

The Greene County Family Visitation Center
143 East Market Street
Xenia, Ohio

The Greene County Family Visitation Center is Celebrating Their 10th Birthday

Ten years ago this month, the Family Visitation Center opened the facility at 143 E. Market St. to serve Greene County families in need of supervised visitation and exchange services. Greene County is very fortunate to have the Center since less than half of the counties in Ohio have one. The Family Visitation Center prides itself with quality service to families and serves as a model for other counties in Ohio and the nation. Barbara Stamper, LSW, Coordinator for the past ten years, has served on the board of the National Supervised Visitation Network (SVN) as well as chairing the SVN Ohio Chapter.

The historical home is furnished much like a home setting to provide a family-friendly environment to families who have been affected by abuse, neglect, high conflict divorce, long term separation or domestic violence. Supervised Visitation is simply observing the interactions between a child and his/her non-residential parent during a visit. Neutral exchanges are for parents who are not required to have supervision while visiting their children but need to have a neutral setting where they can exchange the children without contact with the other party. During supervised visits and exchanges, the main goal is to maintain a safe and secure environment to protect the rights and well-being of children and increase the safety for victims of domestic violence. The program provides the court or other referring agency with factual information about the contact between parents and children.

The Supervised Visitation Program was founded by a collaboration of Greene County Departments to meet a growing need in the county for children to visit with non-residential parents in a safe, secure environment. The supervised visitation and exchange program began in 1998 as a granted-funded pilot program under the direction of the Juvenile Court. In July of 2000, the program became part of the Greene County Family and Children First Department under the direction of Sue Giga.

The Center is always looking for committed volunteers to supervise visits and neutral exchanges, help maintain toys and equipment, or coordinate special projects for our families to complete during visits. Donations of new or gently used toys and equipment are always welcome. More information on the Family Visitation Center, volunteer opportunities and a "wish list" of items that are currently needed is available at <http://www.co.greene.oh.us/fcf/VC/default.htm>, call (937) 562-5687 or e-mail gcvc@co.greene.oh.us