



FAMILY MATTERS

Supporting families in the
St. Croix Valley since 1998

Summer 2016

Reach for the Stars celebrates participants, honors leadership and welcomes new support

The Reach for the Stars fundraising gala was held with true Irish flair this year, on April 24 at Kilkarney Hills in River Falls. The event theme C ad Mile F aillte: A Hundred Thousand Welcomes was fitting, for in addition to the festive food and music, the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley welcomed many new and old friends, sponsors and supporters.

Attendees were joined by several special guests this year, including program participants Clare Weber and Tori Hughes. Clare first learned about Family Resource Center programs when she gave birth to her son Holden four years ago at River Falls Area Hospital. She started attending Baby & Me with a friend, has continued with Play & Learn as well as summer Play & Learn in the Parks, now with her younger son Lorne as well. "It has been amazing to talk about issues that we are going through and see that we aren't the only ones struggling with potty-training, sleeping habits and behavior issues," said Clare. "Mostly, I just need to be reminded to relax and let Holden and Lorne develop and grow in their own ways."

Tori Hughes was introduced to the Family Resource Center when she delivered her daughter Kaylee as well, when she met Parent Educator Sky Holt at Westfields Hospital. Sky made an appointment to visit with Tori and husband Brandon at their home, and made a phone call to follow up. Tori recounted the phone call she received with a laugh. "I was so exhausted [after giving birth] that I didn't remember making the appointment in the first place!" Neither Tori nor Brandon had any prior experience with young children, and Tori said that the Home Visiting program as well as Baby & Me has been extremely helpful in learning what to expect. "With the help of the Family Resource Center, we were able to let go of some of our fear and learn almost everything we needed to know about how to raise a child," said Tori. "Every milestone we have passed has given me joy and pride in my healthy and growing daughter."

In recent years, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley has honored individuals at the gala who have made significant contributions to the success of the organization. This year,

the late John Coughlin was honored for his extraordinary leadership, dedication and commitment to the well-being of children and families through his vision to create a comprehensive early childhood system through United Way St. Croix Valley and Success By 6 initiatives in the region. Board President Jessie Klopp presented the award to his wife Mary Beth Arthaud and daughter Erin Coughlin.

"John's vision was that the St. Croix Valley is the best place to raise a child," said Jessie. "In future years, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley will continue to honor his memory through establishing the John M. Coughlin Memorial Volunteer Award."

(Continued on Page 4)



Board President Jessie Klopp presented an award honoring the late John Coughlin to his wife Mary Beth Arthaud and daughter Erin Coughlin.
[Photo credit: Renata Wood Photography]



Participants Clare and Tori spoke about their experiences participating in Family Resource Center programs at Reach for the Stars.
[Photo credit: Renata Wood Photography]



Summer Programs

Play & Learn in the Parks begins the week of June 13. Register on June 6 by calling 715-684-4440. Three locations; see schedule on page 3.

Board Book Drive to be held this summer – see page 4 for details!



Find us on
Facebook

Like us on Facebook to get updates about classes, registration deadlines, field trips and links to child development resources:

www.facebook.com/frcscv

715-684-4440

info@frcscv.org • www.frcscv.org

FRCSCV Board of Directors

Jessie Klopp, Chair
Mary Sue Ash
Sam Cari
Chad Fett
Bill Findlay
Larry Gee
Aaron Mork
Barbara Nelson
Carla O'Connell
Alison Page
Jack Pollitt
Agnes Ring
Cathleen Shimon
Brenda Wright

The mission of the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is to *strengthen children, families, and communities by offering education, resources, and support.*

FRCSCV Staff

Patty Draxler, Executive Director
draxler@frcscv.org
Betsy Byker, Parent Educator/
Coordinator
betsy@frcscv.org
Keri Fitts,
Office Manager
info@frcscv.org
Kristin Thompson,
Development and Communications
Coordinator
kristin@frcscv.org
Robbyn Bowman,
Parent Educator
robbyn@frcscv.org
Marla Butler,
Parent Educator
marla@frcscv.org
Susan Hodnefield,
Parent Educator
susan@frcscv.org
Sky Holt,
Parent Educator
sky@frcscv.org
Julia Kannel,
Parent Educator
julia@frcscv.org
Jalena Ziemba,
Parent Educator
jalena@frcscv.org

NEWSLETTER

Writer/Editor: Kristin Thompson
Design: Minuteman Press
Printing: Minuteman Press
Please notify us if your mailing address has changed. For an electronic version of this newsletter, email info@frcscv.org or call Keri@ (715) 684-4440.
Thank You!

From the Director's Desk

Welcome to warmer weather! I am pleased to share news with you about our very successful annual fundraising event. **"Céad Míle Fáilte: A Hundred Thousand Welcomes"** was the theme for our 2016 Reach for the Stars Gala held at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club & Banquet Facility in River Falls. What a wonderful evening it was. I am grateful that we have such a strong family of friends that support the mission of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley!

Special thanks to the participant speakers for the evening: **Tori Hughes and Clare Weber**. Their words brought the FRCSCV programs to life for all those in attendance! Finally, a heartfelt congratulations to the family of John Coughlin, who we recognized posthumously for his dedication to the success of FRCSCV. John's commitment to children and families will be honored each year going forward as we have renamed our annual award the **"John M. Coughlin Memorial Volunteer Award."** Thank you to John's wife Mary Beth Arthaud and daughter Erin for sharing the evening with us and accepting the award in John's memory.

Thanks also to the Development Committee and Reach for the Stars sub-committee, business sponsors, volunteers, auction item donors and bidders. A special thank-you to **Development & Communications Coordinator Kristin Thompson and Office Manager Keri Fitts** who really made this event the success that it was. If you haven't attended Reach for the Stars in the past, consider it for next year. We would love to see you there.

I would also like to announce incoming board member **Brenda Wright, Associate Professor at UW-River Falls**. We excitedly welcome Brenda to the FRCSCV Board of Directors.

As we transition to summer programming, several groups will wrap up until fall, including our Young Parent group. **Congratulations to our Young Parent Graduates!**

Have a GREAT summer!

Patricia A. Draxler

Patricia Draxler, Executive Director



FRCSCV Board and Staff, and Reach for the Stars Planning Committee



FRCSCV's Grandchildren Honor Roll

CHUCK & MARY SUE ASH of Hudson, WI

Grandchildren: **Christian & Charlie Ash** of Fridley, MN
Elizabeth & Gracie Strandberg of Duluth, MN

MARLYN AND NANCY BOTTOLFSON of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Mackenzie & Brady Bottolfson** of Lake Elmo, MN
Lane & Lauren Feder of St. Peter, MN

BRAD & BETSY BYKER of Osceola, WI

Grandchildren: **Ava Schueller** of Osceola, WI
August Byker of Wasilla, AK

SAM & TERESA CARI of Hudson, WI

Grandchildren: **Clara & Evan Cari** of Hudson, WI
Taylor, Carson & Caroline Cari of Hudson, WI
George, William & Charlie Cook of Hudson, WI
Nell Cari of Deephaven, MN

BOB & CINDY CAMPBELL of Hammond, WI

Grandchildren: **Finley & Jordyn Campbell** of River Falls, WI

THOMAS AND AMY CASEY of Woodville, WI

Grandchild: **Asher Casey** of Woodville, WI

DANIEL AND PATRICIA DRAXLER of Amery, WI

Grandchild: **Leif Wanken** of Monmouth, IL

CHRISTINE ENGLISH of Hudson, WI

Grandchild: **James English** of Hudson, WI

ANN & BILL FINDLAY of Baldwin, WI

Grandchildren: **Maggie, Ian, Caden & Thane Findlay** of
US Army Garrison Yongsan, Seoul, South Korea

KEN & MOLLY GALEWYRICK of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Olive & Rye Weinberger** of Victor, MT
Great Nephews: **Wyatt & Colon Hebb** of Cloquet, MN

MELVIN & VIVIANNA HANSON of Downing, WI

Grandchildren: **Bridget Draxler** of Monmouth, IL
Breanna Draxler of Manhattan, NY
Brooke Draxler of Mounds View, MN
Trish Meyers of Madison, WI
Christopher Hanson of New Richmond, WI
Rhonda Rassbach of Downing, WI
Bo Standaert of Downing, WI
Treena Bonte of New Berlin, WI
Tara Bonte of Spring Valley, WI
Great Grandchildren:
Izabella & Peyton Rassbach of Downing, WI
Landon & Nolan Standaert of Downing, WI
Amelia & Stella Meyers of Madison, WI
Rowen Hanson of New Richmond, WI
Leif Wanken of Monmouth, IL

GAIL AND EDMOND HOLROYD, III of Arvada, CO

Grandchild: **Elin Williamson** of Amery, WI

DEVEREAUX AND ROSE LALOND of Rice Lake, WI

Grandchild: **Evelyn Young** of Hammond, WI

SHARON & GARY LOVELL of Hudson, WI

Grandchild: **Finn Russell Norton** of Woodbury, MN

JAY & BETTY MONSON of Baldwin, WI

Grandchildren: **Kaleb & Bella Drinkman** of Baldwin, WI
Nella Vankeuren of Amery, WI

KAREN MATTON of Clear Lake, WI

Grandchildren: **Mason & Hana Uebel** of Roberts, WI

BARBARA NELSON of Emerald, WI

Grandchildren: **Finn, Erin & Nolan McCarthy** of Eagan, MN

TOM & JANET O'CONNELL of Hudson, WI

Grandchildren: **Emma & Tess O'Connell** of Wilson, WI

ALLEN & JOELL OBERSTADT of Fremont, WI

Grandchildren: **Adam & Michaela Meier** of Woodville, WI

ROGER & JENNY OLSON of Hudson, WI

Grandchildren: **Keegan, Francis, Brennan & Clair Foster** of Hudson, WI
Otis and Mavis Olson of St. Paul, MN

DAVID & DORTHEA PRUNTY of Hartford, SD

Grandchildren: **Clara & Walker Boyle** of Woodville, WI

DR. JAMES QUENAN & DR. DANIELLE BUSSE-QUENAN of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Alex, Maddie & Francesca Quenan** of Libertyville, IL
Jonathon, Anna, Sean & Kate Quenan of Arlington Heights, IL
Clara Thoreson of Austin, TX
Connor, Josie, Ava & Colton Botz of New Richmond, WI
Tyler, Drew, & Max Botz of Eagan, MN
Gavin Botz of Eagan, MN
Kaelyn & Tristan Olson of Baldwin, WI
Khelsy Pilacinski of Baldwin, WI

LANCE & SHARON REYZER of Roberts, WI

Grandchildren: **Carmen Reyzzer** of Woodville, WI
Evan & Coraline Reyzzer of River Falls, WI

JAMES & MARY SCHACKER of St. Paul, MN

Grandchildren: **Maggie and Lily Jansen** of Baldwin, WI

SUEANN & JAMES TAYLOR of Woodbury, MN

Grandchild: **Jackson Taylor** of Baldwin, WI

GAIL & GERALD TESSMAN of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Jessie Maule** of Denver, CO
Sarah Maule of Madison, WI
Tyler Maule of Chicago, IL
Nick & Erica Tessman of Woodbury, MN
Casey & Rachel Miller of Vadnais Heights, MN

S. MARK & JACKIE TYLER of Woodville, WI

Grandchildren: **Rhyan, Roslyn & Wesley Nichols** of Baldwin, WI

LOU & KATHLEEN WILLIAMSON of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Hans & Elin Williamson** of Amery, WI
Quinn Williamson of New Richmond, WI

HONOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

Honor your grandchildren for their birthdays, for their special achievements or milestones, or simply for the joy they bring to your life!

Your name and your grandchildren's names will appear in four issues of this newsletter when you donate \$100 or more to the Family Resource Center.

**Please notify Kristin at 715-684-4440 or
kristin@frcscv.org to add a new grandchild to your list*

CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 2016 GROUPS

BABY & ME

(Register at any time by calling 715-684-4440)

A play and discussion hour for parents and their infants (Birth to one year). Baby & Me classes are provided by Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley as a component of United Way St. Croix Valley's Success By 6 partnership. No cost to participate.

- Amery** Wednesdays 10:30 am – 11:30 am @ Amery Hospital & Clinic, Birthday Suites Waiting Room
- Baldwin** Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm @ Baldwin Area Medical Center, Old Clinic
- New Richmond** Mondays 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 365 W. River Dr. (sponsored by Westfields Hospital & Clinic)
- Osceola** Thursdays 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm @ Osceola Medical Center, Physician Education Room
- River Falls** Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am @ River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C
- St. Croix Falls** Tuesdays 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm @ St. Croix Regional Medical Center, O.B. Waiting Room

PLAY & LEARN IN THE PARKS

(Register beginning June 6 at 9 a.m. by calling 715-684-4440)

Parents and their toddlers or preschoolers will have the opportunity to explore the natural resources of the St. Croix Valley during this all-outdoor programming. Learning activities will include planting vegetables and sampling healthy snacks from our local farmer's markets, as well as plenty of physical activity for the family. Each group will include music, structured group activities, story time and snack. No cost to participate.

Please note: a Wisconsin State Park sticker is required at the Willow River State Park location. A limited number of scholarships are available.

- Amery** Tuesdays, 10-11:30 am, DD Kennedy County Park
- River Falls** Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am, Glen Park
- Hudson** Thursdays, 10-11:30 am, Willow River State Park

Registration is required by calling 715-684-4440 beginning June 6 at 9:00 a.m. All classes will run June 14th-August 23rd. Groups will not meet the week of July 4th.



Office is closed Monday, July 4. Fall Play & Learn registration begins Monday, August 29 by calling 715-684-4440

Nilssen's to host "Round Up for Kids"



Nilssen's Foods in Baldwin, Clear Lake, Ellsworth, and Glenwood City will host a fundraiser for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley during their Anniversary Sale, July 17-30. You can choose to 'round up' your grocery total to the nearest dollar, and all funds raised will support parent education programs for local families!

If your business is interested in hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Family Resource Center, please contact Kristin at 715-684-4440 or kristin@frcscv.org.

Seeking Family-Friendly Fundraising Ideas!

We are seeking ideas from participants or community members for a new event or activity that would help raise needed funds for programs for local families.

If you are creative and enjoy planning new initiatives, please share your ideas with a parent educator or contact Kristin at kristin@frcscv.org or 715-684-4440. Thank you!

Reach for the Stars celebrates participants, honors leadership and welcomes new support (continued from Page 1)

Xcel Energy was the event's Diamond sponsor, providing underwriting for new mobile bidding technology used in the silent auction as well as online ticket sales. Platinum event sponsors included Allina Health, Donaldson, HealthPartners, Thrivent Financial and WESTconsin Credit Union. In all, nearly \$60,000 was raised in support of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley's parent education programs for families across Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties



Board Book Drive to benefit program participants



During the summer months, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley will hold a Board Book Drive to benefit participants in Home Visiting and Young Parent programs in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties. "We recognize the importance of early reading and want to do whatever we can to get books into the hands of young children," said Parent Educator/Coordinator Betsy Byker.

New or gently used books appropriate for babies, toddlers and preschoolers can be dropped off at the organization's office between Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., or parent educators will receive donations as well.

If your business or service organization is willing to host a collection or be a donation drop-off site, or if you have questions, please call us at 715-684-4440.

Family Resource Center recognized as 'Family Friendly Workplace'



Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is honored to announce we have earned Gold Level certification as a Family Friendly Workplace™ from the United Way St. Croix Valley's Success by 6 initiative. This certification recognizes businesses that actively invest in programs and practices that support employees and their families.

"As an organization that provides education, resources and support to families, it's only natural that we would pursue Family Friendly Workplace™ certification, and we're thrilled to be recognized at the Gold Level," said Executive Director Patty Draxler. "We're committed to our employees through numerous policies and procedures such as generous vacation, holiday and sick leave, flexible scheduling to attend to family needs, and a flex benefit plan."

Family Friendly Workplace™ is a program developed specifically for employers in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. Businesses can achieve certification by earning points for family friendly practices. There are three certification levels, bronze, silver and gold. Certification fees paid by the business support educational programs and service delivery for early childhood development.

Visit www.FamilyFriendlyWorkplace.org to learn more about this business certification.

Yes! I want to help the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley give children the best start possible!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Gift Amount:

\$1000 \$500 \$250
 \$100 \$50 Other

_____ My check, payable to FRCSVCV, is enclosed.

Please charge my pledge of \$25 or more to: (circle one)
 Visa MasterCard AmEx

Card # _____

Exp. _____ CSC# _____

E-mail (required for credit card gifts): _____

I would like to make a recurring monthly donation. Amount \$ _____

_____ My employer will match my gift; please contact me.

_____ Please contact me about making a gift through my will or estate plan.

I want my gift to fund:
 Greatest need
 Program support
 Grandchildren Honor Roll
 (for a gift of \$100 or more, please send us the names and locations of the grandchildren you would like to honor)
 Permanent fund
 Other

Thank you for helping us "Grow Kids By Growing families!"

Detach Donation Form and mail to:
 Family Resource Center
 St. Croix Valley
 857 Main Street
 P.O. Box 2087
 Baldwin, WI 54002





FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
ST. CROIX VALLEY

Growing Kids by Growing Families

857 Main Street
PO Box 2087
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-4440
Fax: (715) 684-5122
E-mail: info@frcscv.org

Help us reduce cost when you contact us to receive this newsletter by e-mail.



United Way
St. Croix Valley



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EAU CLAIRE, WI
PERMIT NO. 1557

THANK YOU, SPONSORS

We are grateful to the following local businesses that help us by sponsoring this newsletter:

Amery Hospital & Clinic - www.amerymedicalcenter.org

Associated Bank - 715-684-3266

Bakke Norman - 715-246-3800

Baldwin Area Medical Center - www.healthybaldwin.org

Bridge Investment Group - www.bridgeinvestmentgrp.com

Byrnes Law Office - 715-268-5000

CarlsonHighland - www.carlsonhighlandcpa.com

Central Bank - www.centralbnk.com

First Bank of Baldwin - www.firstbankbaldwin.com

First National Bank of River Falls - www.fnbrf.com

First National Community Bank - www.FN-CB.com

First State Bank and Trust - www.bayportbank.com

Heywood, Cari & Anderson, SC - www.heywoodandcari.com

JA Counter - www.jacounter.com

Little Journeys Early Learning Center - 715-781-5125

Liquor Haus - 715-684-2578

McMillan Electric Company - www.mcmillanelectric.com

Minuteman Press - www.hudson.minutemanpress.com

Nilssen's - Baldwin, Clear Lake & Ellsworth - www.nilssensfoods.com

Shafer Financial Services - www.shaferfinancialservices.com

The Orchard Event Center - 715-688-6666

Valley Orthodontics - www.valley-orthodontics.com

Village Pharmacy - www.villagepharmacybaldwin.com

Vital Plastics, Inc. - www.vitalplastics.com

WESTconsin Credit Union - www.westconsincu.org

Would you like to publicize how your business supports our community?
Call Keri or Kristin at (715) 684-4440.