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Family Service's School-Based Counseling Program Receives Gift from Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund



Pictured from left to right are Maria, Francis and Heather Young

The Young Family recently delivered a \$15,000 gift on behalf of the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund to Family Service Association of Bucks County in support of its School-Based Counseling program.

Family Service has partnerships with 20 schools across 8 school districts to provide counseling for children and adolescents directly in the schools they attend each day. The gift from the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund will be used specifically to provide middle and high school students with mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment in an effort to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and prevent possible deaths from occurring.

Drug abuse is a major public health problem that affects communities and families nationwide. A recent national survey on drug use reports that by the twelfth grade, about half of adolescents have used an illicit drug at least once.¹

Locally, there were 103 accidental deaths involving drugs and alcohol in 2014 in Bucks County alone, shared Dr. Joseph P. Campbell, Bucks County Coroner.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), one of the key strategies in preventing overdose deaths is to ensure access to treatment for individuals who have a substance use disorder.ⁱⁱ

Providing in-school counseling and substance abuse treatment eliminates many barriers that can prevent families from accessing these types of services for adolescents. Many families have difficulties attending traditional outpatient clinics due to hectic work schedules or transportation issues.

Because most adolescents spend a significant part of each day in a school building, Family Service's school-based program provides a convenient option for families, making it easy to access services and treatment. In addition, the school environment is a familiar one for students, and they may be more comfortable receiving counseling and substance abuse treatment in the school setting rather than at an outpatient facility.

To learn more about School-Based Counseling, visit www.fsabc.org/school or contact Shana Almeida, Clinical Supervisor of Behavioral Health, at (215) 757-6916, ext. 111 or salmeida@fsabc.org.

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Family Service Association of Bucks County is a nonprofit social service organization with locations throughout Bucks County, Pennsylvania. For more than 60 years, Family Service has been improving the lives of children and their families, doing whatever it takes to help them overcome obstacles and reach their full potential. Visit www.fsabc.org to donate, volunteer and learn more about how Family Service helped more than 24,000 children, teens and adults last year.

ⁱ Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Miech, R. A., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2016). Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2015: Overview, key findings on adolescent drug use. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan. Retrieved August 10, 2016 from <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2015.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 16-4742. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2016. Retrieved August 10, 2016 from <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA16-4742/FactsforCommunityMembers.pdf>.