



**For Immediate Release**

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**Red Cross reaches agreement to hand over ownership of  
Homeless Shelter to Family Service Association  
Transfer of ownership to be complete by end of the year**

**Philadelphia and Langhorne, PA** (November 14, 2011) – The American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) and the Family Service Association (FSA) jointly announce an agreement to have FSA take over ownership of the homeless shelter on 7301 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

This agreement culminates a five month long search by the Red Cross SEPA Chapter to find a new operator for the homeless shelter located in Lower Bucks County. The transfer of the shelter was necessitated by the restructuring of Red Cross services in the Region. Humanitarian and biomedical services previously provided by the Lower Bucks Chapter are now provided by the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. This restructuring allows for the more effective and efficient provision of Red Cross services.

“When we made the difficult decision to restructure the services provided in Lower Bucks County chapter, we made a promise to keep the homeless shelter open until we found a competent independent agency committed to the people of Bucks County and its need for a homeless shelter. We have made good on that promise,” said Red Cross SEPA Chapter CEO Renée Cardwell Hughes. “Family Service Association is an exceptional organization and the homeless population of Bucks County will be in excellent hands.”

“Family Service looks forward to working closely with Red Cross leadership, the staff of the shelter, and the community to ensure a smooth transition,” said CEO Audrey J. Tucker. “Our goal is to help individuals and families achieve their dreams of moving from the shelter to a safe and secure home of their own.”

Family Service was involved when the shelter opened in the late 1980's and provided case management services for the shelter at that time. Currently FSA provides on-site mental health services at the shelter. Adding the shelter to FSA's programs aligns with its mission to strengthen individuals, families, and communities. Family Service assists vulnerable populations in its many programs and has a comprehensive menu of services that will help those who come to the shelter to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

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**About Family Service Association of Bucks County**

Family Service Association, founded in 1953, helps more than 6,000 children, adults, and seniors annually. FSA assists families in thriving and achieving self-sufficiency through programs that include Outpatient Mental Health Counseling, Early Childhood Services, Older Adult Programs, HIV/AIDS Services, the Bucks County Family Center, the Teen Center, Drive to Success, and

AACES (**A**sperger's **A**wareness, **C**ommunity **E**ducation, and **S**upport). Additional information about Family Service is available at **FSABC.org**.

**About the American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania**

The American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. The Red Cross is not a government agency. All Red Cross assistance is free of charge and made possible thanks to the generosity of people in our region who donate their time, money and blood. Financial contributions are always welcomed and needed and can be made by going to **RedCrossPhilly.org**.