



Dear Friends,



I would like to personally introduce you to a special little girl named Jane, who faced the trauma and devastation of being in an extensive house fire. While Jane survived the fire with only a few non-life threatening injuries, one of Jane’s immediate family members was not as fortunate. At a young age, Jane was forced to face a significant loss of someone whom she loved with all of her heart, and was left wondering why she survived when her family member did not.

As a result of her personal loss, Jane began to experience reoccurring distressing images, thoughts and dreams of the fire, outbursts of anger and significant anxiety. She felt very unsettled in her daily life and family and friends were unsure how to comfort her. Jane even had to be placed in a special classroom at school, one equipped to assist with her trauma symptoms. Jane’s entire world was truly turned upside down.

While receiving services in an agency program geared at dealing with trauma, Jane learned to identify and regulate her unsettling feelings, and her parent learned to support her in this process. Her trauma symptoms were reduced, she returned to a regular classroom, and her family was extremely grateful.



Family Services of NW PA has been granted a wonderful opportunity for potential donors to help children like Jane and to assist the agency in carrying on its mission of “strengthening family life by providing counseling, education and advocacy”. In celebration of their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, The Erie Community Foundation is sponsoring an event called “Erie Gives”, an online, 12 hour giving event for local non-profit organizations. Please consider participating in this event by following these simple steps:



- Log on to ErieGives.org between 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on August 2, 2011
- Choose Family Services of NW PA as your agency
- Using a credit card, make a donation of \$25.00 or more

Please log on to [www.ErieGives.org](http://www.ErieGives.org) for more information. In the event you are unable to participate in this online event, please feel free to use the enclosed envelope to make a donation directly to Family Services of NW PA.

In these hard economic times, where funding for services is diminishing, I would like to extend my personal thanks to you for choosing to donate to Family Services of NW PA.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Vinca*

Thomas Vinca  
President & CEO Family Services of NW PA

**Erie County Office**  
**Crawford County Office**  
**Venango County Office**  
**Union City Office**  
**Mercer County Office**

5100 Peach Street \* Erie, PA 16509 \* 814-866-4500 \* 800-634-2560  
13378 Dunham Road \* Meadville, PA 16335 \* 814-724-4800 \* 888-899-9079  
1266 Elk Street \* Franklin, PA 16323 \* 814-437-9080 \* 800-518-0334  
38 North Main Street \* Union City, PA 16438 \* 814-438-7341  
7 West State Street \* Sharon, PA 16146 \* 724-704-7227 \* 724-704-7224

