community-based** and focused on **prevention** and overall well-being;

To **empower** families and communities to make change in their lives and in the lives of others;

To **partner** with other child-serving organizations and systems to achieve shared goals of child, family, and community wellness;

To develop and implement **evidenced-based** approaches that take into consideration **culture** and the system(s) in which our clients live;

To strengthen the healthcare system by training **socially-responsible** professionals who are considerate of all social-determinants of health and well-being.



**Dr. Orson Morrison**  
**Director**

### ***Happy Holidays to you and yours!***

On behalf of the staff and advisory board, I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous season. FCS continues to embrace and embody the legacy of St. Vincent de Paul through innovative, community-based approaches that help vulnerable children, families, and communities. FCS continues to evolve in response to the changing Human Services landscape, economic climate and ever-present and

growing needs of the communities we serve. As the new Director of FCS, I've been committed to engaging our staff, board members, community partners, students, and clients in learning about and assessing the strengths and opportunities for FCS in the months and years ahead.

Our priorities include strengthening our overall business model to create a diversification of revenue streams, elevate the visibility and increase collaborations of FCS both at DePaul University and in the community, and continue to develop and strengthen the training program particularly around evidenced-based treatments and work within a multi-cultural framework, among others. There is lots in the works so stay-tuned for updates!

If I haven't already met you, I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. **Save the date for our Spring Open Houses** (April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>). More details to follow.

All My Best and Happy Holidays,

Orson

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### FCS Responds to the Needs of Chicago-area Youth

The staggering exposure of Chicago's youth to trauma and violence is well documented. From 2008 to 2012, more than 530 youth were killed in Chicago; nearly 80% of the homicides occurred within 22 African-American or Latino community areas, located in the South, Southwest, and West segments of the city. In 2010, 1,109 school-aged youth were shot, and 216 of those were killed. Nearly half

of Chicago's homicide victims are young people aged 10–25. In the Chicago Youth Development Study, 80% of inner-city teen boys reported exposure to violence. In the "Illinois Infant Mental Health Survey: Findings and Recommendations" (Gilkerson and Cutler), nearly 50% of inner-city adolescents demonstrated signs and symptoms of depression. These results are in line with the findings of the National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder showing that more than 40% of children exposed to violence show symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

FCS continues to engage with our community partners such as Austin Coming Together (ACT), and Community Youth Development Institute (CYDI) to design interventions that address the urgent trauma-related needs our youth, families, and communities face each day.



### DePaul's Staff Council Honors Dr. Richard Renfro

DePaul's Staff Council honored Richard Renfro of DePaul's Family & Community Services with the 2011-2012 Staff Council Diversity Award. Dr. Richard L. Renfro won the 2012-2013 Staff Council Staff/Department

Diversity Award due to his dedication, expertise, and unshakeable commitment to promoting diversity among clients, students, staff, faculty, families, schools, and communities. For the past twenty years, his life is the epitome of working towards empowerment via advocacy and social justice on the individual, familial, community, and societal level for poor Latino and African American families, as well as the LGBT community. Dr. Renfro spent his formative years in Calexico, California, a humble border city adjacent to the country of Mexico. From there, he was educated at Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley, graduating with a Ph.D. in Clinical Community Psychology. An internship at the nationally recognized Institute of Juvenile Research brought him to Chicago and ultimately DePaul Family and Community Services where he works diligently as a bilingual Licensed Clinical Psychologist for underserved minority youth and their families.

Dr. Renfro promotes change through his individual work with youth and families. His specialty is helping young males shape their identity while facing the unique challenges of growing up in economically challenged neighborhoods with limited resources. Dr. Renfro empowers parents to set fair and accurate limits while modeling healthy attachments within overstressed households. In schools, he works to promote lasting changes by advocating at the systems level and training and consulting with staff at overwhelmed public and therapeutic day schools. Dr. Renfro

supports bilingual and emotionally compromised parents through modeling advocacy for their children and educating families about their educational rights. Thank you Richard for all you do!



### Dr. Sheila Ribordy Memorial Fund

To those who shared with FCS in celebrating the life of former FCS Director, Dr. Sheila Ribordy, and to those who knew her as a teacher and mentor, it has been over a year since Sheila's passing.

We wanted to provide you with an update about the memorial fund that DePaul established in her honor, and share some thoughts on continuing to build our connections with each other on behalf of the children and families we serve.

During her many years at DePaul Family and Community Services (FCS), Sheila found innovative ways to bring opportunities to Chicago youth, such as her signature program, "Day at DePaul." The Day at DePaul experience is an annual full day immersion, an introduction to college life at DePaul University for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, primarily from low-income environments, attending a Chicago Public School.

The students are likely to be the first generation in their family to attend college, therefore, the goal is to plant seeds and to demystify and make college feel more attainable. Students are paired with student mentors, tour the campus, learn about classes and activities, and develop individual goals and pathways to success. The Sheila Ribordy Memorial Fund in FCS was established to help continue this, and other programs and activities, which directly benefit these young people. We are planning on holding the next "Day at DePaul" on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

As of October, 2012, nearly \$28,000 has been contributed to the Sheila Ribordy Memorial Fund. It is our hope that we secure additional resources to fully endow this fund at the University, with the goal of raising an additional \$22,000 in the coming months.

Additionally, a planning group has also gathered to brainstorm about creative ways to support the Memorial Fund and continue Sheila's legacy. We seek to build connections, stimulate learning and collaboration, and promote creative endeavors for meeting the needs of youth in our community. We invite each of you to consider joining the planning group or contributing ideas for this exciting initiative. Please contact Winifred Kearns, LCSW, Associate Director at DePaul Family and Community Services with questions and ideas. [wdunn@depaul.edu](mailto:wdunn@depaul.edu)

With your help, FCS can fulfill Sheila's vision for services to children far into the future. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Help FCS Make Impact!

In the fiscal year 2012 FCS made the following impact:

- Provided over 4000 hours of individual and family counseling to under-resourced children and families;
- Served approximately 400 clients, 95% of whom were eligible for Medicaid, based upon income eligibility standards;
- 91% of our clients identified as ethnic minority;
- Completed 30 full psychological assessments to populations that would otherwise not have timely access to quality services;
- Trained over 10 graduate students.

According to the American Psychological Association, those living in poverty are **2-5 times more likely to suffer from a mental disorder**.

**Your help** is needed to support the impact FCS has in providing under-resourced families access to quality behavioral health services!

### Please Donate Now:

<https://alumni.depaul.edu/give/GivingForm.aspx>

From the above website, donors can scroll down the page and can enter where they would like their donation to go (i.e. **Sheila Ribordy Memorial Fund** or **Family and Community Services General Fund**)

## Keep In Touch With FCS!

If you would like to periodically receive newsletters and other FCS updates please e-mail the following to [omorriso@depaul.edu](mailto:omorriso@depaul.edu)

Your Name:

Preferred Mailing Address:

Your E-Mail Address:

Your preferred Phone:

Your Relationship to FCS: Alumni, Staff, Former Staff, Friend, Board, Faculty etc.

## Our Services:

Individual (Child/Adolescent) & Family Therapy (clinic- and community-based);

Parent/Caregiver Support;

School-Based Behavioral Health Partnerships;

Psychological Testing & Evaluations;

Pediatric Psychiatry and Medication Management;

Evidenced-Based Treatments such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

### **For Service or Partnership Inquiries Please Contact:**

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