



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER St. Croix Valley

Serving Families in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties

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FAMILY MATTERS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY **SUMMER 2021**



The Ziemba Family helped us draw Reach for the Stars Raffle Winners.



SCAN THIS QR CODE

To visit our website and learn more about our no-cost programs



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

www.facebook.com/frcscv

NEWSLETTER

Editor
Sarah Weiske

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Help us reduce costs by receiving this newsletter electronically. To update your preferences, contact Jeena at info@frcscv.org

16TH ANNUAL REACH FOR THE STARS VIRTUAL GALA RAISES OVER \$27,000

It's an annual tradition at Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley to host our 'Reach for the Stars Gala' in April honoring Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month!

We began planning an in-person event, but it soon became evident that a second virtual gala was the best option. We celebrated our 16th Annual 'Reach for the Stars' Virtual Gala on April 18th, 2021 with an online program and Silent Auction. You can view the program on our website <https://frcscv.org/>.

Learn about the classes we are offering virtually, how we made the most of 2020, our strong start to 2021 and one of our favorite parts; updates from four of our participating families. A few of them took advantage of our programs a decade ago! Catching up with them was such an honor and hearing how we made positive differences in their lives was inspiring.

We are hopeful that the 2022 'Reach for the Stars Gala' will be in-person. Watch for details as we plan our first in-person event in two years – it's going to be special!

A heartfelt thank you to our 'Reach for the Stars' Planning Committee for their flexibility and creativity: Barbara Nelson, Carla O'Connell, Heidi Fett, Keri Fitts, Larry Gee, Lester Halstead, Mary Sue Ash, Ryma Lindquist and Amber Richardson.

Thank you to the many generous business sponsors, donors, those who donated raffle items, purchased raffle tickets & silent auction items, volunteered time, or made a financial contribution. We raised over \$27k! The proceeds of this event help to fund our no-cost programs, supporting children and families prenatal-kindergarten entry in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties.

RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS:

\$500- Patrick & Donna Hayes (Donated winnings back to FRCSCV!)

\$300 - Sean Breslin (Pictured on Left)

\$100 - Ryma Lindquist (Pictured on Right)



THE STASH'S YARN PARK CHALLENGE



On Saturday, June 5 The Stash held its first 'Yarn Park Challenge' where local knitters and crocheters donated the profits and handmade items to Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley!

The Stash also held a drive for donations and collected 511 handmade items! We are excited to share these beautiful hats, mittens, scarves, blankets, diaper covers and so much more with our children and families this fall. We are grateful to all that shared their time and talent with us.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Tyler, President
Mary Sue Ash
Barry Cain
Sam Cari
Bill Findlay

Chad Fett
Julie Foss
Tony Gould
Jessie Klopp
Sherriff Scott Knudson

Amber Morgan, MD
Barbara Nelson
Carla O'Connell
Alison Page
Amber Richardson

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

STAFF



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Hello Friends,

At Family Resource Center we have embraced Summer 2021 with relief and a giddiness typically reserved for embarking on a long-awaited adventure. COVID cases have declined. Vaccinations have increased. We have begun to connect with families in person. In May we enjoyed the simple pleasure of meeting together as a **team in person** for the first time in more than a year.

To our community of families, partners, businesses, foundations, government agencies, and individual donors we extend our deep appreciation for hanging in there with us over the last 15 months as we navigated the challenges of social distancing while delivering parent education and family support programs. In April we had a successful virtual **Reach for the Stars Maskerade** fund raising gala. Your generosity truly inspires us.

So what is the new normal? We're figuring it out with you. Stay tuned. We remain vigilant in monitoring local trends and implementing best practices. We offered our first in-person group connection starting in July! We are busy implementing the initiatives of the Community Innovation Grant sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Preschool Development Grant. See more about these exciting new partnerships in this newsletter.

TRANSITIONS

I am delighted to announce two new hires at Family Resource Center. **Karia Severude Ristow** joined our team as a Parent Educator in April. Karia is a UW-Stout graduate who previously worked with children as a case manager at a local nonprofit. In March **Sarah Weiske** joined Family Resource Center as Development and Communications Coordinator. She served as the dynamic director of the Baldwin-Woodville Chamber of Commerce for the past six years. Sarah stepped into the role just weeks before the Reach for the Stars gala and hosted the event with energy and grace. Welcome Karia and Sarah!

In March we bid a fond adieu to **Keri Fitts**, who faithfully served Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley for 8 years. Keri set a high standard for professionalism, service, and hard work. Over the years, serving in the roles of development and communications, program administration, office manager and parent educator Keri was a key player in building a strong organization.



We send a shout-out of appreciation to **Ann Searles**, who recently left her post as Executive Director of United Way St. Croix Valley to assume the leadership of the newly formed St. Croix Valley Food Bank. And we offer a warm welcome to new United Way St. Croix Valley Executive Director **Lisa Murphy**. We look forward to continued collaboration!

Here's to a happy and healthy summer to all!

Agnes Ring, Executive Director



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS AT BIRTH

To View 'Workforce Development Begins at Birth' visit frcscv.org

In February Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley was selected as one out of eight recipients in the State of Wisconsin to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families Preschool Development Grant Program. This grant supports innovative programs and partnerships that address areas of equity, access and affordability, quality and workforce as highlighted in the state's Birth to 5 Statewide Strategic Plan.

Family Resource Center St Croix Valley, Board President, Mark Tyler commented, "This grant is a great opportunity to grow our collaborations with economic development, workforce development, and early childhood development. These are all critical to the health and vibrancy of the communities we serve. To provide programming that connects with the farm to table movement is an added bonus for the families and children. Needless to say, we are excited to get started."

To strengthen the communities it serves, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is expanding business partnerships with St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, Family Friendly Workplaces, OEM Fabricators, Nolato Contour, JA Counter, Threshing Table Farm, Child Protective Services in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties, and other community and parent partners to implement its community innovation project.

Grant Initiatives Include:

- Expand programming to institute Early Childhood Parent Cafés.
- Sponsor workshops for the business community on the importance of investing in early childhood programs for the future workforce.
- Pilot a program with three local businesses to strategize how to better support employees with young children.
- Expand Farm to ECE program by offering opportunities for families to have an on-farm experience and bring home fresh produce.

We held our first Workforce Development Begins at Birth Workshop April 15th with well-regarded, expert panelists who shared short presentations on how Early Childhood Development is the best economic investment a community or region can make. Presenters included Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, UW Madison; Mark Tyler, Founder & Chairman, OEM Fabricators, Inc., Founder & Lead Volunteer, Family Friendly Workplaces, Inc.; Bill Rubin, St. Croix EDC; Agnes Ring, FRCSVC Executive Director; Rob Gruenwald, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Kimber Liedl, Business Engagement Director, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association; Carol Kline, Director of Special Education, Unity School District; Neil Kline - Family Friendly Workplace and Jalena Ziemba, Parent Educator, FRCSVC.

For every

\$1

Invested in Early Childhood Development

There is a

\$16

Return to society

*Rob Gruenwald, Economist
Federal Reserve Bank Minneapolis*



In the First Few Years of Life

700

New neural connections form in the brain PER SECOND

18

Months is when vocabulary disparities can begin to appear

*Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, UW Madison*



Wisconsin's Birthrates in

2018

are the LOWEST since

1978

which causes a shortage of workforce employees coming in as individuals retire.

Mark Tyler, Founder & Chairman OEM Fabricators, Inc., Founder & Lead Volunteer, Family Friendly Workplaces



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS AT BIRTH VIRTUAL EVENT SEPTEMBER 14

A virtual tri-county workshop will be held in partnership with Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Economic Development Corporations and Family Friendly Workplaces on September 14 at 10am. If you are interested in more information, please contact development@frcscv.org.

You can register for the workshop here: <https://frcscv.org/register-today/>



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 FRCSVC, 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.frcscv.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



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY

SUMMER CLASS SCHEDULE

Check our website and follow our Facebook page [[@frcscv](#)] for the most up-to-date information on our no-cost programs!

JULY

DATE	TIME	CLASS	TOPIC
July 27	9:30-11am	Virtual Triple P	Informed Workshop: Balancing Work & Family
July 28	10am	Virtual Baby & Me	Interactive Games & Songs
July 28	6pm	Parent Café	It Takes a Village

AUGUST

DATE	TIME	CLASS	TOPIC
August 2	2-3:00pm	Parent Café	Friendships Matter
August 3	5-6:30pm	Virtual Triple P	Discussion Group: Dealing with Disobedience
August 4	10am	Virtual Baby & Me	Babies Cry: Be Prepared
August 9	2-3:00pm	Parent Café	Connecting with your Children
August 10	5-6:30pm	Virtual Triple P	Seminar: Raising Resilient Children
August 11	10am	Virtual Baby & Me	Fine Motor Development
August 14	6pm	Parent Café	Finding Your People
August 16	2-3:00pm	Parent Café	Taking Care of Yourself
August 17	9:30-11am	Virtual Triple P	Informed Workshop: Tantrums
August 18	10am	Virtual Baby & Me	Raising A Reader: The Importance of Early Literacy
August 24	9:30-11am	Virtual Triple P	Informed Workshop: Self Esteem
August 25	10am	Virtual Baby & Me	DIY: Making Homemade Toys
August 25	6pm	Parent Cafe	The Ties That Bind

NEW CLASSES AVAILABLE!

ECE Early Childhood Education
FAST Families & Schools Together

ECE FAST is an in-person class for families with children 18 months - 5 years old.

This program will:

- Provide you with tools & training to become an effective family leader.
- Show you how to strengthen your child's social-emotional well-being & mental health
- Teach you to enhance relationships in your child's life to be safe, stable & nurturing.
- Connect you with a supportive community of those interested in their child's well-being & education!

Lunch is served at each class along with a chance win prizes!

Parent Cafe's

Parent Cafés are for families with children, prenatal-kindergarten entry and are a safe space to share stories, experiences, worries, fears, wisdom & find community strength in talking about the challenges & victories of raising a family!

Like our Facebook Page to be notified of new class information!

This no cost pilot program is available due to funding provided by the WI Department of Children & Families via the Preschool Development Grant Birth – 5 Initiative. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors & do not necessarily represent the official views of the WI DCF, the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children & Families, or the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Scan Here to View our Available Classes & to Register!



SIGN UP TODAY!

FRCSCV.ORG/REGISTER-TODAY

OR CALL

715.684.4440



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE

On June 22, Family Friendly Workplaces announced that Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley has been certified as a Family Friendly Workplace.

The certification signals to prospective and current Team Members that FRCSVC is committed to supporting them and their families.

“We are proud to live out our mission to strengthen children, families, and communities,” said Agnes Ring, Executive Director of FRCSVC. “The work we do in Polk, Pierce, and St. Croix counties is critical, and we are pleased to provide our Team Members with the support they need for their own families while working to strengthen other families.”

As part of the certification process, FFW conducts a thorough review of the employer’s human resources policies and practices, awarding points for policies and practices which support families. FRCSVC can use the FFW logo and certification in their recruitment and retention efforts.

“We are proud to certify FRCSVC as Family Friendly,” said Neil Kline, Chief Evangelist for FFW. “Their work across our shared service areas dovetails with our mission, and we are proud to have them as a partner.”

The certification of FRCSVC is simply an additional marker of the close relationship between FRCSVC and FFW. Both organizations have been pleased to partner, along with the St. Croix, Polk, and Pierce County Economic Development Corporations, to offer expert

speakers and panels for businesses to hear about how Early Childhood Development is the best economic investment a community or region can make. For more information on upcoming presentations, please contact Neil at nkline@familyfriendlyworkplaces.org.

Family Friendly Workplaces works to expand and accelerate awareness of, and build a sustainable funding model to support, Family Friendly Workplaces and Family Friendly practices by certifying businesses, advocating for the adoption of Family-Friendly practices, and increasing resources for Family-supporting organizations.



Website: www.familyfriendlyworkplaces.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/familyfriendlyworkplaces

“FARMER TO FAMILIES” FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION



The Suicide Prevention Task Force of St. Croix County and Glen Hills Lions Club partnered recently to distribute 1232 USDA Farmer to Families Food Boxes locally.

Each box contained 10-12 pounds of produce, six pounds of meat, six pounds of dairy and a gallon of milk.

Joan Bartz, Thrivent in Glenwood City, a long-time supporter of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley worked with Jeena Norenberg, Family Resource Center’s Office Manager to deliver boxes to our Parent Educators who distributed over 100 boxes to families in the tri-county area.