On February 12, 1863 the Home for the Friendless was incorporated to provide care and shelter for widows and orphans of the Civil War. For more than 145 years Springfield’s oldest social service organization has gone through many changes, but the basic goal of strengthening families remains unchanged at what today is known as the Family Service Center.

The Family Service Center offers an array of social services to strengthen families in Springfield and Sangamon County. These services include family counseling, adoption, post adoption services, foster care, Young Parents Support Services/Healthy Families Illinois and family stabilization. Historically, funding for Family Service and its predecessors came from membership dues, gifts and contributions and/or the Community Chest. Today, financial support for the Family Service Center is generated from service fees, United Way contributions, government grants and contracts and fundraising.

With the establishment of the Family Service Center Endowment Fund a destination has been created to ensure the long-term viability of our community’s oldest social service agency.