



Family Matters

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2024

Save the Date

for the 19th Annual Reach for the Stars Gala - Pick your Prom!

Find more information on page 5.

Scan Here

Visit FRCSVC's website and learn about the no-cost programs and services for all families with young children in Pierce, Polk & St. Croix Counties.



Follow us

for up-to-date information on programs & special events!

facebook.com/frcscv

instagram.com/frc_scv

info@frcscv.org

Would you like to receive the newsletter directly to your email?

Email info@frcscv.org today!



FRCSVC IS AN ACCREDITED FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OF

QUALITY!

FRCSVC is excited to announce that it has been accredited as a Family Resource Center of Quality (FRC-Q) by Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA).

FRCSVC achieved the FRC-Q accreditation by demonstrating the application of FRC Best Practices throughout the organization. FRCSVC engaged in robust professional development to ensure that standards of quality are met, parent leadership, protective factors, and the Wisconsin Core Competencies for Family Support Professionals are embedded into all core areas of service. The foundational infrastructure components include integrated action planning, evaluation and continuous quality improvement, a comprehensive application process reviewed and approved by Supporting Families Together Association.

FRCSVC is accredited as a Family Resource Center of Quality by Supporting Families Together Association, an accreditation that may be renewed every three years.

"We are a much stronger Family Resource Center because of all we learned throughout this process. This gave us a roadmap and direction to bring it all together. We look forward to continuing this important work" said Jennifer Griggs-Andress, FRCSVC Executive Director.

In an effort to maintain a high-quality organization, FRCSVC was the recipient of the Standards of Quality Grant in the amount of \$50k. This grant is to sustain and expand upon the Wisconsin Family Resource Center Model, an asset-based approach to build strengths within FRCs, promote child well-being, and implement child maltreatment primary prevention strategies. FRCSVC will implement programming with key features such as a strengths-based approach to reinforce and build protective factors, family centered practices, and the use of both individual and group approaches.

There was a team effort to meet the qualifications for accreditation. Many FRCSVC staff participated on Administrative, Social Connection, Parent Leadership and Awareness to Action Teams. A special thanks to FRCSVC team members Kristine Brede, Marla Butler, Jennifer Jones, Lori Ollig, Agnes Ring, and Sarah Weiske, along with FRCSVC Parent Partner Jessica Demulling for their work!





FROM THE

Director's Desk

Hello Friends of FRCSCV,

As we begin 2024, we start the year grateful that we have moved back into FRCSCV's newly renovated building! Our team has shown resilience and flexibility during this challenging time. We moved out of our building in August and have been working remotely and from a construction trailer behind our building.

Despite the circumstances, home visits and programming continued. We would like to thank our Main Street neighbors, many of whom were inconvenienced by construction vehicles and materials in both the rear and front the building. Their patience during this time has been greatly appreciated. We would also like to express appreciation to our community partners who welcomed us into their spaces for programming and staff meetings, including Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Faith Community Church, Baldwin Public Library, and Western Wisconsin Health.

We officially returned to our building January 11th with a staff reveal. That day Parent Educators held a team meeting joined by Clinical Supervisor, Dr. Christopher Babbitt. Staff have been instrumental in unpacking and organizing program materials, resources, and personalizing their workspaces.

On behalf of the FRCSCV Board of Directors and staff, our sincere thanks go to Amber Richardson for serving as the 2023 Board President. Acting as Board President during a transition of leadership is an additional commitment, and Amber navigated this process well and provided tremendous support.

Chad Fett, with First State Bank and Trust, is serving as the 2024 Board President. Chad brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization since joining the board in 2014. Barry Cain will serve as Vice-President, Mark Tyler will continue as Treasurer and Mary Sue Ash as Secretary.

We would like to thank Bill Findlay and Sheriff Scott Knudson, who are stepping down from the Board. Their contributions have been valuable, and they will be missed. Bill has been with the organization since 2013 and Scott since 2017.

In January, we bid farewell to Susan Hodnefield, who has served as a Parent Educator for the past 12 years, including her role as a Parent Educator Lead. Susan has been instrumental in the conception of FRCSCV's Parent Advisory Council and served as a Project Manager for our Maternal and Child Health Equity Grant. Staff and the families that she has worked with will greatly miss her. We are happy to know in Susan's new role she will have the opportunity to make referrals to FRCSCV.

In January we received notification that we achieved accreditation as a Family Resource Center of Quality which is valid from 2024-2027. "Congratulations to you and your FRC team on all of the hard work you have put in to achieve this designation!" said Connie Dunlap, Family Support Manager, Supporting Families Together Association. This was a team effort to meet the qualifications for accreditation. Special thanks to Parent Educator, Kristine Brede for leading this work serving as grant coordinator.

We are currently in the midst of winter programming and will soon be planning for spring. We are excited that we will be adding to our staff this spring by hiring a Family Connections Coordinator thanks to funding from St. Croix Valley Foundation. The focus will be to coordinate outreach efforts on the importance of the First 1000 Days of life, coordinate community connections, screenings, group connections and resources. We will also be hiring additional Parent Educators. As our needs increase and programming expands, additional support is needed to serve our community.

We wrapped up 2023 with our annual year end appeal. Our communities once again stepped up and more than \$49k was donated in support of the important work to strengthen children, families and communities in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. We are so thankful for the generosity of our donors! We will soon be kicking off our public Capital Campaign and hosting the 19th Annual Reach for the Stars Gala on Sunday, April 14th at Tattersall Distilling in River Falls.

We look forward to connecting with you in 2024.

Jennifer Griggs-Andress

Jennifer Griggs-Andress, Executive Director

2024

Board of Directors

Chad Fett, President
Barry Cain, Vice-President
Mary Sue Ash, Secretary
Mark Tyler, Treasurer
Amber Richardson, Past President

Sam Cari
Anthony Gould
Amber Morgan, MD
Carla O'Connell
Eilidh Pederson
Sharon Reyzer
Sarah Tyler-Peterson

Our Team



Jennifer Griggs-Andress
Executive Director
griggs-andress@frcscv.org



Sarah Weiske
Development & Communications
sarah@frcscv.org



Jennifer Jones
Operations Coordinator
jennifer@frcscv.org



Robbyn Bowman
Parent Educator Lead
robbyn@frcscv.org



Marla Butler
Parent Educator Lead
marla@frcscv.org



Kristine Brede
Parent Educator
kristine@frcscv.org



Ashley Bruggeman
Parent Educator
ashley@frcscv.org



Lori Ollig
Parent Educator
lori.o@frcscv.org



Karia Ristow
Parent Educator
karia@frcscv.org



Cheyenne Carlson
Parent Educator
cheyenne@frcscv.org



Analis Rechtzigel
Parent Educator
analis@frcscv.org



Adela Guerrero
Parent Educator
adela@frcscv.org

Parent Advisory Council

Jessica Demulling, Louis Campbell, Nakeya Carlson, Kelly Davis, Erika Lamoureux, Gracie Peterson, Amanda Schug, Ashley Smith

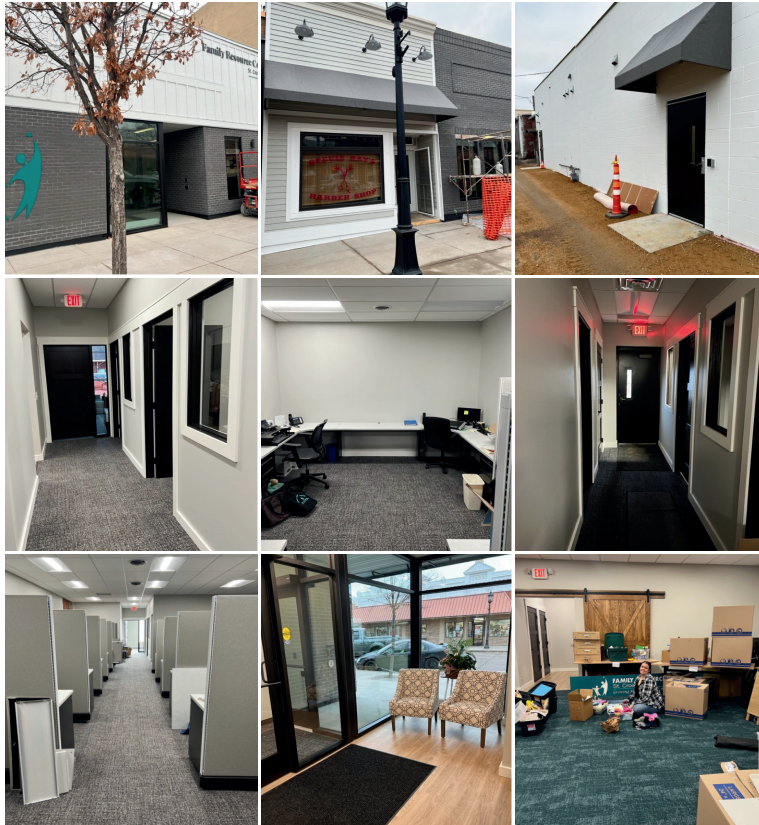


Staff Reveal Day!

FRCSKV BUILDING RENOVATION

Project Update

FRCSKV's renovation project is in the nearing completion. We are thrilled to have moved back into the building and can settle in and continue our important work in the new space!



THANK YOU FOR

Your Support

FRCSKV is grateful to those that have supported the renovation of the office space on Main Street in Baldwin.



KRAUS-ANDERSON®



FRED C. AND
KATHERINE B.
ANDERSEN
FOUNDATION



Individual Contributions *as of January 30, 2024*

James & Sharon Hauschild
Mark & Jackie Tyler
Chuck & Mary Sue Ash

Rita & Bill Lawson
Agnes Ring & Mark Vanasse
Larry Gee



Read & Stay Active

by Marla Butler, Parent Educator Lead

“Red Sled” by Lita Judge

Red Sled is a classic wintertime, almost wordless book. The words are sounds of the activities going on throughout the story.

A bear takes a child's sled from the side of a home and invites friends to join. These woodland animals make an adventure out of sliding down the hill forwards, backwards, and on top of each other. They have a grand time!

This is a great book to have your child tell you what they think is going on in the story and make up their own version. You can extend the story by pulling out a red blanket or towel and making your own red sled adventure. If our winter brings us snow, maybe you can find your own red sled and create fun family adventures of your own. This is a story of friendship and fun that will make all smile and laugh.



Enjoy reading!

NATIONAL

Parent Educator Day



Learn more about current FRCSKV programs and services at frcsev.org

FRSCCV EXPANDS PROGRAMMING FOR
Hispanic Families

FRSCCV SPECIAL EVENT
Car Seat Safety
 for Hispanic families



This winter, FRSCCV held two Car Seat Safety events in Pierce and St. Croix Counties for Hispanic families, where with the help of experts, they learned the importance of car seat safety!

After a meal, the children enjoyed playing while parents learned ways to keep their little one safe while on the go!

Families in attendance were able to receive a new car seat (if needed) for their child thanks to grant funds from the Maternal and Child Health Program through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

The goal of this grant is to expand FRSCCV's current programs and services within the Hispanic communities FRSCCV serves.

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIVING

Supporting Families

Honor and memorial gifts are a thoughtful way to pay tribute to someone special while supporting local families. FRSCCV would like to recognize the following individuals:

In memory of Ethan Ranallo
 James & Nada Merth

In honor of Barbara Nelson's Birthday

In memory of Jean Marie Pearson
 Dick Pearson

Judith Edgar
 Diane & Allen Hoogheem
 Debra and Robert Wild
 John and Candice Varco

In memory of Merlin Butler
 Virginia Place

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your gift supports FRCCV's mission to strengthen families and communities by offering education, resources and support to local families with young children.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ GIFT AMOUNT \$ _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

I wish to make this gift anonymously

I would like to give in honor/memory of my loved one

Please notify someone about my gift.

Name of loved one _____

Contact information _____

THANK YOU
Parent Advisory Council



In December members of FRSCCV's inaugural, Parent Advisory Council (PAC) celebrated their first year as a group at the final meeting of 2023!

The PAC was developed through the WI Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Family Resource Center Infrastructure Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Grant and officially began in January of 2023.

Through the PAC, past and current FRSCCV participants have met monthly to provide valuable feedback, offer recommendations and insight on programs, services, surveys and so much more - all with the mission to strengthen children, families and communities by offering education, resources and support!

We want to thank all of the participants; we are so grateful for your time and dedication to the quality improvement of FRSCCV! A special thanks to Dawn Nissen who served as the PAC chair, and Jessica Demulling as co-chair. Congratulations on a successful year!

February is Parent Leadership Month. FRSCCV will be hosting a Parent Leadership Luncheon to recognize current parent partners as well as share leadership opportunities with current or past participants interested in making a positive impact with local families through program partnership.



Donations can be mailed to: Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, PO Box 2087, Baldwin, WI, 54002, made online by scanning the QR code or at frscv.org/donate-now.

A receipt will be mailed with each donation.



FRCSCV GRANT RECIPIENT OF

First Thousand Days

More than ever before, early childhood education is understood as an essential element for our children, families, and communities to thrive.

The St. Croix Valley Foundation's First Thousand Days Fund was established by a generous donor in 2022 to support the physical, mental, emotional, and social development of children during the critical "first thousand days of life" (roughly the first three years). In 2023, the earnings from the endowed fund were used to launch "The First Thousand Days" grant program, funding organizations and programs that prepare children to succeed when they enter school.

This new grant program acknowledges that there are several domains of early childhood development including: Physical, Cognitive, Communicative, Social and Emotional, and Adaptive2.

This grant is funding programming that supports communication and deepening relationships between caregivers and young children.

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley (FRCSVCV) was awarded \$25,000 and thanks to a match given \$50,000! With the funds, FRCSVCV seeks to engage community members by educating them on the importance of the first three years of life, the five strengths that keep every family strong, and share how the community can promote strong families.

Specific outreach will occur through community presentations, educational offerings, and intergenerational service engagement opportunities.

Efforts will be made to enhance and expand universal programming in FRCSVCV's service area, focusing on family strengths.



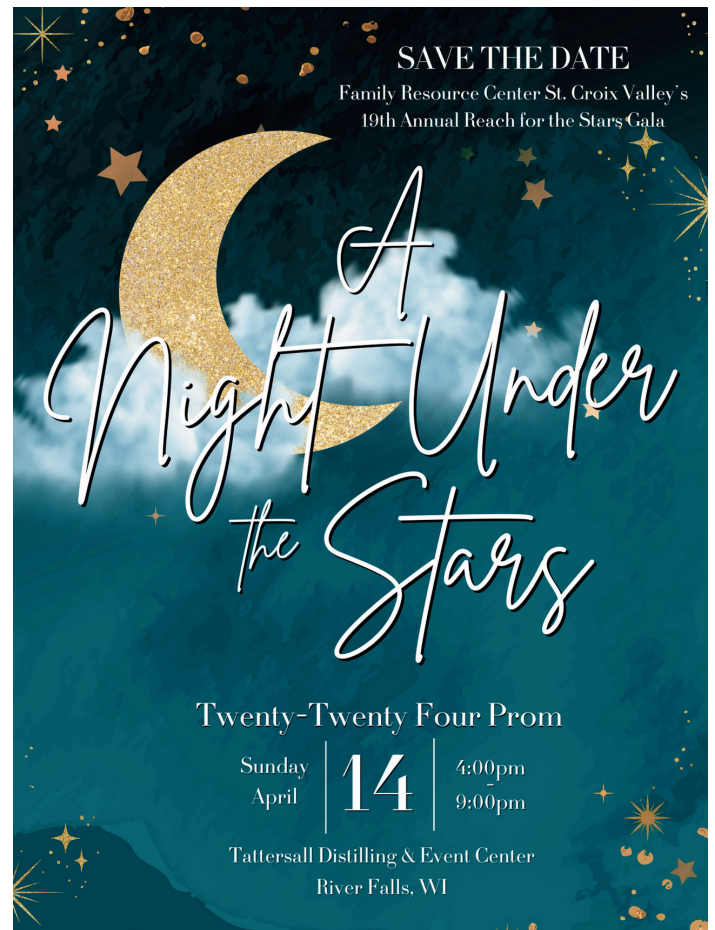
What will your Legacy be?

What if you could change the lives of families with young children? Connect families to education, resources and support, positively impacting the lives of families and the future of community.

WHAT A LEGACY THAT WOULD BE.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FRCSCV'S 19TH ANNUAL GALA

A Night Under the Stars Prom



Plans are well under way for the upcoming 19th Annual Reach for the Stars Gala! The event will be held on Sunday, April 14th at Tattersall Distilling and Event Center in River Falls, WI.

This year's theme is "A Night Under the Stars Prom". We encourage guests to get into the spirit of the theme by wearing prom attire from their prom of favorite genre.

The event will include a silent auction, raffles, the much-loved dessert auction, awards, and the opportunity to hear first-hand from an FRCSVCV participant.

Tickets on sale soon! Keep an eye on frcscv.org for registration and the latest gala information.

Show your support with a financial contribution



SCAN THE QR CODE with your camera phone or visit frcscv.org/donate-now/

MAIL OR DROP OFF A DONATION

FRCSVCV
857 Main Street, PO Box 2087
Baldwin, WI 54002

Thank you for subscribing to Family Matters where more than 5k newsletters are distributed quarterly.

Newsletter Editor & Design
Sarah Weiske

Printing
Minuteman Press



Family Resource Center

St. Croix Valley

Serving Families in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties
857 Main Street, PO Box 2087, Baldwin, WI 54002
Phone: 715.684.4440 | Fax: 715.684.5122
info@frcscv.org | frcscv.org



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 FOR SPONSORING THIS NEWSLETTER

