



## Board of Directors Member Application Form

Name	
Phone	
Email	
Mailing Address	

What relevant experience and/or employment do you have? (Please attach a resume if appropriate.)

Why are you interested in serving on the FESS Board of Directors?

What expertise or contribution do you feel you can make to FESS?

What are your other volunteer commitments?

Have you served, or are you currently serving on another board? If yes, what boards?

### For Board Use

	Date	
Nominee met with Executive Director, Board President or Board Member	Date	
Nominee application reviewed by FESS Board	Date	
Nominee attended a FESS Board Meeting	Date	
Nominee application accepted or denied	Date	



# Family Education & Support Services

Dear Prospective Board Member:

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Board of Family Education and Support Services (FESS). Our Agency is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors with a common goal of promoting healthy child development through the strategy of strengthening families.

We believe that, through strengthening families, we are strengthening our community and our nation. FESS provides services without regard to age, color, creed, disability, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation, or political affiliations. **Our Mission is to support and inspire healthy child development through the provision of quality family support programs.**

Originally incorporated in 1984 with the intention of providing quality child care services, Family Education and Support Services expanded its mission in the year 2000 and was granted tax exempt status. A decision was made to expand services to include training in an effort to support early childhood professionals, parents and caregivers. In 2006 a philosophical decision was made to focus on education and support programs and the agency withdrew from the direct provision of child care services. FESS works on a local, state and national level with parents, caregivers, public, and private partners to effectively promote and provide services focused on promoting healthy child development through parent education and support programs.

Our strategy to meet our mission includes the provision of a variety of programs aimed at strengthening families. Our service area includes Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Pierce counties. Some of the programs we offer include: *Winning at Parenting*, a series of main stream parenting classes offered in collaboration with local schools; *Consider the Children*, our version of the parenting class mandated for any parent going through a divorce in the Washington courts; *Men as Fathers* and *Conscious Fathering*, two classes for men only; and *Parenting and Family Values*, a class for parents who have court or child welfare involvement. In addition, FESS provides training, support and other resources for kinship caregivers: grandparents or relatives who have taken on custody of a family member's child. To learn more about current program offerings, visit the FESS website at: <http://familyeducationandsupport.org>.

Serving as a member of the FESS Board of Directors is a challenging and rewarding volunteer opportunity. Election to our Board is more than an honor. All Board members have important legal and fiduciary responsibility to FESS that requires a commitment of time, skills, and resources. The Board is administered through an Executive Committee comprised of the President, the President-Elect, the Treasurer, and the Secretary, who are elected by the general membership of the Board.

Board member requirements are as follows:

- Attend monthly board meetings, held the third Monday of each month from 6:30—8:00pm at the FESS administrative office in West Olympia.
- Make a personally meaningful monetary donation to FESS each fiscal year.
- Participate in fundraising efforts by attending and inviting other potential donors to fundraising events; help increase the FESS donor base; and procure items and sponsorships for FESS.
- Attend annual Board retreat, usually a half-day event on a Saturday in June.
- Serve on at least one working committee.
- Potentially volunteer time and resources for various events and projects throughout the year.
- Serve a three-year term, with a second three-year term available. A one year absence is required before reapplying for a third term.

Family Education and Support Services seeks Board members who are dedicated to supporting the families of our community. They possess honesty; sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views; a friendly, responsive, and patient approach; community-building skills; personal integrity; a developed sense of values and a sense of humor. If this description fits you, please contact us at 360-754-7629, or email FESS Executive Director Shelly Willis, at [Shelly@FamilyESS.org](mailto:Shelly@FamilyESS.org)



# Family Education & Support Services

## **Family Education and Support Services Follow These**

### **Principles of Family Support:**

Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.

Staff enhances the families' capacity to support the growth and development of all family members - adults, youth and children.

Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs, and to communities.

Programs affirm and strengthen families' cultural, racial, and linguistic identities and enhance their ability to function in a multicultural society.

Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community-building process.

Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive, and accountable to the families we serve.

Staff works with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.

Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.

Principles of family support are modeled in all program activities, including planning, governance, and administration.