

*Building family resilience, strengthening family relationships, increasing coping skills, reducing juvenile crime, and achieving school success*

## Family Solutions Program Reduces School Drop-Outs

The Richland 2 (Columbia) School District reported to the South Carolina Dept. of Education that in 2009-10 the Family Solutions Program reduced the number of high-school dropouts as well as behavioral problems. Of the 207 students who participated in the Family Solutions Program last year:

- ◆ 90% remained in school in the district
- ◆ 81% were promoted to the next grade level
- ◆ 9 of the 11 seniors graduated in May 2010
- ◆ Only 4% were actually expelled
- ◆ Only 2 (0.97%) were sent to family court for truancy

These statistics show the benefits of implementation of Family Solutions within school systems not only for behavioral problems, but for student's academic success as well!



## Family Solutions Continues to Grow

Families4Change is continuing to expand its reach! We are currently operating in 34 counties including Athens-Clarke County (GA), Stephens County (GA), Irving (TX), the South Carolina DJJ, Richland County (SC), Spartanburg 2 (SC), Union County (SC) & Sweetwater (WY) School Districts. FSP also provides services through the Family Dynamics Counseling Center (WY) and the Irving Family Advocacy Center (TX). In addition, we are very excited that FSP is being utilized in the Clarke County School District here in Athens, GA! We have recently completed a cycle at Clarke Central High School (Athens, GA) and are excited about a new group at W. R. Coile Middle School!

### FSP Family Testimonies at Clarke Central High (Athens, GA)

*"Family Solutions has put communication back in my family's life... We communicate better and have less stress in the house... It's a very good program and I would recommend it to anybody!"*

*"You don't even have to have issues, it's a good place to go to talk and discuss things with your family."*

*"We really enjoyed the program; it really gave us a new dialogue as a family... Many of us suggested that we even extend the program because it was that enjoyable, and we all learned together and grew together both as individual families and as a group"*

*"I really enjoyed FSP, it really helped our family communicate better, it helped us with anger issues... I took something from every session... my boys enjoyed coming every Thursday!"*

*"My mother and I really got to know each other better... the best thing about FSP is that we had fun and we learned how to communicate too!"*

### Judge Byars Advocates for Family intervention!

In a January 2011 article featured in the Greenville SC (News), Judge Byars urges the community to do something about its juvenile offenders. Judge Byars, Head of the SC Dept. of Corrections, reminds the community that dealing with the child alone is not enough. He says "You've got to go out and look at the family, look at the neighborhood." Since Byars' takeover and reform of the Juvenile Justice System in South Carolina to one with a more all-inclusive look at a child's environment, 'the number of incarcerated youth has been dramatically reduced. As a part of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) system reform, Families4Change, Inc. recently received a \$54,000 grant to expand the Family Solutions Program.

## Updates

- ◆ New Risk Assessments are now available online! We hope that they will give us a better look at the families that we serve and the benefits of the Family Solution Program.
- ◆ FSP recently completed a trainings in Irving, Texas and in Spartanburg, South Carolina!