



2008

## Suggested Activities

### What will you do?

Family day is an excellent opportunity to work together with local institutions and organizations. In addition, it is an opportunity to educate the community about family service needs. Remember, you can build on activities that are already planned in the community around the time of Family Day (i.e., First Thursdays, etc.)

### Playing Together

- **Fun and Games day**. Sponsor a day where families from across the community can come together and just have fun. Three legged races, potato sack races, board games, crafts, skate board relay, in-line skating races, all provide opportunities for good old-fashioned fun.
- **Family Day Parade**. Bring out the marching bands and invite families to march, sing, ride bikes, enter floats, or participate in whatever manner they choose. End with a community picnic.
- **Family Day Dance**. Host a local dance for the whole family. This would include children, parents and grandparents.
- **Bike Ride / Walk / Fun Run**. This event will help increase awareness of your organization. Set-up checkpoints to distribute local business coupons, free handouts and refreshments. Invite local chefs or catering businesses to contribute. Organize a family picnic or barbeque at the end of the walk.

### Creating Together

- **Family Talent Show**. Many families and individuals have lots of talent which is never seen outside their homes. Sponsor a talent show for individuals to enter alone or preferably with a family member. Any School auditorium would provide an inexpensive venue.
- **Exhibit of Family Photos or Videos**. Develop an exhibit with area schools. Display all entries at your local library. A local newspaper could help publicize the exhibit and print the photographs. Ask local business to underwrite the cost of materials and other expenses.
- **Arts and Crafts Activity Night**. Collaborate with a craft store, school or child care center and coordinate a family night of arts and crafts. Some crafts could include taking family photos with a Polaroid camera and making Popsicle stick picture frames, tie-dyed t-shirts and handkerchief or scarf's, or even "thumb- or hand-print:" art.
- **Family Theater Night**. Plan a night when community members could go to the theater with their entire families.



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## Suggested Activities (Continued)

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### Eating Together

- **Community Pot Luck and Concert.** Sponsor a meal where the price of admission is a "favorite dish", enough to share with six others. Tables can be set up for main dishes, salads, side dishes and desserts. Perhaps local merchants can supply paper products and beverages. Encourage people to bring their family's favorite dish, then sit back and dig it. Local musicians, or perhaps the local high school jazz band, could provide the entertainment.
- **International Food Fair.** Invite area restaurants, local dignitaries and/or ethnic groups to serve food. Invite the public. Collaborate with local businesses to underwrite or donate the costs of hall rental, promotional advertising, etc. Recipes of food presented could be featured in a cookbook and sold at the fair.
- **Pancake Breakfast, Spaghetti Supper or Barbeque.** Hold a pancake breakfast at the high school. Charge a nominal fee to cover the cost associated or to raise money for a special charity, or get sponsors to donate items.
- **Family Day Bake Off.** Coordinate a town wide bake-off. Possible sponsors could include bakeries or grocery stores. Invite a scout troop or team of grammar school students to be the judges.
- **Town Wide Picnic.** Have families pack a picnic and join one another on the town green or in a local fun spot. Clowns, games, children's face painting, or music would add to the festivities.
- **Breakfast with the Mayor or Superintendent of Schools.** Your mayor, first selectman, school superintendent or Principal could sponsor a Family Day breakfast. Recognition could be given to the important work done by parents while providing them with the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns about issues facing families.

### Reading Together

- **Story Hour.** This can be sponsored by community agencies to bring families together for reading activities. Local celebrities could be invited to read their favorite story. Families could be invited to come in their bed clothes for a bed time story and cookies and milk.
- **Poetry Slam.** Give local and aspiring poets an evening to shine. A coffee shop, the library or town park offer perfect venues.

### Other Ideas

- **Voter Registration.** Family Day can offer a great opportunity to promote voter registration. For support in doing this, call the Office of the Secretary of State at 1-860-509-6108.
- **Lecture and Speak-Out.** Organize a seminar where local or other experts can speak on topics relevant to families in your community. Afterward, have audience participation relating to how the community can work to support families.
- **Food / Clothes Drive.** Organize a food or clothes drive for needy families or join forces with any other organizations that currently provide these services in your community.
- **Learning Carnival.** Learning and reading can be fun! Sponsor a carnival where the events are focused on learning activities. Booths could offer math, or problem solving games, reading relays, and scavenger hunts, all with educational themes. Local merchants could provide books or prizes.