



## FAM Prevention Program

The purpose of FAM is threefold. First, the program helps strengthen parent-child relationships and fosters healthy homes by linking parents with other parents, with educational opportunities, and with other family service providers. FAM's goal is to reach families before they are in need of intervention services.

Second, FAM provides public education that promotes widespread prevention by helping people recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect and understand the causes and consequences. An educated public is capable and motivated to provide appropriate intervention on behalf of children.

Finally, FAM adds to the well being of the community as a whole. A healthy, prosperous community values and protects its children. FAM continually reminds the community of the severity and extent to which child abuse and neglect is affecting children and families and provides opportunities for people to actively participate in child abuse prevention.

### **FAM offers the following services and activities:**

- Develops and distributes educational materials that promote positive parenting techniques. Materials deliver specific parenting tips on child safety, anger management, non-violent discipline, building self-esteem, and other related topics. These educational tools target a large audience and are distributed at community fairs, local festivals and special events.
- Provides online assistance through the FAM website at [www.FAMrichmond.com](http://www.FAMrichmond.com). The website is a clearinghouse for parenting information, a repository for other organizations to list upcoming events, a link to community resources, and a source for other helpful websites. The website increases the accessibility of existing and underutilized services and creates a new resource for parents and professionals.
- Facilitates Circle of Parents groups for parents. During weekly support group meetings, parents from similar backgrounds discuss the common challenges of parenting. Groups are moderated by a SCAN facilitator, but parents

are encouraged to develop leadership roles within the group. Groups are designed to give parents a forum to voice concerns and brainstorm solutions.

- Coordinates the National Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign each April. The campaigns focus on eliminating the barriers and minimizing the stigma associated with receiving services by normalizing the help seeking process and increasing awareness of local resources, such as the 1-800-CHILDREN help line. The multimedia campaigns include educational packets, informational handouts, posters, and stickers. Each year, SCAN also distributes approximately 30,000 blue awareness ribbons and stickers to local groups, congregations, businesses and schools.
- Trains professionals—such as childcare providers, teachers, and guidance counselors—on a variety of child-related issues, including child development, child safety, and positive parenting practices. SCAN also provides a Speakers' Bureau to civic groups, congregations, and businesses. SCAN not only educates these groups about child abuse and neglect, but also about ways they can support community efforts to prevent child abuse.
- Provides “Stewards of Children” training—a program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse by following seven steps. Through a partnership with Darkness to Light, SCAN is the only Richmond organization able to provide “Stewards of Children” training for companies, congregations, schools and civic groups.
- Coordinates a FAMnetwork for local organizations that provide parent support and education services in the region. The FAMnetwork helps ensure comprehensive service delivery for all families by identifying gaps in parenting services and enhancing communication between service providers in order to meet those needs while avoiding duplication.