



Family & Community  
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## News Release

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### **Someplace Safe Announces Merger with Portage County Agency**

**Warren, Ohio, July 1, 2012** – The Board of Directors of Someplace Safe announced Friday that they have entered into an agreement with Family & Community Services of Portage County to merge their operation effective July 1, 2012.

F&CS Executive Director Mark Frisone praised the strategic alliance saying, “Merging Someplace Safe into our family will allow them to continue providing services to their clients. They have an excellent reputation, and our goal is to help them maintain their operation and continue the good works they do in Trumbull County.”

Faced with continuing federal, state and local funding cuts, the agency knew it needed to look in a different direction for help. According to Someplace Safe Board Chair Carol Caronite, “We looked at creative ways to reduce costs and raise funds to cover our daily need for services but we reached a point where we knew it was time to align ourselves with another agency”.

Family & Community Services and Someplace Safe share the same mission, vision and values – something that is very important to both agencies. “Someplace Safe is committed to taking care of the people who need their services which is exactly what F&CS does each and every day.” Frisone added.

Someplace Safe Board members were concerned about providing assistance to their clients with no gap in service, saving their employees jobs and partnering with an agency familiar with domestic violence. F&CS operates a domestic violence shelter in Portage County.

According to Someplace Safe Director, Linda Baer-Bigley, “The demand for our services continues to grow. We’re seeing more families impacted by domestic violence. This relationship with Family & Community Services will allow us to continue to make strides in providing new resources to our clients.”

Someplace Safe is the exclusive provider of services to victims of domestic violence in Trumbull County. The merger will allow the agency to maintain operations at its current facility.

*In time of need people turn to Family & Community Services (F&CS). As one of the largest social services agency in Northeast Ohio, F&CS has spent the past 70 years helping individuals of all ages. From providing life’s basic needs – food, clothing shelter – to counseling and mentoring services, F&CS has touched the lives of countless individuals. F&CS is able to carry out its mission because of its network of volunteers and support from the community. Over the past 5 years, F&CS has doubled its number of program offerings underscoring its commitment to serving the people of Northeast Ohio for years to come.*



**There is strong rationale for this merger.**

**Both agencies have similar missions** which include a strong concern for women, children and families in Northeast Ohio.

**The programs of the agencies are complementary.**

Family & Community Services, Inc. operates Miller House, a homeless shelter, Freedom House, a shelter for homeless male veteran's and Safer Futures, domestic violence shelter in Portage County. Someplace Safe is the exclusive shelter for victims of domestic violence in Trumbull County.

**Both agencies are strong programmatically with similar values.**

Respect for the individual. Respect for client confidentiality. A strong belief in providing quality programming and services to those in need in our communities.

#### **About F&CS**

Family & Community Services is one of the largest, most diverse social services agencies in Northeast Ohio with over 500 employees working at 43 sites in eleven Ohio counties. In Portage County, the agency serves hot meals, shelters the homeless, provides housing, emergency groceries, two twenty-four- hour crisis lines for domestic violence and emergency housing, utility assistance, clothing, transportation, free prescriptions, helps veterans, offers counseling, volunteering and training opportunities and steps in wherever the gaps are to meet the community needs.

During the last fiscal year, the agency served over 90,000 adults and children with a budget of over \$16 million dollars. During the most recent fiscal year (ending June 30, 2011), the agency administered over 200 grants and contracts from all levels of government as well as private sources. Using everything it has at its disposal – from government grants to direct charitable contributions to the energies of its thousands of selfless volunteers – the agency aspires to offer the gift of hope.

#### **Family & Community Services, Inc.**

##### **Mission Statement**

Family & Community Services, Inc. seeks to support, strengthen, and empower individuals and families through a broad continuum of community-based services that meet the needs and values of the community. The agency is guided by a commitment to individual dignity, service excellence, accountability, volunteerism and belief in the solidarity of the human family.

##### **Vision Statement**

Family & Community Services will be the largest, most integrated, strongest and most effective social service agency in Northeast Ohio. F&CS will meet the needs of the people of Ohio who are served by this agency, and have a high level of customer satisfaction in all its programs and services. F&CS will be an advocate in the community for social awareness and social action. F&CS will have positive name recognition throughout its service area for all its contributions to the community. This will lead to a strong financial position through donations and grants ensuring that F&CS will continue its mission.

##### **Leadership**

Mark Frisone has served as executive director of Family & Community Services since 1993. In that time, the agency has grown from a 20-person, \$500,000 nonprofit to an \$16 million organization employing 500 individuals and serving more than 90,000 individuals in Northeast Ohio. Mark holds a juris doctor degree from Syracuse College of Law, a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in public policy from the University of Akron.

## **Someplace Safe, Inc.**

### **Vision Statement**

Someplace Safe, Inc. will be the catalyst for preventing the intergenerational cycle of violence. As the leading community resource, we will provide a continuum of support from emergency to transition to independence for victims of domestic violence and act as a gateway to comprehensive support services that operate in a community that embraces, values, and supports the need for systemic change in all aspects of domestic violence issues.

### **Mission Statement**

Someplace Safe, Inc. seeks to reduce and prevent domestic violence and improve the quality of life for victims of domestic violence. We provide advocacy, education, supportive services, emergency 24-hour crisis intervention, and shelter in order to aid families. We seek to achieve public awareness and a unified community response.