

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



What Makes Families First Unique?

Innovation

All parents need help; we work with low-income families because often they lack access to parenting resources. More than 90 partnerships with other family-serving nonprofits and schools help us reach families in need effectively. Our high-dose workshop series and other supports are strengths-based. Parents start from where they are and gain knowledge and skills that help them build family relationships that serve as the foundation for successful lives.



Research-Base

The latest research shows that the chronic stress that accompanies poverty can become toxic for children, negatively affecting their development and overall outcomes. The antidote to toxic stress is a caring adult. Families First helps parents build six protective factors known to promote well-being in families. When they do, children can become resilient and develop in a healthy way despite the stress in their environment.

Impact

Your support enabled Families First to reach more than 1,500 parents with up to 12 hours of parenting education a piece in 2013—a significant increase in hours per parent! This work benefited an estimated 3,000 children. With materials written for adults with low reading levels and translated into Spanish or Haitian Creole, and with expert facilitation by Parenting Educators rooted in communities where these languages are spoken, we are able to serve parents others find hard to reach.

Throughout this report, you'll learn about Families First's impact—by the numbers.

3,000

children benefitted



Dear Friends

Your support of Families First in 2013 was tremendous. On behalf of the 1,500 families you helped us reach and our more than 90 nonprofit partners, we are deeply grateful for your investment in the critical work of supporting families. Your generous contributions built capacity in preparation for growth so that, in the coming years, we can serve many more families in need.



This year you helped expand our Outreach & Education department staff and our skilled group of Parenting Educators. With this new expertise and the unflagging energy of a great team, we're providing parents with the best possible supports. That has meant revitalizing our curriculum and infusing it with the latest thinking on parenting through perplexing new 21st century challenges.

Born out of Wheelock College, Families First has always been a learning organization. The research is clear that parents are key to children's healthy development, that more parenting education is better, and that if we support parents to have more productive relationships with their children's schools and child-care providers, kids will do better emotionally and academically.

Your support has increased our impact by enabling a crucial shift to offering nearly all of our workshops in series. We've also developed new capacity in the exciting area of family engagement. Working with schools and the parents they serve over 6 – 12 months, we are promoting the true, two-way partnerships that help both teachers and parents do their jobs better, and ultimately improve children's school achievement.

As you know well, parenting is challenging for everyone. Through your contribution for high-quality workshop series and other services, you are supporting low-income families who would otherwise have nowhere to turn for help. You are empowering the parents we serve to give their children a stronger foundation, and strengthening our community as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,


 *Gayle Dublin*

Liz, Jen and Gayle



Board Co-Chairs Jen Kordell and Gayle Dublin with Executive Director Liz Cohen (center).

Sylvia's Past and America's Future

When Sylvia was young, her mother was addicted to drugs and wasn't there for her. For many years, no one was. Sylvia spent much of her young life with a series of foster families. One foster mother yelled at her for the smallest things, like not rinsing cans before putting them in the recycling. She was scared by the people she relied on for care. Sylvia describes her experience as unimaginable, and by age 12, she was depressed, engaging in self-destructive behaviors, and flunking out of school.



Sylvia, her partner Tremayne, and their daughter, America.

When she ran away to live with her uncle, she finally found people who nurtured and helped her. With hard work and determination, she fought her way back—she finished her education and got a good job.

When her daughter America, now 3, came into her life, Sylvia knew she wanted to be a different parent than any she'd had, so again she sought out help. She found Higher Ground in Roxbury and began attending its Parenting Circle program led by Families First.

Because of you, Families First has given her support and structure and a community of other moms and dads who are also trying to be good parents.

From Families First, Sylvia has learned how to listen to her daughter, how to praise and encourage her, and how to discipline without yelling—without scaring her. She has learned how to be the role model that she never had herself. Sylvia has learned to *be there* for America.

Your support helps moms like Sylvia break the cycle of poverty, addiction, and abuse, so their children will have bright futures. Thank you.

430

**parenting workshops
provided**

Selected Financial Information

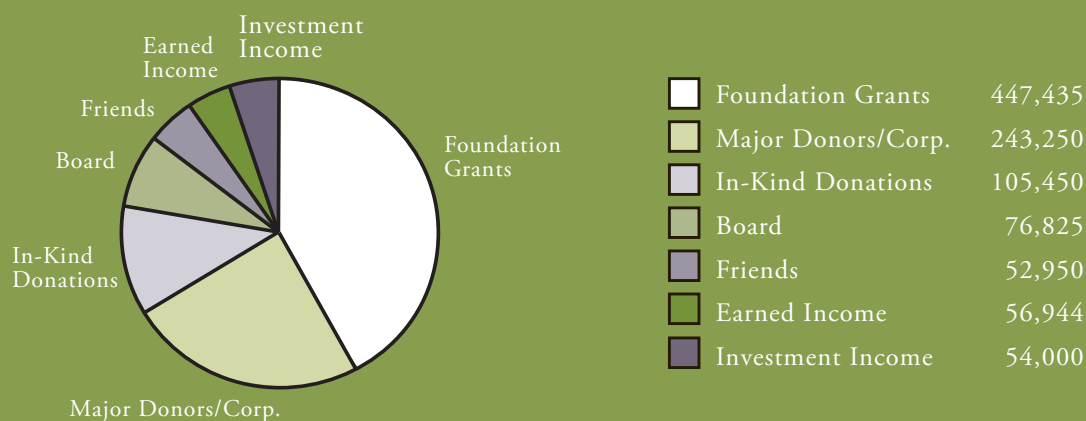
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Operating Revenues:				
Foundation grants	\$333,171	\$114,264		\$447,435
Individual contributions	320,075			320,075
Corporate contributions	52,950			52,950
Program revenue	56,944			56,944
In-kind donations	105,450			105,450
Interest and dividends	20,560			20,560
Investment income appropriated for operations	33,440			33,440
Net assets released from restrictions	95,580	(95,580)		
Total Operating Revenues	\$1,018,170	\$18,684		\$1,036,854
Operating Expenses:				
Programs	\$711,938			\$711,938
General and administrative	62,936			62,936
Development	202,010			202,010
Total Operating Expenses	\$976,884			\$976,884
Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$41,286	\$18,684		\$59,970
Changes in Total Net Assets				
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$452,886	\$114,580	\$565,250	\$1,132,716
Net Assets, End of Year	\$540,743	\$133,264	\$565,250	\$1,239,257

SOURCES OF REVENUE (FY 2013)



This page represents selected financial data from the FY13 (year ending June 30, 2013) audit. Complete copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

Program Site Report

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

EARLY CARE & PRESCHOOL

Baby University, Cambridge
Boston Higher Ground, Roxbury
Brockton Day Nursery
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center:
Fields Corner Children Thrive Initiative
East Boston Social Centers
Greater Boston Early Childhood Resource
Center, Cambridge
Norwood Public Schools-Coordinated
Family & Community Engagement
Program
Old Colony YMCA Childcare-Striar
Branch, Stoughton
PACE Head Start, New Bedford
Schwartz Center for Children, Dartmouth
Tartt's Day Care Centers, Inc.
Viet-AID, Au Co Preschool, Dorchester*
Walpole Coordinated Family &
Community Engagement Program
World of Wonder Preschool, Woburn

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Cambridge Housing Authority*
Pelham Apartments, Framingham

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Cambridge Community Center
Cambridge Police Department*
Cambridge Senior Center
Camp Harborview, Roxbury*
Child Care Resource Center, Cambridge
Children's Services of Roxbury
Community Connections of Brockton*
Community Service Center, Jamaica Plain*
Dare Family Services, Somerville
Educational Development Group, Boston
Evergreen Community Services, Malden
Good Samaritan Fellowship Home Care,
Brockton
Haitian American Public Health Initiative,
Mattapan

Home for Little Wanderers, Jamaica Plain*
Julie's Family Learning Program,
South Boston
Lynn Community Connections*
Lynn DCF Grandparent Support Group*
Malden Family Network*
Medford Family Network
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries,
Boston
MSPCC Kinnections, Jamaica Plain
Nazarean Haitian Church, Malden*
North Suburban Child & Family Resource
Network, Stoneham
PACE Child Care Works, New Bedford
Parent Placentin, Randolph
Roxbury Youthworks
Sion Seventh Day Adventist Church,
Somerville
United South End Settlements, Boston
Weymouth DCF Grandparents Group

**New Sites in FY13*

88%
of our workshops
were provided in series



SCHOOLS / EDUCATION CENTERS

Bellesini Academy, Lawrence
Bentley Elementary School, Salem*
William Blackstone School, Boston*
Boston Public Schools Parent University
Bridge Boston Charter School,
Jamaica Plain
Brockton Parents' Academy
Cambridge Rindge & Latin School*
Cambridgeport School
Curley K-8 School, Jamaica Plain
English High School, Boston*
Epiphany School, Dorchester
Curtis Guild Elementary, East Boston
Nathan Hale Elementary School, Roxbury*
James Hennigan School, Jamaica Plain
John F. Kennedy Elementary School,
Jamaica Plain*

Lee Academy Pilot School, Dorchester
Marshall School, Dorchester
Donald McKay School, East Boston
Mother Caroline Academy & Education
Center, Dorchester
James Otis School, East Boston
Randolph Public Schools
Warren-Prescott School, Charlestown
Wheelock College Aspire Institute-Boston
Family Engagement Partnership*
Young Achievers School, Mattapan

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SITES

Auntie Nat's Village, Roxbury*
Bethany Hill School, Framingham
Cambridge YWCA Family Shelter
Coordinated Family & Community
Engagement of Brockton
Crittenton Women's Union, South Boston

Crossroads Family Shelter, East Boston
Elizabeth Stone House, Roxbury
Family Promise Metrowest, Natick*
Granada House, Allston
Heading Home, Boston Family Shelter
Homes for Families, Boston*
House of Hope, Lowell
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
Project Hope Family Shelter, Dorchester
St. Ambrose Family Shelter, Dorchester
The Second Step, Newtonville
Transition House, Cambridge
Transitions at Devens*

CONFERENCES

A View from All Sides, Boston

**New Sites in FY13*



100

families served through
Family Engagement Pilot
at Cambridge Community
Center



Families First 2013 Family of Supporters

INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of all of our donors

\$100,000 +

Anonymous

\$65,000-\$99,000

The Charles Engelhard Foundation

The TripAdvisor Charitable Foundation

\$20,000-\$64,999

Bain Capital Children's Charity Ltd.

Melora and Andrew Balson

Cabot Family Charitable Trust

Amelia Peabody Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

The 484 Phi Alpha Foundation

The Chickering Foundation

Clipper Ship Foundation

Foundation M

The Janey Fund Charitable Trust

The Johnson Family Foundation

John Hancock Financial Services

Michael Kohn

The Anne and Paul Marcus Family
Foundation/Marcus Partners

Medical Information Technology, Inc.

Leslie and Ken Pucker

May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

Tufts Health Plan Foundation

Jim and Margaret Wade

\$5,000-\$9,999

Alexandra and Colin Campbell

Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall
Charity Fund

Brian and Nicole Clark

Edward and Allyson DeNoble

Gayle and Buddy Dublin

Eugene F. Fay Trust/BNY Mellon

Charitable Giving Program

Lovett-Woodsum Foundation

Phyllis W. McGillicuddy Charitable Trust

P&G Gillette

Thomas Anthony Pappas

Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Charles Sanders Trust

The Frederick E. Weber Charities

Corporation

Marianne J. H. Witherby Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous

Leslie and Howard Appleby

The Boston Foundation Vision Fund

Cambridge Community Foundation

CB Richard Ellis, TX

Julia and John DeVoy

Fast-Trak Construction, Inc.

Adam and Claudine Grossman

Hirsh Family Foundation

Roy A. Hunt Foundation

Meryl Kessler and Scott Oran

Lincoln Property Company, FL

Ian and Isabelle Loring

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

Mr. Sid

Kristin and Steve Mugford

William and Lia Poorvu

The Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation

Proskauer Rose LLP

Richards Barry Joyce & Partners

Molly and Owen Stearns

The TJX Companies, Inc.

Michael S. and Elizabeth A. Winkler

The Zients Family Foundation

\$1,000-\$2,499

A.D.S. Ventures

Chester Atkins and Jessica Stern

CB Richard Ellis, TX

Miceal and Shelby Chamberlain

Ben Chigier

Colliers International

Stacy Dell'Orfano

Delta Dental of Massachusetts

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Jennifer Eckert

Marjorie and Len Freiman

Chris Gaffney and Karen Kames

Paul Gannon

Betsy Gerlach and Harold Dennis

Trintje and Andrew Gnazzo

Pauline Hargreaves

Nancy Hill and Rendall Howell

Jones Lang LaSalle

Rachel and Seth Kalvert

Ann and Ed Kania

The McGrath Family

Jennifer Kordell and Tim Moran

Nicole Korn and Mark Feldman

John and Chrissie Lawrence

Lincoln Property Company, FL

Russell and Shara Oken

Crista Martinez Padua and

Horacio Padua, Jr.

Mark and Etta Rosen

Patti Saris and Arthur Segel

Greg Torres

The Wolk Family and

The Cross Country Group

Andrew and Mariann Youniss

Alan and Ronda Zients



\$500-\$999

Barefoot Books
The Bay State Federal Savings
Charitable Foundation
Dave and Cassie Bordeau
Sara and Marcus Byruck
Elizabeth Cohen
Patrick Colbert
Nisha and Steve Du Bois
Arthur and Marian Glasgow
Robert and Teresa Holmes
Emily G. Kahn
Paul and Amy Kraft
Thomas and Penelope Lawrence
Andrew and Lisa Majewski
Alice and Coleman Mark
Mark Marroni
Sandra Marwill and James Jampel
Amy and Thomas Moore
Terry and Nicole Murray
Anne L. Peretz
Richard Pilch
Sue and Bernard Pucker
Nicole Johan Rand
Lisa A. Robinson and Robert S. Hansel
Suzanne Rothschild and John Baynard
Murray Sackman and Marianne Karmel
Michael Salinger

Nancy and Ron Shaich
Michael and Jennifer Shea
Phyllis and Adam Sonnenschein
Marc Stiller
Judith Sydney and Aviva Sapers
Sandra and Robert Taylor
Joan I. Thorndike
Stephen and Kajy Vicinelli

\$250-\$499

David and Margaret Allen
Barbara Anthony
Katie Bacon and Mark Pener
Dan Barcan
Jeffrey and Maryann Bass
Peter and Patricia Bishop
Michael and Karen Buckley
Ellen and James Burns
Paul and Katie Bittenwieser
Castles Unlimited, Inc.
Michael S. Cavanaugh
Irwin and Roberta Chafetz
Paul Clifford
Timothy Cook
Dana and Jeffrey Davis
Deluxe Hotel Supply
Jeff Duckworth
Edward Duffy

Jim and Emma Egan
Michael Elefante and Louise Sawyer
Martin and Susana Fantozzi
John and Jill Finnerty
Joseph Flaherty
John Fox
Josh and Nora Friedman
Scott Friend and Leslie Riedel
Jason Gish
Michael and Susan Goldman
Debra Goodman
Brett and Abby Gordon
Matthew and Gail Hoffman
Philip and Rebecca Ivey
Cindy and Andrew Janower
Maureen and Roy Johan
Kenneth M. Jones
Ross Jones
Michael and Barbara Kalvert
Nathanael and Catherine Kessler
Florence Koplow
Tucker Levy
Thomas M. and Nancy L. Looney
Brian McKeon
Kevin McKeon
Jim and Annette Miller
Casey and Giselle Nelson
Kevin O'Keeffe



1,500
parents participated
in workshop series

Families First Supporters *(continued)*

INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013

Madeleine and Andrew Oldman
Mark and Katherine Pelson
Nicole Pirani
Jon and Marcie Pucker
Kevin and Jennifer Queally
Paul Reulbach
David and Kristin Shapiro
Leonard and Laurie Slap
Ralph Smith and Cookie Otani-Smith
Fredericka and Howard Stevenson
Jim Synborski
Stanley and Laura Lee Tam
Gillian Todd and Kingsley Taft
The Touchstones Fund of The
Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc.
Brian Walsh
John and Geraldine Warren
Rod Wright and Natalie Waters Wright
Elizabeth and Bruce Wilson

\$100-\$249

Todd Barclay
Peter Baty
Robert Bender and Sandra Venner
Melissa Bradley and Jeff Horine
Joseph Bragdon
Linda and Peter Braun
Robert and Marilyn Brooks
Erica and Harlan Carere
Paul Ciancarelli
Susannah and Raul Cintron
Amy Cody
Linda and Shepard Cohen
Robert and Tamera Colgate
Stephen Conlin and Anne Donahue
Lisa and David Craig
Cheryl and Brian Cuddy
Ariel and Joanne Cudkowicz
Kelly Cutler and Paul Rehm
Olive Darragh
Susan P. Davies and Richard W. Talkov
Jessica Davis
Michelle Day

Charles Dellheim and Laura Gross
Cina and Adam Doctoroff
Philip Dorman
Debbie Drucker and Laurence Ring
Mark and Elizabeth Dufton
Douglas Eisenhart
David Ellis
Russell and Mary Lou Ellsworth
Toby and Sandra Fairbank
Jenny Farren
David Felson and Elaine Landes
Peter and Teresa Ferrelli
Lisa and Stephen Fiore
Christopher Flynn
Diane and Blaine Fogg
Elena Frankel
James and Sue Frontero
Jennifer Giampaolo
Stephen Goldfinger
Alexander Goldman
David Goldstone
David E. and Jill B. Grossman
Joanna and Ramon Herrera
Claudia Hochberg
Robert and Nancy Hurlbut
Joel D. Jacobs
Thomas Jacobs
Debra Jaff
Audrey and Jack Kadis
Stephanie and Matthew Kadnar
Matthew and Jennifer King
Thomas Kosmo
Tim Legere
Carol and Harold Levin
Linda Levin
Gary Lieberman
Sean Lynch
George Mahassel, Jr.
Emily Mann and Ronald Sandler
Kathleen and Steven Marullo
Robert and Shawna Mashal
Chris McCauley
John McGah

Thomas and Jennie McKenna
Rebekah McKinney
Colin and Anne McNay
William Meagher
Maureen Moran
Brenda Noel
Margaret O'Connor
Maria and Kevin O'Connor
Emily O'Malley
Jyoti Peters
Shirin Philipp and John Higgins
Larry Richmond
Paul and Annette Roberts
Taryn Roeder
Susan and Daniel Rothenberg
Robert Rudnick
Steven Russell
Adam Sachs
Sean Sacks and Marcy Goldberg Sacks
Jessica Shattuck and Preble Jaques
Kathleen and David Shields
Susan Silberberg
Ira and Nancy Silver
Steve and Robin Smith
Stuart Snyder and Abby Cohen
Russell Stein
Skip Sullivan
Michael G. Thompson and Theresa
McNally
Elaine Tung and David Concoran
United Way of Central & Northeastern
Connecticut
Deanne Urmey
Eric and Faith VanDusen
Josef Volman
Karen Walsh
Doug and Judith Weinstock
Emie Michaud Weinstock and
Daniel Weinstock
David Weisman
Howard Zaharoff and Deborah Whitehill
Lee Zapis
Pamela Zients

A gift in tribute is a particularly thoughtful way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other joyous event, or to honor the memory of a relative or friend.

We thank all who chose to support *Families First* in this way.

Listed are people in whose honor or memory gifts were received.

IN HONOR OF

Melora Balson
Linda Braun
Mike Buckley
Liz Cohen
Sonia Ettinger
Mark Feinstein
Rachel Kalvert
Meryl Kessler & Family
Richard Kleinberg
Michael Kohn
Jen Kordell
Harold J. Levin
The Parenting Educators
Leslie Zients Pucker
Nicole Rand
Ben Rossi
Lester Sagan
Carole and Norman Tarbell
Margaret & Jim Wade

IN MEMORY OF

Peter Cerutti, Jr.
Edwin and Jeanette Ellsworth
Horacio Padua
George and Jessie Pitts
Helen Santagate
Joseph and Ethel Santagate



IN-KIND DONATIONS

Barefoot Books
Blue Cross Blue Shield MA Skills Based
Volunteer Program
Alix Campbell
Jody Cornish
Kelly Cutler
Allan Dines
Paul Giragos
Highland Street Foundation
Community Impact Consultants
Inspire, Inc.
John Hancock
Meryl Kessler
Ken and Leslie Pucker
Mr. Sid
Quinn Popcorn
Marcy Goldberg Sacks
SkyWorld Interactive, Inc.
Paul Tough

.....
Due to space constraints, we unfortunately can't list all of our donors in our annual report. Our deepest gratitude goes out to all of our supporters who gave gifts up to \$99 over the past year.

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If we have inadvertently made an error or omission, please notify **Families First** at 617-868-7687 ext. 24 and accept our sincere apology.*

94%

of participants agree or strongly agree that they understand child development



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gayle Dublin,
Co-Chair
Jennifer Kordell,
Co-Chair
Russell Oken,
Interim Treasurer
Leslie Zients Pucker,
Clerk
Jody Cornish
Stacy Dell'Orfano
Julia DeVoy
Marjorie Freiman
Pauline Hargreaves
Nancy Hill
Robert Holmes
Rachel Kalvert
Michael Kohn
Jeff Murray
Molly Stearns
Judith Sydney
Linda Braun,
Honorary
Susan O'Connor,
Honorary

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Stuart Ablon
Dr. Betty Bardige
Michelle Brooks
Dr. Robert Brooks
Mary Coleman
Dr. Betty Cooke
Dr. Joanne Cox
Dr. Ned Hallowell
Jackie Jenkins-Scott
Dr. Bruce Johnson
Michael Patrick
MacDonald
John Sommers-Flanagan
Dr. Ann Stadtler
Michael Thompson,
PhD
Sarah Ward
Dr. Richard Weissbourd

OFFICE STAFF

Rachel Banks,
Administrative
Assistant
Susannah Cintron,
Senior Development
Officer
Elizabeth Cohen,
Executive Director
Sue Covitz, Director
of Outreach &
Education
Stacey Ellsworth, Office
Administrator
Michael Goldman,
Director of Finance
& Administration
Rebekah McKinney,
Director of Grants &
Communications
Maureen O'Brien,
Curriculum &
Training Specialist
Madeleine Otani
Oldman, Education
Coordinator
Magda Rodriguez,
Family Engagement
Coordinator

PARENTING EDUCATORS

Milly Arbaje-Thomas
Pam Bailey
Shawne Blake
Debra Broadley
Marilyn Buckler
Carrine Bury
Yvette Cheeks
Carol Darcy
Briget Evans
Alejandra Hernandez
Roxanne Hoke-Chandler
Roselyn Levy
Lilly Marcelin
Susan Marx
Yesenia Menendez
Michelle Padden-
Dragone
Gail Parsons
Stacy Randell
Marta Rivera
Lilly Vazquez
Doug Weinstock

FRIENDS COUNCIL

Melissa Ann Ananias
Katie Bacon
Melora Balson
Nancy Brown
Alix Campbell
Amy Cody
Lisa Craig
Kelly Cutler
Betsy Gerlach
Carey Hoch
Charmain Jackman
Joannie Jaxtimer
Robin Jones
Meryl Kessler
John Lawrence
Steven Lipiner
Anne Marcus
Crista Martinez Padua
Shirin Philipp
Kevin Queally
Suzanne Rothschild
Marcy Goldberg Sacks
Phyllis Sonnenschein
Eleonora Villegas-
Reimers
Margaret Wade



99 Bishop Allen Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139

www.Families-First.org