

Southside Family Connections

Southside Family Connections (SFC), an offshoot of the Healthy Families Program, became an official nonprofit agency, with 501 3 C status on September 11, 2020. SFC currently works with families in Hopewell, Prince George, Dinwiddie, and Petersburg. The goal of SFC is to reach more children and families within these communities and adjoining counties. When an "at risk" family in one of these localities use SFC, there is less possibility they will become a child protective case within Social Services. It is also significantly more reasonable than funding a child through the Children's Services Act (CSA).

Director of SFC

Mrs. Diane Varner worked three years with the Healthy Families Program before SFC was incorporated. Prior to that, Mrs. Varner worked for the New York Council of Nonprofits. She provided technical support, implemented time and effort training, and handled program evaluations through the New York State Health Dept. Mrs. Varner, handled contract management at state and federal level while providing guidance to any of New York's nonprofit agencies that requested assistance.

Mrs. Varner has a Master of Science degree with a specialty in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Funding & Sponsors

Southside Family Connections, currently sponsored by The Healthy Families Program and the City of Hopewell, relies on grants, fundraisers, and community partnerships to meet the needs of program staff and families.

Current Partnerships include:

- The John Randolph Foundation (\$50,000 received March 2021)
- Virginia Department of Social Services funding through the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF)
- Applications with Cameron Foundation and United Way
- Fundraisers: Amazon Smile, Target, Legacy Roasting Coffee Shop (with flavor named after SFC)

References

Mr. Kevin Foster, James Randolph Foundation

Mr. Ray Spicer, Director, Hopewell DSS

Ms. Michelle Bennet, Prince George DSS

Recent Acknowledgment

Mr. Kevin Foster, Director of Programs for the John Randolph Foundation, awarded Mrs. Varner with a \$50,000 check on March 29, 2021. This was the largest amount given to any nonprofit organization and is to be used for staff salaries. Mr. Foster told the audience that SFC is as essential to the community as the Fire and Police Departments. He also stated that Mrs. Varner was one of the first to receive funds from them years ago.

Board Members

Mrs. Stephanie Altman

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