



**GUIDE PROGRAM, INC.**

*Enriching Lives...Empowering Families...Enhancing  
Communities...Embracing Diversity*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

### **Family Services, Inc.**

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## **Family Services and GUIDE Program Announce Merger to Enhance and Expand Services throughout the State of Maryland**

**(Gaithersburg and Laurel, MD) – December 7, 2012:** Family Services, Inc., ([www.fs-inc.org](http://www.fs-inc.org)), Montgomery County's oldest (est. 1908) and largest private nonprofit social services agency, and GUIDE Program, Inc. ([www.guideprogram.org](http://www.guideprogram.org)), recognized as one of the Baltimore, MD – Washington, D.C. region's most highly respected behavioral health and social services organizations, are pleased to announce the two will merge in January 2013. The merger will enhance and expand the scope of services of both nonprofits, and provide a larger operating platform and achieve business efficiencies. Through the business combination, Family Services and GUIDE look to strengthen their mutual and complementary capacities in order to continue and expand the high quality services the agencies render to children, youth, families, and people with disabilities throughout the Maryland, Washington D.C. and Baltimore region.

"I am really excited about the merger of our two organizations," said Thom Harr, Executive Director for Family Services, Inc. "We are combining agencies that have a long history of cooperation and mutual respect. It will strengthen the ability of both to continue to provide programs and services for a changing and growing community."

Through the merger, GUIDE will be known as **GUIDE Program at Family Services**. The combined organizations will continue to operate an array of early childhood, education, behavioral health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, child welfare, and social service programs in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City. The two nonprofits have worked together for many years to bring together best practices in developing and implementing in-home and community-based services. The organizations offer prevention and early intervention programs and services which address family functioning and child development, provide outpatient behavioral health treatment and rehabilitation, offer residential treatment and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to live in the community independently, manage a domestic violence shelter for women and their children, and operate a medical day program for adults.

“I’m particularly excited that our two agencies that have collaborated on many projects in the past, will be able to grow together in a number of new and exciting ways,” commented Scott Birdsong, Executive Director for GUIDE Program, Inc.

Annually, the combined organizations will serve over 22,000 individuals and families through a combined budget of \$22 Million.

### **About Family Services, Inc. (FSI)**

Family Services, an affiliate of the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Foundation, is the oldest private non-profit social service and behavioral health organization in Montgomery County, Maryland. Founded in 1908, FSI's mission is to foster strong and healthy individuals and families through innovative education, behavioral health, child development, and social services that address needs in the home, school, and community. Located in Gaithersburg, MD, Family Services sits within a “nonprofit village” where community members can come to receive an array of programs and services in one location. Our vision is to continue to be at the forefront in the development and delivery of services that meet the needs of a culturally diverse and evolving community.

### **About GUIDE Program, Inc.**

Growing from rather Spartan roots as a small university-based community project, GUIDE has served a culturally diverse population of Maryland’s youth, adults and families since 1968, providing residential, outpatient, school- and community-based services in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties and Baltimore City. GUIDE services troubled children, at risk youth and families, and adults who have psychiatric challenges and disabilities. Annually GUIDE serves over 2,000 families, youth and adults.

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