Semi-Annual Performance Report
Cover Sheet

1. Grant Number: 90-CB-0165
2. Grantee Name and Address: Consortium for Child Welfare
   1438 Rhode Island Ave, N.E.
   Washington, DC 20018
   www.familytiesproject.org; www.consortiumforchildwelfare.org
3. Telephone Number: 202-547-1589 (main); 202-547-3349 (project)
4. Project Title: Abandoned Infants Projects
5. Period of Performance: 10/01/2008 through 9/30/2009
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   First reporting period
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8. Principal Investigator’s Name and Telephone Number:
   Anniglo Boone, PhD, LICSW, 202-547-1589
9. Author’s Name and Telephone Number:
   Sally Altland, MPH, LGSW Project Director, 202-547-3349
11. Report Number: 1
12. Name of Federal Project Officer: Patricia Campiglia, Child Welfare Program Specialist
13. Date Reviewed by Federal Project Office:
Comments (if any):
Annual Performance Report

October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

The mission of the Family Ties Project is to promote and preserve the well-being of children, youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS by providing comprehensive support to parent(s)/caregiver(s) in planning for the future care of their children. This mission is accomplished through the collaborative efforts of a multi-disciplinary team of service providers including community based case managers, attorneys, and mental health therapists. In addition to the direct services provided by FTP, the project also develops and advocates for policy and system reform which supports parent/caregiver abilities to choose and maintain secondary caregiver(s) for infected/affected children. To date the project has provided services to over 900 families infected/affected by HIV/AIDS in the District of Columbia.

Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Project Staffing: Sally Altland, MPH, LGSW continued to function as the Family Ties Project Director. Meghann Ellis, MSW joined the Family Ties Project as the Project Coordinator in July 2009. The Project’s original Director, Mr. Jeffrey Menzer continues to serve as the Project’s evaluator. Ms. Winifred Riley, the Administrative Assistant for Consortium for Child Welfare provides administrative assistance to the Family Ties Project. Dr. Anniglo Boone, the Consortium’s Executive Director provides general oversight and supervision of the Family Ties Project. Additionally, Mr. Bobby Thigpen, the Accountant for the Consortium for Child Welfare also serves as the project’s accountant. The Family Ties Project also maintained two summer interns that worked with Pediatric AIDS/HIV Cares and in the Family Ties Project Office. In September, the Family Ties Project partnered with Catholic University MSW Advanced student intern. Amanda Esparza is a combination MACO/Clinical student.

Subcontracts: There was a continued long-standing relationship with the subcontractors which included the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, and Sasha Bruce Youthworks, Inc, and Pediatric AIDS. Individual subcontractor activities are discussed below.

Programmatic Accomplishments: Programmatic activities are reported by project goal. First, the implementation of the project is reviewed, followed by specific discussion of each sub-contractor and the service provided under the appropriate goal.

Goal 1. To decrease the risk of abandonment of children affected by HIV/AIDS through the development and provision of comprehensive permanency planning services.
There were 12 new enrollments and 10 former clients re-engaged into the Family Ties Project between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009. This was due to the outreach of the Project Director to case managers in the District and reconnection with organizations with Memorandums of Understanding with the Family Ties Project. During this reporting period there were 70 active families enrolled in the Family Ties Project including over 170 children. Historically Family Ties families have been female-headed households. It is important to note that 2 of the new enrollments are males and that there are 3 existing male clients receiving services.

**Specialty Service Activities**

**Legal Services**

*University of the District of Columbia, School of Law*

The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law’s HIV/AIDS clinic continued to provide legal services for Family Ties Project clients. LaShanda Taylor was hired in May 2009 as the new Family Ties attorney at the University of the District of Columbia. Family Ties will be working with the new attorney to update policies and procedures legal for referrals, follow-up and documentation around custody of FTP children. The Family Ties Project Director presented to the new students in September about the FTP program and procedures.

Legal issues that were managed by the law school included drafting last wills and testaments, living wills, DPOA’s for health and DPOA’s for finances, applying for Social Security benefits for both adults and children and filing for reconsideration if/when such benefits were denied, drafting and filing for custody arrangements of minor children including Standby Guardianship designations and petitions as well as issues such as divorce, tenant/landlord disputes and special education advocacy. The clinic had over ten second year law students providing legal assistance to FTP clients during the reporting period.

The Family Ties multi-disciplinary team continued to work diligently on a neglect case that was successful in keeping the child in the home through the investigative skills of the law students, case management and therapy of the Sasha Bruce and Pediatric AIDS/HIV Cares. PAHC continues to provide home-based, and family centered case management. The Family Ties Director was also involved in working with CFSA to create a collaborative relationship and a referral process for qualified families.

**Mental Health**

*Pediatric AIDS/HIV Cares*
Pediatric AIDS/HIV Cares continued Individual therapy with adult caregivers and youth. Therapy is conducted by licensed social workers, an art therapy intern, and a social work intern. PAHC hired a Family Care coordinator and case Management continues with families. The Case manager has utilized several different resources including CAAF, DEFA, Bridges, and Gatekeeper. Case manager has also taken larger role in school case management for families. Case manager and art therapist tried to establish a disclosure family support group held at FTP, but clients for various reasons were unable to commit despite verbal agreement that the program would be good for them.

Throughout the reporting period, PAHC maintained a caseload of 16 children for individual therapy and 32 for the youth development program.

Since the end of February 2009, two distinct support groups have started, set initially for 6 week cycles.

- Life, Loss, and Healing: Art Therapy Group led by Abby Cutler, GW art therapy intern, and co-facilitated by Kelly Keenan, program coordinator. The 10-13yo kids and 14-18yo teens have been participating in this group on Mondays and Tuesdays. They have been creating scrapbooks that memorialize the significant person in their lives that has died.

- Relationships: Talk Therapy group led by Jen Trebby, LGSW, and Laurel Hanlon, 2nd year MSW student from Catholic University. The 14-18yo teens have been participating in this group on Thursdays. A week prior to the end of the relationships group cycle, the teens were given the option to continue the group or end it as planned. The teens all chose to continue to group with the proviso that it be more free-flowing and process-oriented.

PAHC hired a full-time program coordinator, Kelly Keenan. She began in January 2009 and has done a phenomenal job thus far. We are currently interviewing for social work and art therapy interns for the 2009-2010 school year from Catholic University and GWU.

In February, on President’s Day, Accenture hosted a basketball tournament for the Wright House and Covenant House at a local recreation center. PAHC teens managed to win the tournament though we got off to a rocky start. The teens had a wonderful time and voted on MVPs of the game. The MVPs were given donated tickets to Wizards games at the Verizon Center.

The teens also entered a contest held by DC’s Division on STDs in the Department of Health. The teens were asked to create a script for a 30 second television PSA on using condoms in the District. Out of lots of entries, the Wright House teens won! On Tuesday, April 7, Stone Soup productions set up shop at the Wright House, bringing a ton of lighting and filming equipment. The teens rehearsed their
lines and filmed the commercial until midnight! Hopefully the commercial will be aired sometime soon!

One of the teens’ drawings was chosen for the fliers for the fundraiser, “Swim for Life.”
The Charity Date Auction, held in February 2009, raised $19,000 with all proceeds going to PAHC. PAHC has gone tech with Facebook and Twitter.

PAHC finished out the summer camps for our middle and high school youth in August. The middle school and high school students attended a joint retreat at Camp Hemlock Overlook in Virginia. The youth participated in team building, leadership, and skills building exercises such as canoeing/kayaking, a high ropes course, campfires, and dealing with nature as a whole. The teens also performed their monologues, dialogues, and spoken word pieces at the Museum of Women in the Arts to an audience of Arena Stage staff, family, friends, board members, and community members. The youth spoke on topics that were of concern to them in DC – neighborhood violence and identity as a black person in DC.

**Kinship Care Case Management Services**

*Sasha Bruce Youthworks, Inc.*

Cassandra Stanfield, through a subcontract with Sasha Bruce Youthworks, Inc. continued to provide kinship case management services during the reporting period. A total of 15 families received services during this reporting period. Ms. Stanfield conducted 2 support groups a month throughout the reporting period.

During this reporting period Sasha Bruce Youthworks (SBY) worked with FTP Director to create a work plan and a monitoring and evaluation plan for support groups around qualitative data to complement the quantitative data of the FTP database.

The Case Manager has worked with two families around the death of the kinship care giver and continues to work with the new caregiver of the children. Housing issues continued to be an issue for the clients and CM continued to refer clients for rental assistance and to housing programs within the District.

Case Manager is now facilitating an orientation of new employees of Sasha Bruce by giving them an overview of the Family Ties Projects, services offered and the referral process. As a spokesperson for Grandparent Subsidy sponsored by the AARP, a Family Ties client shared her story on Capitol Hill, channel 7 News and in the Hill Rag newspaper. The same client was interviewed on the need for Food and Friends and Grandparent Subsidy and asked to join the Community Connections Board for housing in DC.

Six FTP clients were able to attend the Sasha Bruce Inaugural Ball on Monday, January 19, 2009. For some of the clients it was the first time attending an
inaugural ball and the clients dressed in evening attire, which was for some of them the first time.

There have been a number of changes in the program model. The following items have been incorporated into the program model: a work plan for the year, quarterly reports to replace monthly reports, support group sign in sheets, support group summaries and surveys. Case manager is currently working with Pediatric AIDS/HIV Cares about incorporating pottery and art classes into the program activities.

**Goal 2. To develop policy and systemic reforms which supports the parents’ choice in planning for their children's life plans.**

The Project’s work on this goal continued to increase during this reporting period with older initiatives beginning to take root and exciting new initiatives beginning to take form. Family Ties was awarded a $75,000 contract to develop an HIV/AIDS training curriculum for the Child and Family Services Agency, (CFSA) social workers and foster parents. Throughout the reporting period FTP staff have conducted 6 trainings on HIV/AIDS and Foster Parents and one training on HIV/AIDS and Social Work Ethics. Overall 168 individuals were trained during the reporting period.

As an integral part of supporting the permanency planning needs of families affected by HIV/AIDS, Family Ties has also continued to work closely with CFSA on the grandparent pilot subsidy program passed by the Washington DC City Council in January, 2006. To date, fifty-three Family Ties Project families have received this subsidy; twenty-two who have successfully completed the required annual reauthorization. Family Ties intends to continue its advocacy efforts to further expand the eligibility criteria for this life changing subsidy program, including advocating for subsidy benefits for aunts, uncles, siblings and unrelated caregivers.

Finally, during this reporting period the Project was awarded a grant from the District of Columbia’s Department of Health, HIV/AIDS Administration to develop/adapt two HIV/AIDS, STD, and pregnancy prevention training curricula based on Parents Matter! to educate both foster and birth parents and will include those families affected by HIV/AIDS. One curriculum for foster parents fostering children ages 8-12 and the other curriculum for birth parents in the process of reunifying with their children ages 8-12. To date, four Parents Matter! Trainings have been conducted and approximately 40 parents have participated in the program.

**Project Evaluation**

During this reporting period, data was collected by all of the Family Ties Project subcontractors. This data is submitted quarterly to the Project Director and is analyzed by the Project Director and Project Evaluator to identify both areas of success and areas where improvement is needed. This is done to ensure
compliance with the Project milestones submitted in the grant proposal and on-going quality of service provision to all Project clients. The data available for this reporting period is provided through the attached Work Plan Evaluation Report and the narrative portion of this report. Based on the need for improved evaluation of the Family Ties Project, the project evaluator created the evaluation report in order to influence program and policy decisions by the Project Director.

Family Ties conducted Performance Evaluations for all subcontractors in April and held meetings to discuss progress and future goals for each individual organization. The multi-disciplinary team conducted ten 6-month Case Conferences for all active FTP clients, in order to identify needs and work together as service providers to ensure families are receiving all needed services, either from FTP or are referred to other organizations.

**Problems**

Some concerns and/or areas for improvement are the consistency and promptness of reporting and data submission by sub contractors. Evaluation of the Family Ties Project by clients also needs to be consistent and follow-up with clients needs to be improved. The Project Coordinator is working closely with subcontractors to improve client follow-up and has created a Client Treatment Plan template in an attempt to streamline client services and improve success in reaching goals.

As mentioned in previous reports there is a need for case management and coordination of services for Family Ties families, whether headed by HIV+ birth mother or father or a relative caregiver. In order to address this issue Family Ties has terminated the kinship care case management contract with Sasha Bruce Youthworks. The FTP Project Coordinator will continue to facilitate the Caregiver’s Support Group and provide coordination of service for all FTP families.

Two distinctive needs and/or gaps in services have arisen during the reporting period, mental health and after-school youth enrichment and leadership for ages 13-18. There is a continuing pattern of depression, grief, stress, etc. among our caregivers and at present FTP does not provide mental health services such as adult and family therapy to our clients, focusing on those whose children do not receive services from PAHC.

After evaluation, it was found that over 50% of our children are between the ages of 13-18, which is the age that most youth begin to be more independent and sexual active. Providing a daily after-school program to compliment the weekly group and individual therapy provided by Pediatric AIDS/HIV would allow these youth to develop leadership skills and opportunity for education and care around adolescent health.

**Significant Findings and events**
The Family Ties Project under the Consortium for Child Welfare has enjoyed a number of successes in Project Year 13. The Project was excited to hire a new Project Director and Project Coordinator that has added international and extensive HIV/AIDS experience to the program. Meghann Ellis, LGSW comes to the Family Ties Project with a background in mental health and case management. As Project Coordinator she will work closely with FTP families to ensure they are receiving quality services from Family Ties subcontractors and other organizations as well as maintaining a stable home and ensuring the health of the caregiver and the family.

The project recently collaborated with the HIV/AIDS Administration to participate in the Condom Distribution Program and has distributed condoms to clients, foster parents at trainings and the community at outreach events.

Family Ties continues to work as a multi-disciplinary team of community organizations to prevent children from entering the child welfare system and support stable and healthy families. The Family Ties team recently came together as lawyers, social workers, advocates and HIV/AIDS experts to prevent the removal of an HIV+ child from his mother and siblings. We continue to work together to support this family and families in similar situations to help maintain a stable and healthy home setting.

Family Ties is doing great work with families affected by HIV/AIDS and needs to increase dissemination and awareness of the project and services to other organizations, communities and individuals through advocacy, newsletters, recruitment and evaluation.

Based on a recently published report, 3% of DC residents are infected with HIV/AIDS. This translates to 2,984 residents per 100,000 over the age of 12, equivalent or higher than parts of Africa. The report also states that 3% of black women are infected, partly due to the increase in heterosexual transmission. This infection rate is 3 times the 1 percent average for the United States and constitutes a “generalized and severe” epidemic according to health officials.

As the face of HIV/AIDS changes, the Family Ties project is evolving to meet the new needs of families affected and infected with HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C. The project is experiencing an increase of birth parents, including single fathers living with HIV/AIDS seeking services. Currently, relative caregivers enrolled in the Family Ties Project are maintaining stability and there is a decrease in their need for intense case management and support. In order to meet the new demands there is a need for additional case management and support for birth parents as the heads of families. Family Ties is implementing a family-centered, home-based, skill-building approach with the addition of a Family Ties Project Coordinator that will have the skills and ability to provide services to birth parents, care-givers, and children by providing support for the entire family and will coordinate the other team members in the continuation of the multi-disciplinary model that has proven to be effective.
Family Ties Staff and staff from the subcontractors attended numerous conferences throughout the reporting period. The Executive Director of The consortium for Child Welfare, Family Ties Project Director, and the Pediatric AIDS/HIV Cares Clinical Director attended the HIV/AIDS and Social Work Conference in New Orleans, LA. The African Americans and HIV/AIDS Conference was held in Philadelphia and attended by the Executive Director of PAHC and the FTP Project Director.

The PAHC Clinical Director attended 5 days of Federal Grant Writing conference hosted by the Grantsmanship Center and sponsored by NMAC in Oakland, CA on September 14-18, 2009. PAHC Clinical Director attended orientation for Wendt Center’s Camp Forget-me-Not/Camp Erin mental health team leader. Two Pediatric Care/FTP clients attended Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin on July 31-August 2, and had a very productive experience mourning the deaths of their family members with their peers.

**Dissemination Activities**

Family Ties realized that there was a need to create or update MOUs with organizations throughout the District. In order to increase referrals and services to the many families in DC that are affected by HIV/AIDS, Family Ties has made it a priority to attend Case Management meetings, visit and re-connect with all hospitals, non-governmental organizations and district government departments that provide services for Families affected by HIV/AIDS. To date the director has created a Family Ties Project “business card” and distributed it at a Ryan White Case Management Meeting (CMOC), visited 4 organizations and 3 hospitals to reconnect and introduce FTP and our services.

Through our HIV/AIDS and Parents Matters! Training with HIV/AIDS Administration and Child and Family Services Administration we will be able to disseminate the Family Ties services and model to over 900 people including social workers, foster parents, and organizations. In the last three months of the reporting period, FTP was contacted by two out-of-state organizations about our unique model and the success of FTP around Stand-by Guardianship. Neither state that contacted FTP had passed SBG legislation and the Director was able to disseminate information about Family Ties and SBG.

**Web Sites**

The table below lists various statistics on the use of the Project’s Web site, www.familytiesproject.org. The Web Site continues to be used to disseminate information about the Project, papers and presentations made by Project staff, and provides a central source for current Project materials. Web site traffic for both of the quarters of the reporting period was similar, indicating no significant change in Web site utilization.
www.familytiesproject.org Web site traffic summaries by quarter: April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic summary</th>
<th>April 1 to June 30, 2009</th>
<th>July 1 to September 30, 2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sessions</td>
<td>8,806</td>
<td>9,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total page views</td>
<td>14,142</td>
<td>15,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average sessions per day</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average page views per session</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average time on site</td>
<td>1 minute 19 seconds</td>
<td>1 minute 14 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Web site utilization has decreased 12.7% during this reporting period, compared with the previous reporting period, although the average page views per session remained constant.

**Top pages**

The “genogram instructions” page ([www.familytiesproject.org/genograminstructions.htm](http://www.familytiesproject.org/genograminstructions.htm)) continued to be the top page viewed, approximately 43% of requested pages. The Family Ties Project's “home page” is the second most viewed page. Several of the Family Ties Project documents (Group Curriculum, standby guardianship curriculum, and project evaluation reports) are also frequently downloaded; although genogram-related materials are the most frequently downloaded documents.

The Web site page “genogram instructions” was the top entrance page each quarter (almost one third of all sessions). This data, along with the keyword and top page data suggest that the site continues to be used heavily to obtain information, through the use of search engines, on genograms and their use. Project-related materials and information is used to a modest degree. The Standby Guardianship self-study training guide is being downloaded more frequently during these quarters compared with previous quarters.

In addition to the Family Ties Project Web site, the Project also maintains a website, [www.standbyguardianship.org](http://www.standbyguardianship.org), which continues to be used to educate the public about standby guardianship. The Web site continues to be updated with information about this legislation since its passage. In addition to providing a history of the legislation on both a local and national level, there are instructions on how to utilize Standby Guardianship. Additional permanency planning tools are also identified and described on the website making it a thorough tool for professionals to access when engaging clients in the permanency planning process.
www.standbyguardianship.org Web site traffic summaries by quarter: April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic summary</th>
<th>April 1 to June 30, 2009</th>
<th>July 1 to September 30, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sessions</td>
<td>5,603</td>
<td>5,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total page views</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average sessions per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average page views per session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average length of visit</td>
<td>1 minutes 30 seconds</td>
<td>1 minute 20 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Web site utilization has decreased 7.6% during this reporting period, compared with the previous reporting period, although the average page views per session remained generally constant.

**Top pages and downloads**

The most frequently viewed page was the site’s “home page” followed by the posted publications, the AIA Resource Center fact sheets, a sample standby guardianship designation and petition for the District’s law.

In addition, the Consortium for Child Welfare’s Web site, at www.consortiumforchildwelfare.org, also provides an important link to the Family Ties Project Web site. The Project will continue to utilize the Web sites as a growing method of dissemination of Project products and to serve as a resource for the community. These outreach activities are being assessed through monitoring of Web site traffic and subscription to the Project’s list serve.

**Other Activities**

A number of Family Ties clients participated in notable activities throughout the reporting period. One FTP caregiver was interviewed for an article on grandmothers raising children affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Washington DC by Howard University.

The Washington Post published an expose on misuses of HIV/AIDS funding and a client of Family Ties was included in the on-line video about her HIV status, advocacy work and housing issue related to her diagnosis and being a single mother.

**Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period**

Family Ties has many activities planned for the next reporting period including:
1. Develop contractual relationships with two new community organizations around mental health and after-school youth enrichment and leadership

2. Attend and Present at the HIV/AIDS and Social Work Conference in Denver, CO May 27-30, 2010 sponsored by Boston University

3. Partner with The Women’s Collective (a grassroots, women-ran collaborative HIV/AIDS organization) to plan and host a Holiday party for Family Ties families

4. Conduct Needs Assessment for the Latino population around HIV/AIDS to identify needs and gaps in services and education and present findings at the HIV/AIDS and Social Work Conference

5. Schedule meetings with local organizations and hospitals to disseminate FTP services and increase referrals and establish concrete Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with 10 additional organizations in the District while maintain 14 existing MOU’s

6. Improve quality of services by the creation of a CAB (client advisory board) to evaluate client services and assess client needs and the use of individual evaluation forms

7. The formation of a birth mothers support group to support specific needs of HIV+ mothers

8. Increase engagement in advocacy activities in areas of Grandparent Subsidy, special education for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and more services and funding for services for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

9. Continue to fulfill goals and objectives of the Family Ties Project reflected in the work-plan.