



## MID TOWN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

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Since 1998, the Parkersburg office has operated a series of neighborhood- based prevention, youth development, truancy diversion and family support services. The focus of the Mid-Town Family Resource Center (MTFRC) is to support and strengthen neighborhood families, to increase parental knowledge of parenting and child development, to provide emergency assistance in the form of food and clothing, and to enable families to use resources and other opportunities available to them in the community.

Child abuse/neglect prevention, accomplished by promoting parental competencies is also a primary focus. Parent support components provide neighborhood parents opportunities to give and gain support, learn and practice parenting skills, and learn ways to relieve stressors for their family. Specifically, Fatherhood sessions designed to improve parent-child communication and relationships will be provided for 12 week periods using the *24/7 Dad* curriculum. Family engagement activities are held on a monthly basis and are open to any neighborhood youth and family.

Additional programming for youth includes after school care with a goal of raising academic achievement, delinquency prevention, positive youth development, and service learning opportunities for all ages. These support services will attempt to help youth build stronger connections with their school and community, leading to a reduced truancy and drop-out rate.

In January, 2010, America's Promise designated our Parkersburg site as a Promise Place. By demonstrating that local Children's Home Society's programs provide access to caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others, we have joined the nation's largest partnerships providing supports to young people. In addition we have partnered with First Book, a program dedicating to providing access to new books for children in need.

The Mid-Town Family Resource Center is accessible for persons with disabilities and is open Monday – Friday 8am -6pm and at least one Saturday a month. A warm and inviting space, parents can drop-in to relax, receive support, and obtain information. The resource center provides a unique role for the community; collaborating and coordinating services to meet the needs of the families it serves.