



JOIN TEAM GOWOYO



AND POUND THE BOARDS DURING THE OCEAN CITY, MD HALF MARATHON TO HELP WORCESTER YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES STOMP OUT CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND SUFFERING IN OUR COMMUNITY!

All money raised by TEAM GOWOYO will be immediately used to help local children and families through the Lower Shore CASA program, Family Connections, SAGES, Enhanced Families Now and the comprehensive counseling services provided to the community through Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. Since 1975, WYFCS has been at the heart of what is really happening in the families and homes of our community; reaching the people who need help, increasing awareness about mental health, and truly making a difference in the people we serve.

What We Do:

- **Comprehensive Counseling** services for a broad spectrum of mental health and life challenging issues from anxiety, grief, depression, to dealing with divorce, or other significant life changes.
- **Lower Shore CASA**, “Court Appointed Special Advocates” a volunteer driven program, passionately advocates for abused and neglected children who are caught up in the court and child welfare maze because they are unable to live safely at home. Our goal is simple – to speak up for every child’s right to a safe, permanent home. Appointed by judges, CASA volunteers typically advocate for one child at a time and commit to staying with the child until placed in a safe, permanent home. While others may come and go, CASA volunteers provide that one constant that children need in order to thrive. Since its inception in 2003 CASA has successfully advocated for 149 local children.
- With the motto “A hand up, not a hand out”, **Family Connections** links about 1,500 people a year with needed resources by networking with many sectors of the community. This award winning program is a successful collaboration of over 50 partners consisting of public agencies, other non-profits, faith based organizations, and generous business leaders. Since the economic crisis we have seen a tremendous increase (500%) in families seeking assistance. Family Connections has made a significant impact in our community as it acts as a safety net to many families with multiple needs who would otherwise be left in grave circumstances with no hope of change.
- **SAGES** – “Strengthening Adolescent Girls with Education & Support” is an innovative program that helps adolescent girls who are experiencing difficulty or conflict in their homes or schools. This life changing program works with girls and their families for two years empowering them to change their lives for the better. Through intensive counseling, peer group discussions, cultural driven field trips, education and service projects girls learn to find their potential and gain control of their lives.
- **Enhanced Families Now (EFN)** program is an intensive outreach program offered to keep families together suffering from intensive mental health issues. Our team works in the home with families who are coping with issues such as addiction, bipolar disorder, and clinical depression in order to keep families safe and secure.
- In addition to this menu of services, WYFCS provides an array of **personalized youth and parenting services** throughout the year catering to the needs of our clients.

WYFCS is a non-profit organization serving the community with locations in Berlin and Pocomoke, Maryland. Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization – donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting our office at (410)641-4598 or by writing PO Box 925 Berlin, MD 21811. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of the State for the cost of copying and postage. Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. is a United Way member agency.

