Family Matters of Greater Washington was founded in 1882 by a small group of concerned men and women who wanted to address the growing issue of pauperism in the District of Columbia. Under their leadership, the Associated Charities of the District of Columbia was incorporated with seven key objectives:

1. The promotion of efficient and economic cooperation among the charitable societies and organizations and private and benevolent individuals of the District.
2. The prompt relief of all cases of real destitution.
3. The prevention of imposture in the matter of alms, of street begging and of indiscriminate and duplicate charity.
4. The provision of means of obtaining prompt, full and reliable information regarding the condition, circumstances and needs of every applicant for charity to whom it may concern.
5. The supply, whenever possible, of employment as the basis of relief.
6. The improvement of the condition of the dependent poor, with a view of their self-support.
7. The ascertainment of the real causes of vagrancy and pauperism with a view to their suppression.

Family Matters of Greater Washington is one of the oldest, nationally accredited social service organizations in the Washington metropolitan area. Family Matters has been serving as the role of “family” to our community’s most vulnerable citizens. Our spectrum of programs, include: mental and behavioral services; youth development; independent living for teen mothers; home health care; and workforce development.

Mission & Vision

Mission

Family Matters of Greater Washington creates and delivers compassionate solutions that empower, enrich, and elevate all ages.

Vision

To be a leading regional provider of behavioral health and home health services for individuals in need.
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Our Services

Mental Health

Individuals with mental and behavioral health challenges represent all walks of life, transcending socioeconomic, cultural and geographic boundaries. Whether personally or vicariously impacted, we know the journey to mental wellness can be arduous at times. Therefore, Family Matters is committed to providing easily accessible, quality care to area residents who are in need. Our mental and behavioral health clinic located in Prince George’s County, Maryland is staffed with a dedicated team of mental health professionals that works tirelessly to successfully partner with and treat individuals and their families as they regain emotional and mental stability.

Bright Futures

Family Matters of Greater Washington’s Bright Futures program provides hope, support, and education to teen mothers who are wards of the District of Columbia, and to their offspring. This residential program empowers, enriches and elevates 16- to 20-year-old mothers, by providing supervised independent living with parenting classes, and independent living skill education. The Bright Futures program also supports teen mothers in successfully maintaining daycare, healthcare, and vocational training or high school matriculation.

Send A Kid To Camp

For 50 years, Family Matters of Greater Washington owned and operated Camp Moss Hollow, affectionately called “The Hollow,” located on 401 acres of incredibly beautiful woods, nestled in the foothills of the Shenandoah Valley in Markham, Virginia. Family Matters has enhanced its popular camp program to one that now sends youths enrolled in our mental and behavioral health program who match certain inclusion criteria to other camps located throughout Maryland and Virginia.

Dresses4Dreams / Suited4Dreams

Family Matters of Greater Washington hosts an annual Dresses4Dreams/Suited4Dreams event that provides dresses, suits, and accessories to high school students free of charge, to help make theirs a memorable and affordable prom experience.

FAQs

How is FMGW funded?

Our funding sources are primarily through: Government Contracts, General Contributions, Grants, United Way/CFC, and Fee for Services.

How can I help to make a difference?

You can support Family Matters of Greater Washington several ways: through volunteerism, attending one of our events, adopting a family for the holidays, or by donating your professional services! You can also make a monetary contribution to help support our critical programs. To learn more about the different ways to support FMGW, visit our “Ways to Give” webpage.

Is my contribution tax deductible?

Any charitable contribution to FMGW is fully tax deductible unless goods or services were provided. If goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution, the cost of said good or service would be deducted from the amount of your gift and the remaining portion will be tax deductible.

Can I give through my employer?

Absolutely! Family Matters participates in both Combined Federal Campaign (#52358) and United Way (#8093). Please work with your employer to assign FMGW as your charity of choice to support through your Workplace Giving Campaign.

Our Accomplishments

As time progressed, Family Matters marked many milestones that impacted life in the Greater Washington area and would forever set the standards for the field of Social Services.

- We were responsible for forming the first local Boys Club. We also led the fight in implementing a school attendance law, a child labor law, and the establishment of a Federal Children’s Bureau.
- We established the city’s first multi-service senior center that offered protective services to the aging population and our first foster home.
- We established a Family Preservation program, “Elder Care Assist,” to help seniors stay active and live independently.
- We established a Family and Schools Together program (FAST) to provide counseling services for students attending local elementary and high schools.
- We started the “Bright Futures Program” created to ensure teen mothers learn the basic needs to care for their family.
- In more recent years, we have celebrated many accomplishments such as being named “Outstanding Agency of the Year” by the Consortium for Child Welfare.
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