

# United Family Services, Inc

*"We Address Difficult Problems with Realistic Solutions"*

## HISTORY

United Family Services (UFS) is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1991 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas with funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention sub-granted through the Arkansas Department of Human Services. The objective of the agency was to provide nonexistence services that could be used in the Arkansas Judicial System. In 1991, United Family Services developed the first successful Home Detention/House Arrest Program utilizing electronic monitoring in the state for juveniles and adult offenders.

In 1993, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention selected United Family Services' Home Detention/House Arrest Program as one of the most effective programs in the nation. UFS was the first agency in the state of Arkansas to provide its own Electronic Monitoring Services with the capability of providing Electronic Monitoring Systems throughout America.

Over the years, United Family Services has continued to grow. In 1996, UFS expanded the agency's mission to provide communities with an effective comprehensive program that:

- Keep families together
- Prevent out of home placement
- Reduce commitments and re-commitments to the Division of Youth Services

UFS's goal is to provide the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as well as the courts and the Division of Youth Services (DYS) with realistic alternatives to serving troubled children and youths.

To achieve this mission UFS developed a Comprehensive Treatment Program (CTP). The CTP consists of five components that are community-oriented and include a holistic approach using prevention, intervention, diversion, treatment services, and sanction programs. The agency's targeted service areas included:

- 11th East Judicial District - Arkansas County
- 11th West Judicial District – Jefferson and Lincoln Counties

In 2000, UFS expanded the success of the Comprehensive Treatment Program to two additional counties.

- 6th Judicial District – Pulaski and Perry Counties

The Comprehensive Treatment Program achieves the following objectives:

- ✓ To reduce contact of juveniles with the juvenile justice system and the Division of Children and Family Services
- ✓ To reduce out of home placement keeping youths in the least restricted environment
- ✓ To reduce commitment from targeted service area to the Division of Youth Services
- ✓ To reduce the recidivist rate of juveniles released from the Division of Youth Services
- ✓ To maintain the reduction of commitment and recidivism

Through the Comprehensive Treatment Program, UFS currently provides an array of services to include:

- ✓ Aftercare
- ✓ Drug Assessment & Counseling
- ✓ Emergency Shelter
- ✓ Prevention/Intervention
- ✓ Interstate Compact
- ✓ Casework
- ✓ Electronic / GPS Monitoring
- ✓ FINS Intervention
- ✓ Parenting Education
- ✓ Residential Treatment
- ✓ Therapy

United Family Services has compiled performance data to show the successful impact of its services on the juvenile justice system in Arkansas (See Results Link).