

Our daughter attended day care about 15-17 years ago. All of her experiences were good. As parents, we were glad she could go to a place where loving, caring people helped her get ready for school by socializing and preparing her academically for kindergarten with a Christian perspective. She also loved the activities, crafts, going outside to play, the field trips, and just being with her friends and all the adults who helped guide her. She liked it so much that I remember times that I went to pick her up that she did not want to leave day care, which as a parent was sometimes frustrating, but comforting to know how much she loved it there and how much she was loved and cared for by everyone watching her. I always felt it a privilege that it was our church that



provided a day care for my child and for other children in our community. Her positive experiences at day care and school have helped influence her that she wants a career in education. And now she works there and life is a continuing circle that brought her back to day care in a different capacity. God is truly good! And Fairview Day Care is the best!



I was blessed to have worked at daycare for 20 years. I was one that helped open each day at 6:30 and greeted the children with their smiling faces. I have very fond memories of working with the children. As I see them throughout the community, I am reminded of these good experiences. The day care had a well structured plan for the child care ministry with the church's direction. My co-workers were very good at carrying out this mission.

Congratulations to the Fairview Day Care for 25 years of service. I am very proud to have been part of this organization.

Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary of FMC Day Care! You and your staff fill a very important service to this community. We've prayed these years for this ministry and in the last year have experienced the blessings, with a precious grandson in your care. Thank you for doing God's work!

Thank you, Susan and day care staff, for being a very bright spot in the ministry of FMC. Congratulations on 25 years of ministry.

Happy 25th Anniversary Day Care

A Brief History

In the summer of 1989, the Church Leadership Board prayerfully decided to start a day care ministry at Fairview Missionary Church. The first decision was to hire a director. Susan and Mike Ferrell had started to attend FMC around that time. Susan is a local girl who graduated from Prairie Heights High School. She received an associate's degree in Early Childhood Development from Bethel College. The church hired her with the goal of having her establish and grow the day care ministry. We had no children in day care at that time. With \$5,000 seed money for salaries and supplies, Susan and her staff have developed one of the top day care programs in our area. Day care was originally housed in the classrooms on the south side of the gym, where the big kitchen is now. When the children's wing was finished, it was moved into that area.

The first child in our day care was Allison Bowen, Glen and Connie Bowen's granddaughter. She is now 28 years old and lives in Colorado.

After 25 years, many former FMC day care children are parents bringing their own children to our day care and one of our current employees attended day care when she was a child.

Other Facts about FMC Day Care

About two thirds of the kids are from the community and one third are Fairview families.

Day care often has a waiting list of kids wanting to get into the program, however at this time there are openings for most age groups.

The day care is a self supporting ministry of the church. No funds from the regular offerings of the church are used to fund the ministry. Day care also contributes to the upkeep on that part of the building and pays for their own equipment and repairs.

Long term day care employees:

Susan Ferrell, Director	25 years
Julie Stackhouse	24 years
Debbie Vanderpool	24 years
Nancy Jack	19 years
Julie Belpasso (intermittently)	11 years
Cheryl Bitzer (retired)	20 years

Compliments and Gratitude

The staff gets many compliments from parents and teachers. Perhaps one of the best ones was from a kindergarten teacher in the public school who wrote a note that said she could tell which kids in her class had attended FMC day care without even asking. Those kids were several steps ahead in their social skills and academic knowledge than other kids their age.

We are writing this letter to extend our sincere gratitude toward you and your staff. While we are away at our jobs, our children are in your care. While this is unnerving to admit, the fact is, you spend more hours with our children during the week than we get to. However we can honestly say that the Fairview Day Care is the next best thing to being with us. Our daughter begs to go to "school", as she calls it.

All staff members were very understanding and kind to us as we struggled with leaving our child with people we knew very little about. It didn't take long, however, for us to start seeing habits our daughter was picking up at school. These habits included how to go up and down stairs, praying before meals, using please and thank you, and the words to many silly songs. These behaviors were enough to ease our minds about where we are sending our child every day. As child two came along, we were very pleased with the seamless transition we experienced with the day care. All staff members have been more than accommodating to us and our children.



We are so fortunate to have people who care for our children as we would. As parents who are in the working world, we know that many times work, especially the kind that you and your staff do daily, goes without recognition. I hope that this letter confirms that what you and your staff are doing is beyond praiseworthy. Fairview Missionary Church Day Care is a true blessing to the community and the people it serves. You and your staff go beyond expectations and genuinely care for our children. As parents, we could not ask for anything more. Please know that you are extraordinary people and you have a true gift, a gift from God Himself, and your servitude does not go unnoticed.

Our hope is that this letter will lift spirits and confirm what you probably already know. Nevertheless, sometimes it is good to hear it from others, especially those you serve.

With appreciation.

Our grandson, now 22 years old, attended Fairview Daycare for a period of time. At that time in his young life, his parents were divorcing, were into some drug use and "doing their own thing," with their precious little boy caught in the middle. We were attending Fairview and he spent a lot of time in our home. Since both of us worked, we were so grateful to the Day Care Ministry for taking care of him and loving him. He loved to go and learned so much there. The staff was so caring and he enjoyed being with the other kids. Today



he is a 6'2" young man with a great outlook on life and we thank FMC Daycare for being a part of his younger years. God bless you all....

Quite a few years ago my husband and I moved to our retirement home on the lake. We were already attending Fairview Missionary Church so a special friend suggested I see about subbing at day care as a way to meet the people of Fairview and the community. Great suggestion. Through the day care I was able to learn to know not only people from our church but people, lovely ones, from the Angola community. Having no grandkids at the time, I "adopted" over 100 children as our grandchildren. What a joy! Having some of these dear children still greet me while shopping is a genuine "Jesus perk". Now, in retirement, I have precious memories of my time spent with the staff and students and I am one happy grandma. Thank you, Miss Susan and staff.

I just have to say how much the day care influenced me and my two girls' lives when they opened up 25 years ago. We were new to the community and my first husband had just left me. I had never worked outside of the home and was very anxious about leaving my 3 year old daughter with someone I did not know. We started out at Susan's home and were one of the first group of kids to start at the day care with Susan when it opened. Do you know how much it meant to me to leave my precious child at a God-filled, Spirit-filled church? The Holy Spirit's presence was so prevalent and she loved worshipping and learning about Jesus every day!! Thank you, Susan and all the staff at Fairview Day Care for the years of service to the Angola working community. I loved that day care and it will always have a special place in my heart.

