



**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
St. Croix Valley**

Growing Kids by Growing Families in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties

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United Way
St. Croix Valley

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FAMILY MATTERS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY **SUMMER 2019**



HOME VISITING PARTICIPANTS INSPIRE SUPPORTERS TO REACH FOR THE STARS

\$49,000 Raised at *Flannel Up for Families* Event

Supporters raised \$49,000 for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley at the 14th annual Reach for the Stars event. The funds raised support the organization’s mission to strengthen children, families and communities through education, resources and support in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. The Reach for Stars gala is held in April every year to mark Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

More than 200 supporters donned flannel attire in the spirit of the *Flannel Up for Families* theme at the April 12 event held at Camp St. Croix in Hudson. The evening’s entertainment was donated by Baldwin-area band Crabgrass.

Young Mothers Share their Parenting Journeys

Featured speakers at the event included two parents who participate in Family Resource Center’s evidence-based home visiting program. “We are inspired by the courage and commitment demonstrated by Tianna and Madison, two moms who described their parenting journeys to the Reach for the Stars crowd,” said Executive Director Agnes Ring. “Their resilience and their demonstrated commitment to parenting and personal growth has strengthened their own families. We also know that we, as a community, are stronger for their parenting.”

Tianna of New Richmond shared that she learned of Family Resource Center programs at the age of 15, when she was a high school student in Osceola. She participated in the Young Parent group and continues with twice monthly home visits with her daughter Ava, now age 3.



“This program has given me confidence. They believed in me. The Young Parent program has made this journey easier, one visit at a time,”
Tianna, program participant

“My parent educator has never judged me or made me feel as if I was doing something wrong,” said Tianna. “This program has given me confidence. They believed in me. The Young Parent program has made this journey easier, one visit at a time.”



“My family and I are forever grateful for the everlasting support and friendship that flows through this program,”
Madison, program participant

Madison of Hudson enrolled in home visits with the Family Resource Center initially as part of the Parenting Forward program sponsored by St. Croix County Treatment Court. She said she received helpful information regarding child development.

She expressed appreciation for the support she received in achieving numerous goals. “My family and I are forever grateful for the everlasting support and friendship that flows through this program,” she said in closing. “To all of the people who make this possible, I thank you! You have made a difference in my life and for that I am grateful!”

Sharon Reyzer Honored with the Coughlin Volunteer Award

The Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley Board of Directors recognized Sharon Reyzer for her leadership, dedication and service.

The John M. Coughlin Volunteer Award honors the memory of Coughlin’s extraordinary leadership, dedication and commitment to the well-being of children and families in the region, and his vision to create a comprehensive early childhood system through United Way St. Croix Valley and Success By 6 initiatives.

(Continued on Page 4)

PLAY & LEARN IN THE PARKS

Register for Summer Play & Learn in the Parks beginning Monday, June 3 by calling 715-684-4440.

Enjoy time outdoors with your toddler or preschool aged child and connect with other families at our all-outdoor programming. We have added a new site! View schedule and locations on page 3.



BABY & ME

A play and discussion hour for parents and their infants. Six locations. Walk-ins welcome!



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

www.facebook.com/frcscv

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

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Photos by Sandy Brecht Photography



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The emergence of summer brings new energy to our staff and to our programs.

In May we added a new evidence-based program to our service offering. Triple P — Positive Parenting Program. The Level 3 Primary Care program component of Triple P offers parents a brief and private way to get guidance on specific behavior concerns. In addition to one-on-one sessions with a parent educator, the program includes tip sheets for parents, focused on strategies to address the problem behavior. For now, the program is limited in scope. We will report back on the future for Triple P after evaluating our pilot program, which is sponsored by St. Croix County.

As we implement new offerings we continue to monitor performance and enhance the quality of our existing evidence-based programs. 2018 marked the twentieth year the Family Resource Center has offered an evidence-based home visiting model called Parents as Teachers. Recently I met with directors of other longstanding Wisconsin home visiting programs and state home visiting leaders to review the findings and discuss implications of a national report on the effectiveness of evidence-based home visiting programs. (See the MIHOPE Study at: www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/MIHOPE_Impact_Report-Final2.0.pdf).

The report finds significant benefits for home visiting families including improved quality of the home environment, decreased household aggression, fewer hospital emergency visits, and fewer child behavior problems. Our discussion group stressed that key to successful programs is attracting and retaining skilled parent educator professionals and supporting them by investing in reflective supervision and high-quality professional development. Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is fortunate to have a professional, dedicated, and compassionate staff committed to strengthening children and families.

Talking about skilled parent educators, we are delighted to introduce two new members of our team. Devin Chladek and Erin Knegendorf had several weeks of shadowing certified parent educators before attending the Parents as Teachers model training and becoming certified in May. Welcome Devin and Erin!

This month we send a fond farewell to Development and Communications Coordinator Kristin Thompson, who has served the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley since 2012. Kristin has led the organization's donor relations and fundraising efforts—including the Reach for the Stars annual gala, served as the editor of Family Matters newsletter, and led numerous Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley initiatives. We appreciate all of Kristin's contributions and wish her all the best as she embarks on her new career as Advancement Director at Landmark Conservancy.

Enjoy summer's bounty.

Agnes Ring, Executive Director



Thank you to Kristin Thompson for her leadership in fund development and communications over the past six years.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY'S
 14TH ANNUAL
 REACH FOR THE STARS GALA



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**HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIVING:
 SUPPORTING FAMILY MATTERS!**

Honor and memorial gifts are a thoughtful way to pay tribute to someone special while supporting local families! Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is pleased to recognize the following individuals:

In honor of Josef Bobowski Matt, Andrea, Stephen and Raeann Bobowski	In honor of Jack Kendzierski Granpa Sarge	In honor of Ellah Wirth with love Grandparents Eljean and Brian Maas
In honor of Pam Deal First National Bank of River Falls	In memory of Jean Marie Pearson Dick Pearson	
In memory of Lois Flores Given by her family	In honor of Morgan and Nora Sprague Sandy Verschelde	

(Gifts received February 1, 2019 – April 30, 2019) Honor and memorial gifts received from May 1 – July 31, 2019 will be recognized in the fall edition of our Family Matters newsletter. *Memorial gifts will be directed to the Bright Futures Long-Term Fund unless otherwise requested by the donor.*



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

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

My check, payable to FRCSVCV, is enclosed in the amount of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

I will set up a recurring monthly gift with my bank in the amount of \$ _____

If you wish to give using a credit card, please visit our website at www.frscsv.org to make a secure online gift.

I want my gift to fund: Home Visits Parent-Child Groups Greatest Need Bright Futures Long-Term Fund

My employer will match my gift; please contact me.

I would like to give in honor / memory (please circle) of a loved one: _____

(Please provide contact information if you wish for us to notify someone of this gift).

I would like to make a gift through my will or estate plan. Please contact me about becoming a member of the Legacy Circle.

**Thank you for investing in families! Please detach this form and mail to:
 Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, PO Box 2087, 857 Main St., Baldwin, WI 54002**

CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 2019 GROUPS

BABY & ME AND PLAY & LEARN WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF JUNE 10 THROUGH THE WEEK OF AUGUST 12.
GROUPS WILL NOT MEET THE WEEK OF JULY 1 DUE TO THE INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY.

BABY & ME

Register at any time by calling 715-684-4440.

Baby & Me is a play and discussion hour for parents and their infants. Babies can observe, interact and explore with other babies while parents connect with other moms and dads.

Parents also have the chance to discuss their questions and concerns with a Family Resource Center parent educator and participate in a parenting discussion with other parents. 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 with participating hospitals.



AMERY

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Amery Hospital & Clinic
Birthday Suites Waiting Room

BALDWIN

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Western Wisconsin Health
Fitness Center

NEW RICHMOND

Mondays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
365 W. River Dr.
(Sponsored by Westfields Hospital & Clinic)

OSCEOLA

Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Osceola Medical Center
Cascade Room

RIVER FALLS

Fridays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Allina Health River Falls Clinic
Community Room

ST. CROIX FALLS

Fridays, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
St. Croix Regional Medical Center
Glacier Room

PLAY & LEARN IN THE PARKS

Register beginning Monday,
June 3 at 9:00 a.m. by calling
715-684-4440.

All groups meet from
10:00-11:30 a.m.

Play & Learn provides an opportunity for toddlers and preschoolers to interact with their parents and other children (ages 1-5).

Parents can also discuss parenting strategies, dilemmas, and everyday happenings with a parent educator and other parents going through similar situations. 90-minute sessions include parent-child play, story, circle time, children's activity and parent education.

STAR PRAIRIE

Mondays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Village Ballpark
170 Hill Ave.

BALSAM LAKE

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Pine Park
311 Tuttle St.

HUDSON

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Willow River State Park
1034 County Hwy A

RIVER FALLS

Mondays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Glen Park
355 Park St.

ROBERTS

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Hazel Mackin Community Library
311 W. Warren St.



FALL PLAY & LEARN REGISTRATION BEGINS
MONDAY, AUGUST 26 BY CALLING
715 - 684- 4440.

(Home Visiting Participants Inspire Supporters to Reach for the Stars, Continued from Page 1)

Board President Mary Sue Ash of Hudson presented the 2019 award to Rezyer, who was a founding board member of the Family Resource Center in 1998.



Board President Mary Sue Ash (left) honored founding board member Sharon Rezyer with the 2019 John M. Coughlin Volunteer Award for her “quiet, persistent leadership” in the early years of the organization.

“Sharon provided quiet, persistent leadership in the early years of the organization and has continued to be a champion for the Family Resource Center through her role as Public Health Supervisor/WIC Director at St. Croix County Public Health,” said Ash. “She has a passion for improving and supporting the lives of others, especially parents of young children.”

Community Support is Key

Board member Mark Tyler, of Woodville, told the crowd that the investment in early childhood pays dividends many times over.

Ring expressed appreciation to all the people who contributed to the success of the fund raiser. (See list of event sponsors on Page 5). “The generous financial support provided by local businesses, individual donors, and community leaders at this event – and throughout the year – reflects a caring community,” said Ring. “As a community we must work together to strengthen children and families. The number of children being removed from their homes in our three counties is staggering. There is no single agency—no government entity or nonprofit organization that owns the problem alone or that can solve the problem alone.”

Funds raised at the event help fund Family Resource Center’s parent-child groups and home visits in its three-county service area.



More than 200 supporters of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley gathered at Camp St. Croix for the 14th Annual Reach for the Stars Flannel Up for Families gala. Photo credit: Amanda Joy Images



BOOK DRIVE BRINGS IN 965 BOOKS

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley held a book drive this spring, collecting 965 new and gently used books for area families participating in their Home Visiting program. Donations were received from many individuals, businesses and community groups, and new books were purchased with support from Thrivent Financial. Bethel Highlands delivered 496 books. Thanks to our generous communities for helping to make the book drive a success!



HANDS ACROSS THE COURTHOUSE

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley participated in St. Croix County’s ‘Hands Across the Courthouse’ held as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month and Victims of Crime Awareness week.

We are proud to partner with county service agencies and other nonprofits as we work to strengthen children, families, and communities by offering education, resources, and support!