



Phone: 360-754-7629 email: becky@familyess.org

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. Since that time we serve an average of 5,000 individuals a year with a variety of parent education and support programs. 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 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. There are many others that can be found on our website. 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, Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 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 6:00—7:30pm at the FESS administrative office, or via Zoom as arranged.
- Champion for the agency within the community by linking our services to those who might benefit, and informing stakeholders about the value of our programs.
- Make a personally meaningful monetary donation to FESS each fiscal year.
- Participate in annual 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 held in May or June each year.
- 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.

Thank you for your interest and support in FESS!

Sincerely,

Shelly Willis
Executive Director, Family Education and Support Services
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