



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. 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 **SCHOOL SYSTEM**, you can help support children in their own neighborhoods. Hook a child up with a mentor or Big Brother/Sister if you see they need additional after school support. Advocate for community nights in the school - inviting parents from specific communities to come for a special program put on by the children. Build partnerships with your child protection agency - they need your support in protecting the County's children. Report suspected child abuse or neglect to Children Services. Attend the Family Case Conference that concerns a child in your classroom (if a child is having problems at home, these problems will eventually surface in school). Work with the child protection agency to alert them of vulnerable families so that prevention strategies can be offered to prevent child abuse or neglect for occurring. Partner with the agency to find new ways of working closely together for the same ends: safe, well-educated and healthy children.