



## FAMILY-CENTERED, NEIGHBORHOOD BASED SERVICES aka FAMILY 2 FAMILY

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

HI! I'M 8 YEARS OLD, AND THIS IS A PICTURE OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD. ALL OF MY FRIENDS ARE HERE, SO IS MY SCHOOL. MY MOM TAKES CARE OF US. DAD LEFT A WHILE AGO AND NEVER CAME BACK. SOMETIMES THINGS GET CONFUSING. MY MOM GETS UPSET. SHE SEEMS REAL UNHAPPY. OUR GRANDMA SAYS MOM IS DEPRESSED. MY SISTER AND ME AREN'T SURE WHO TO TALK TO WHEN WE RUN OUT OF FOOD OR WHEN OUR CLOTHES NEED WASHING. WE HAVE A SOCIAL WORKER WHO IS REAL NICE, BUT SOMETIMES I JUST WANT A FRIEND. JUST LIKE MR. ROGERS SAYS, WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Family problems are resolved most effectively and lastingly with team effort. While most of us have family and friends we can count on when we are in a jam, families in need of public services are more vulnerable and less likely to have a strong support system. Coming together as a team of parents, neighbors, respected community members, and service providers we can find solutions to problems vulnerable families cannot find on their own. **Community solutions achieve long-term results.**

As part of the **GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM (GAL)**, you can help support safe children and stable families in their own neighborhoods. Work with the child protection worker and the family to identify the best ways to protect the child and keep the family stable. Get to know the case from a holistic point of view. Seek out information on the family system and meet with the social worker and CASA volunteer prior to the trial date to review the case plan and discuss child safety and family stability strategies and the commitments of community providers in supporting the child and family.