



The Mediation Center

Finding common ground.

Family Visitation Program of the Mediation Center



Request for Buncombe
County funding for FY
2013-2014

Family Visitation Program

The Family Visitation Program provides supervised visits and safe child exchange to families with a history of or high risk for:

- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Substance abuse
- Low parenting skills
- Mental Health Concerns
- Child abduction





Outcomes

- In the 2011-2012 fiscal year:
 - FVP served **57 families**
 - Provided **669 supervised visits** (a 6.2% increase over the prior year)
 - Provided **132 safe child exchanges**.
 - **100% of visits and exchanges were free of violence and abuse.**
 - Used the **Supportive Supervision Model** of visit supervision for all visits - parents participate in coaching and goal setting before and after each visit to build parenting skills, reduce inappropriate parenting, and improve the quality of the visit.
 - **85% of parents met at least 2 parenting goals** for each quarter.
 - Community members **volunteered 1157 hours**.





Additional Funders

The Family Visitation Program receives funding from:

- Governor's Crime Commission/VAWA
- United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County
- Sliding-scale fees
- Donations from individuals and churches

A volunteer making craft kits for visiting children to work on with their parents.





Community Partners

- **Buncombe County Department of Social Services** – client referrals, , provides training to FVP staff and volunteers on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect
- **Helpmate** – client referrals, training to staff and volunteers on domestic violence
- **Pisgah Legal Services** – client referrals, and training to staff on legal issues in visitation, exchange, and domestic violence
- **Guardian Ad Litem Program** – client referrals, shares training resources with FVP staff and volunteers.
- **United Way's 211** – client referrals, and training on victims' resources
- **Buncombe County Courts** – provide referrals for families

All partners have a representative on the **Family Visitation Advisory Committee** which provides advice, guidance, and expertise to the program's staff and volunteer leaders.



Use of County Funds

- We will use county funds to pay the salaries of the visit monitors who provide supervised visitation and monitored child exchange.
- Buncombe County funds are used as a match for the two-year Governor's Crime Commission/VAWA grant that provides the majority of funding for this program. We are currently in the 1st year of this two year grant.

We are not seeking funds from the city of Asheville or the Tourism Authority for this program.



Agency Budget

- The Mediation Center's budget for 2012-2013 is \$673,528.
- Per our most recent 990:
 - Management/general and fundraising expenses total 18.9%
 - Program expenses total 81.01%



Long Term Investment in Community Safety

Family Visitation Program services are needed:

- In Buncombe County, violent crimes related to domestic violence, including rape, homicide, aggravated assault, and simple assault increased by 96% from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011. During this period, FVP had a **63% increase in exchanges**, and a **34% increase in supervised visits**.

Family Visitation Program services protect our community now and in the future:

- Protects domestic violence victims from having contact with their abuser.
- Protects Children from witnessing or experiencing ongoing abuse and violence.
- Children who are abused or exposed to violence are more likely to become abusers themselves.



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Family Visitation Program Advisory Committee

- **Kathleen Balogh** - NC Council for Women
- **Janet Harvey** - Buncombe County Family Court
- **Ward Scott** - District Court Judge
- **Kim Granelle** - Visitation/Access Program, Buncombe County Family Court
- **Julie Klipp-Nicholson** - Pisgah Legal Services
- **Sarah Corley** – Certified Mediator, Attorney
- **Johanna Finkelstein** - Law Office of Johanna Finkelstein
- **Rasheeda McDaniels** - Buncombe County Health and Human Services
- **Bill McGuire** - Child Abuse Prevention Services
- **Dr. Linda Shamblin** - Psychologist, Parenting Coordinator
- **Jane Robinson** - Helpmate
- **Catie Eichberg** – Social worker, former intern

