

**FAMILY RESOURCE
CENTER**
PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

FRC staff facilitate the following:

- Resource, referral, and follow-up
- Family Activities (i.e., Playtime, Storytime, Movie Night, Cookie baking, etc.)
- Special Events (i.e., Halloween Carnival, Spring Fun Day, etc.)
- Systems Coordination & Integration
- Shared governance that promotes parent and community leadership.
- Healthy Families Enrollment

The FRC co-locates the following programs:

- **State Preschool Program**, Madera Unified School District
- **Migrant Alternative Childcare Program**, Community Action Partnership of Kern
- **Healthy Beginnings Program**, Madera County Department of Social Services
- **Nutrition and Fitness Program**, Nutrition Network
- **Health and Wellness Program**, First 5 Madera County
- **Commission Staff**, First 5 Madera County

CONTACT:
525 E. Yosemite Ave.
Madera, CA 93638

Phone: 559.661.5155
Fax: 559.675.4950
Web: www.first5madera.net

FRC Manager:
Elizabeth Catanesi

Mission:

“To enhance early childhood development, child health care and family involvement by advocating and supporting early intervention”



First 5 Madera County

It's All About the Kids

SUCCESS:

A mother came into First 5 seeking a food referral. She declared that she was married and had three children, ages 18, 7 and 6. The mother did not work outside the home. The mother & father were separated due to the father being abusive to her. At the time of intake, the mother and children were still living in the same residence where the abuse took place. The father visited his children every other day. During those visits, he was verbally abusive toward the mother in front of the children. She expressed to case manager her desire to move out, but explained that she was not financially able to do so. The mother had not applied for welfare services as the father was the provider for the family. The mother stated that everything that they had together was in the father's name, even the car that she was driving.

The mother confided to the case manager that she was under extreme stress and wished to get free from these circumstances but did not know how to do so. The case manager made referrals to the Department of Social Services, Victim Services, The Incredible Years (parenting class) and Parent's Support Group.

The mother and children were not receiving medical care because at the time of applying, the mother disclosed that her husband had two jobs, yet the money was not being used for family needs. She mentioned that the children were asthmatic. Otherwise, the children were in school, had good grades, and no behavioral problems were identified.

During the case management process, the case manager lost contact with the family as she attempted to visit the family at home. After trying several times to make contact, the case manager finally reestablished communication with the mother and was informed that she successfully managed to leave the house with her two younger children and was staying at the Rescue Mission.

The mother shared with the case manager that she had been approved to receive services from the welfare department and was now receiving medical care, food stamps and cash aid; but she still did not have a place to live. The mother emphasized that she did not have intentions to be on welfare for very long as she was looking for a job. At this time, the mother was looking for a place to live, but was not eligible unless she had a job. She had already been actively seeking employment. The mother informed the case manager that she would only be able to stay at the Rescue Mission for one more week. The case manager contacted Victim Services to find out if shelter was available for the family at that time. The family was able to get a temporary place at Victim Services and a victim's advocate would help her to find permanent housing.

Later, the case manager educated mom about seeking childcare with the Community Action, a branch of Department of Social Services. The mother quickly learned that she qualified for child care and was excited that she could work and attend other functions without worrying about who would watch her children.

The family seemed on their way as, with coaching by Case Manager at First 5 Family Resource Center, the mother applied and qualified for different services in the community. The family reached stability is thriving. The mother was very thankful for case manager as she motivated her to be consistent and to not give up without trying.