



Mission:

Make a measurable difference in the lives of children and families by providing hope, support and services that also assist their neighborhoods to become safer and more stable.

■ **Short-Term Case Management**

Provides information about community resources for families of young children living in the greater Norristown area. Case managers provide families with information about housing, day care, mental health, basic needs, counseling, parent education programs, truancy, employment training opportunities, community events and health services. Families receive copies of local resource guides. The goal of this service is to facilitate a seamless, comprehensive, and easily accessed network of services for children and families. Services are provided for up to three months.

■ **Truancy Intervention**

Provides assessment and case management services for students identified as having multiple unexcused school absences. Students are referred to the Truancy Intervention Program by the Department of Human Services after having eight or more unexcused school absences and whose families have been summoned to Truancy Court. A trained case manager works in collaboration with each family to resolve the various barriers to school attendance through home and school visits, referrals and linkages. The goal is to help each family improve their child(ren)'s school attendance.

CVCA Overview

Carson Valley Children's Aid is a non-profit, child welfare agency with a distinguished history of service to children and families. Carson Valley Children's Aid offers a comprehensive continuum of care including:

- In-Home Services
- Out of Home Services
- Education Programs
- Family Support Services
- Substance Abuse Prevention, Intervention & Treatment Programs
- Behavioral Health Services
- In-School Services
- After School and Positive Youth Development Programs

Carson Valley Children's Aid is committed to strengthening children, families and neighborhoods by delivering programs and services that respond to today's needs and by creating programs and services that respond to changing needs.

OUR CORE VALUES

- RESPECT
-
- INTEGRITY
-
- COMMITMENT
-
- EMPOWERMENT
-
- CULTURAL SENSITIVITY
-
- TEAMWORK

■ **For More Information On:
Family Support Services**

Please Contact:
Carson Valley Children's Aid
1419 Bethlehem Pike
Flourtown, PA 19031
Phone: 215-233-1960
Fax: 215-233-2386
www.cvca-pa.org

Family Support Services



Building on strengths of children and families



Vision:

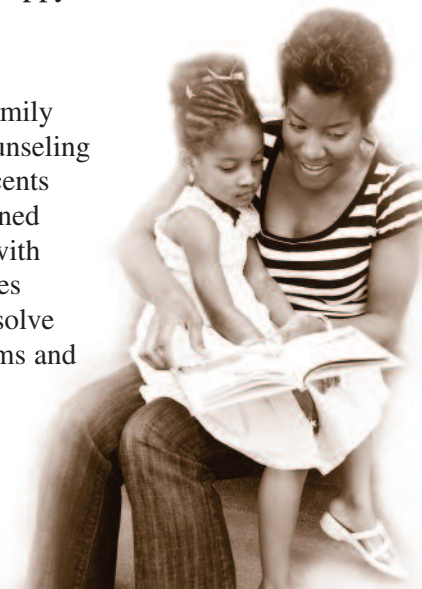
Carson Valley Children's Aid will utilize the skills and talents of its Staff and Board to create and sustain neighborhood-based systems of care and education for children, youth and families.

Family Support Services

CVCA's Family Support Services provide a range of supports and services for families. Services offer families the opportunity to address issues that are impacting their functioning and to strengthen each family member's ability to communicate with, support and relate to each other. Services are offered in both community settings and in homes and through both groups and individually. They run on a continuum from least restrictive to more intensive and are of varying lengths of time in order to meet the full range of needs with which families struggle. The goal with all of CVCA's Family Support Services is to help families provide the best possible environment in which to raise healthy, happy and successful children.

Counseling

Offers both family and individual counseling for adults, adolescents and couples. Trained counselors work with individuals, couples and families to resolve presenting problems and alleviate stressors.



The goals of the service are to stabilize individual and family functioning, improve family interaction and prevent further, more intensive intervention.

Diversionsary Case Management

Provides support services to families who have come to the attention of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Experienced and caring social workers provide case management services including home visits, family meetings, case planning, referral and linkages all with the goal of preventing abuse and neglect and preventing further DHS involvement. The goal is to divert families who are at-risk for abuse and neglect from the child welfare system.

EPIC Stakeholders

The Equal Partners in Change (EPIC) process provides an opportunity for parents, youth, community residents, school representatives, local faith-based organizations, block captains, law enforcement officials, local businesses and others to identify and address issues that may ultimately lead to truancy and delinquency. The EPIC Coordinator, hired by CVCA, facilitates monthly community meetings to identify issues and discuss possible interventions. Work is then done between meetings in committees and smaller leadership groups all of which is geared towards implementing community driven strategies for reducing truancy and delinquency. The goal is to engage as many stakeholders from the community as possible in the work of keeping children and youth in school and away from high risk behaviors.

Fatherhood Initiative

Provides services, which increase the parenting skills of fathers in the Greater Norristown Area. The focus is on fathers who are isolated from healthy role models, and in need of talking with other fathers about the best methods for raising healthy, happy children.

Program components include: *Individual /group support services and activities for fathers; Education and Skills Training Opportunities; and Adult Education, Pre-employment and Job Training.* The goal is to increase the skill and comfort level of participating fathers so that they in turn play a more active role in the lives of their children.

Parents as Teachers

Provides the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life using the nationally acclaimed Parents as Teachers (PAT) model. Trained Family Development Specialists provide two home visits per month to families with children from birth through pre-K. During these visits they provide information on child development and bring fun, developmentally appropriate play activities for parent and child to engage in together. The Family Development Specialists provide developmental screenings for each child and referrals for support services or early intervention services as needed. The goal is for each parent to learn how to be the first and best teacher for their child so that each child enters kindergarten ready and prepared to learn.

Parent Education Program

Provides parents in several distinct communities with parent education classes and support. While each program is tailored to the specific needs of the community, all offer weekly classes using evidence based parent education curricula. Trained facilitators work with parents to increase their knowledge of and ability to respond to the needs of their children, often bringing parents and children together to model and practice new strategies. The goals of the program are to increase parental knowledge of child development, normal developmental issues, use of positive behavior management techniques, parent utilization of stress



reduction methods, use of positive nurturing, use of positive discipline techniques and healthy parent/child communication.

Parent Truant Officers

Parent Truant Officers (PTOs) visit the homes of students who are starting to have unexcused absences. They speak with the parents to find out if they know their children have been absent and leave a copy of the Compulsory Education Law. PTOs provide information on how to communicate with the school and how to access community resources to resolve any barriers to school attendance. The primary goal is to prevent further unexcused absences.

Homeless Family Support

Provides counseling to families during periods of homelessness and transition. Trained counselors work with parents and children who are living in shelters and transitional housing programs to help stabilize both the individual family members as well as the family unit. The goal is to provide the support each family needs to transition to more permanent housing and to alleviate stressors during the period of transition.