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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Needed for CONTACT Helpline Serving Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties

Family Service Association of Bucks County is now accepting volunteer applications for their CONTACT Helpline, a free, confidential telephone helpline service for individuals with a wide range of needs and concerns. The CONTACT Helpline serves residents in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Following training, volunteers are responsible for providing telephone assistance and responding to calls on both the local helpline and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Reports of suicide have increased in all four counties over the last decade. For example, the Montgomery County Coroner's Office reported 93 suicides in 2012, up from 69 in 2006. Similarly, the Bucks County Coroner's Office reported 81 suicides in 2012, up from 66 in 2006. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "every 15 minutes, someone dies by suicide in this country. And for every person who dies, there are many more who think about, plan or attempt suicide." Fortunately, suicide is preventable. With the increase in reports of suicide in our community, the need for trained volunteers also increases. You can help prevent suicide by becoming a CONTACT Helpline volunteer.

CONTACT Helpline phone rooms are located in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and volunteers must be able to commit to a minimum of 8 hours per month. The next CONTACT training will be held on the weekends of October 18-19 and November 1-2 and will take place at Family Service's Langhorne office. Attendance is required at all sessions. For more information or to register, please contact Ellen Vinson, Director of Volunteer Services, at volunteer@fsabc.org or (215) 757-6916, ext. 202. Volunteer applications are also available online at www.fsabc.org/volunteer.

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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 to donate, volunteer and learn more about how Family Service helps more than 9,000 children, adults and seniors each year.