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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Family Service Expands its School-Based Counseling Program**

Family Service Association of Bucks County recently added three new schools to its School-Based Counseling program: Strayer Middle School in Quakertown and Lafayette and Mary Devine Elementary Schools in Bristol Township. With these additions, Family Service now has partnerships with fourteen schools across seven school districts to provide counseling and therapy to children and families directly in the school they attend each day.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “less than 20% of children and adolescents with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they need.”<sup>1</sup> Providing in-school counseling services eliminates many barriers that can prevent families from accessing mental health services for children and adolescents.

Many families have difficulties attending a traditional outpatient clinic due to hectic work schedules or transportation issues. Because most children and adolescents spend a significant part of each day in a school building, school-based counseling provides a convenient option for families to access mental health services. In addition, the school environment is a familiar one for students, and they may be more comfortable receiving counseling in the school setting rather than at an outpatient facility.

At the fourteen schools across Bucks County that have partnered with Family Service, professionals with master’s degrees provide counseling directly in the school environment during regular school hours. These counselors can help with emotional and behavioral problems including conflicts with peers, poor attention span, anxiety, irritability, anger management, depression, disruptive behaviors and more. Family counseling is also provided and encouraged, and special arrangements can be made to schedule appointments after school hours for parents and caregivers who are not available during the day.

Any child with Medical Assistance in a partner school is eligible for this service. If your school is one of the locations listed below, call your school guidance counselor to determine if your child is appropriate for in-school services. You can also call Family Service at (215) 757-6916, ext.159 for assistance. To learn more, visit [www.fsabc.org/school](http://www.fsabc.org/school).

Each of the following Family Service school-based satellite sites is Pennsylvania State licensed to provide outpatient services:

### **Bensalem School District**

Cornwells Elementary School  
R. Struble Elementary School

### **Bristol Township School District**

Buchanan Elementary School  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School

Lafayette Elementary School  
Mary Devine Elementary School  
Truman High School

**Centennial School District**

Everett McDonald Elementary School

**Morrisville School District**

Grandview Elementary School  
Morrisville Intermediate School

**Neshaminy School District**

Herbert Hoover Elementary School

**Pennsbury School District**

Penn Valley Elementary School

**Quakertown School District**

Quakertown Elementary School  
Strayer Middle School

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The mission of Family Service Association of Bucks County is to protect, maintain, strengthen and enhance individuals, families and children and their social and psychological functioning. Visit [www.fsabc.org](http://www.fsabc.org) to donate, volunteer and learn more about how Family Service helps more than 9,000 children, adults and seniors each year.

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Mental Health Myths and Facts [online]. (2013) [cited 2014 May 2]. Available from URL: <http://www.mentalhealth.gov/basics/myths-facts/index.html>.