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CONTACT KERI OR HAILEY AT (715) 684-4440.



FAMILY MATTERS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY

WINTER 2020

15TH ANNUAL REACH for the STARS GALA

SAVE THE DATE: REACH FOR THE STARS SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH

Please join us for our annual gala. The event will be held at Kilkarney Hills Event Center in River Falls, WI.

Guests will enjoy auctions, raffles, guest speakers and a wonderful meal, all in support of our programs for families!

Tickets Available March 2020!

WINTER REGISTRATION!

Winter registration begins Monday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m. Call 715.684.4440 to register.



Family Resource Center is in the process of building a new website. Our current website will be under construction during the month of December.

Call our office at 715.684.4440 with any questions regarding referrals, donations or programing information. You may also check our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/frcscv) to find out the latest news & events.



ANNUAL LIQUOR HAUS WINE TASTING

Thursday, February 20th at Phoenix Event Center- HWY 63 Baldwin.

Contact Donna at 715.684.4384 or liquorhaus@baldwin-telecom.net to reserve tickets today.

Funds raised will help support Family Resource Center programs.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS A BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE: FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY DEMONSTRATES HIGH-QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley has earned a prestigious endorsement from the Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc., (PATNC) as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, making it one of the top-performing home visiting affiliates within the PATNC's international network. The official designation was made on October 1, 2019. Being named a Blue Ribbon Affiliate affirms that Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is a high-quality member of the home visiting field, implementing the evidence-based Parents as Teachers model with fidelity. Families in Family Resource Center's service area of Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties are positively impacted by the services delivered by this program.

The program includes home visits, group connections, child screening, and connections to community resources. It equips parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children for a stronger start in life and greater success in school.

"To earn the Blue-Ribbon Affiliate status, we underwent a rigorous self-study of our policies and procedures, and an extensive review of our practices by the National Center," said Agnes Ring, executive director of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley.

"The Parents as Teachers endorsement is a testament to the families we serve, and our community partners and donors that we are committed to delivering parent education services with a high level of quality and fidelity to evidence-based standards. I am proud of our staff for the commitment, professionalism, and compassion they demonstrate daily in their work. And I appreciate the founders and board members who set a high standard 21 years ago when they saw a need to serve families with young children and determined the best way to do that was through an evidence-based program called Parents as Teachers," said Ring.

About Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) builds strong communities, thriving families and children that are healthy, safe and ready to learn. The internationally-recognized evidence-based home visiting model is backed by 35 years of research-proven outcomes for children and families. PAT currently serves nearly 200,000 families in all 50 U.S. states, 115 Tribal organizations, six other countries, and one U.S. territory.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: 6 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP



Aaron Mork has helped guide the growth of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley since he was recruited to the Board in 2014 by former executive director Patty Draxler. He went all in with his commitment. Aaron currently serves as Chairman of the Strategic Planning committee. During his tenure he has also served as President, Development Chair, and has been active in several of the organization's major events. Aaron said, "If I'm involved, I want to make a difference and give 100 percent." For that Family Resource Center is grateful.

Aaron said some of the most memorable times with Family Resource Center were his involvement in the Executive Director hiring process in 2017 and the recent building renovation. Both were great examples of seeing both Board and Staff step up and pitch in during times of transition and change. As President, one of Aaron's goals was to bring Board and Staff together more often to encourage teamwork and to gain a better understanding of one another's roles. He implemented a Board/Staff bowling event to provide an opportunity to talk in a more casual setting.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Sue Ash, President
Barry Cain
Sam Cari
Bill Findlay
Chad Fett
Tony Gould
Stephanie Johnson
Jessie Klopp

Scott Knudson
Aaron Mork
Barbara Nelson
Carla O'Connell
Warren Schneider
Mark Tyler
Mary Van Galen

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

STAFF

Photos by Sandy Brecht Photography



Agnes Ring
Executive Director
ring@frcscv.org



Hailey Nelson
Development &
Communications Coordinator
hailey@frcscv.org



Keri Fitts
Office Manager & Program
Administration Coordinator
keri@frcscv.org



Robbyn Bowman Parent
Educator Lead
robbyn@frcscv.org



Marla Butler
Parent Educator Lead
marla@frcscv.org



Susan Hodnefield, LSW
Parent Educator Lead
susan@frcscv.org



Kristine Brede
Parent Educator
kristine@frcscv.org



Ashley Bruggeman
Parent Educator
ashley@frcscv.org



Devin Chladek
Parent Educator
devin@frcscv.org



Erin Kneendorf
Parent Educator
erin@frcscv.org



Lori Ollig
Parent Educator
lori.o@frcscv.org



Jalena Ziemba
Parent Educator
jalena@frcscv.org

NEWSLETTER

Writers/Editors Agnes Ring & Hailey Nelson
Design & Printing Minuteman Press

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



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

In this issue of Family Matters we celebrate the designation of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley as a *Blue Ribbon Affiliate* of Parents as Teachers (PAT) — the evidence-based home visiting program model used by the agency for more than 20 years. In the words of PAT, “Parents as Teachers rigorous endorsement

process demonstrates an affiliate’s accountability and credibility to the community, its funders, elected officials, and the partner organizations with which they work. Programs that earn the Quality Endorsement are recognized by Parents as Teachers National Center as exemplary Blue Ribbon Affiliates, delivering high quality services to children and families.”

We are proud and humbled by the designation—and committed to the continuous quality improvement principles upon which it is based.

Speaking of accountability and credibility we also renewed *the Meets Standards* designation of the Minnesota Charities Review Council in 2019. The Charities Review Council assesses nonprofit practices and processes based on 25 Key Accountability Standards designed to improve operations, build public trust, and raise standards to gain donor trust and respect. Earning *the Meets Standards® Seal* is an objective indicator of Family Resource Center’s internal strength, efficacy and impact as a nonprofit organization.

TRANSITIONS

Since its inception Family Resource Center has benefitted from having an active and engaged board representing a cross section of the community. I want to thank outgoing President Mary Sue Ash for her board leadership in 2019. Her actions always exemplified her vision of harmony, enthusiasm and wisdom. I also extend appreciation to two board members who are stepping down at the end of 2019. Stephanie Johnson of Western Wisconsin Health joined the board in 2017 and has been a passionate champion of prenatal engagement with families, leading the creation of a pilot project to work toward that goal. Aaron Mork, a board member since 2014, assumed many leadership roles on the board—including president, and chair of the Development and Strategic Planning Committees. See the spotlight story about Aaron in this issue. Thank you for your dedication and service Stephanie and Aaron!

I would also like to recognize our UW-Stout student Jazi Hanson who interned at Family Resource Center under the direction of Parent Educator Lead Susan Hodnefield over the summer. Thank you Jazi for your work; congratulations on your graduation, and best of luck in your career.

In closing, it’s that time of year again—time for our holiday giving appeal. Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley appreciates all your support for our efforts to strengthen local children, families, and communities.

We wish you and your family a happy holiday season and all the best in 2020.

Agnes Ring, Executive Director



JOIN OUR URGENT REQUEST SQUAD!

Would you like to be on our list of volunteers willing to receive and respond to urgent needs requests? For example, we may have a family in need of diapers, formula, clothing or gently used furniture etc. We have decided to set up an “Urgent Request Squad”. People on our list will receive direct email requests from us when we have an urgent item a family needs.

We will send an email to you directly requesting a specific item donation to be brought to the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley office in Baldwin. Recipients of donations are kept confidential but know that your donation will be given to a family in need. If you would like to be on our “Urgent Request Squad,” please email Hailey Nelson at hailey@frcscv.org.

FALL FAMILY EVENT SUCCESS AT TWO AREA FARMS!

Fall Family Days at White Pine Berry Farm & Glenna Farms was a success! Thank you, families, for attending and making it a great day! Thank you, White Pine Berry Farm of River Falls and Glenna Farms of Amery, for hosting these events for area families.

Please watch our Family Resource Center Facebook Page for our upcoming Winter/Spring 2020 Family Fun Events.



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 Barbara Nelson's birthday
Matthew and Sandra McCarthy

In Honor of Sharon Rezyer's Retirement
Barb Nelson

Grandparent Gift in Honor of Vincent & Zoe Stenzel
Mindy Barta

In honor of Barbara Nelson's birthday
Judith Edgar

In honor of grandchildren Evelyn and Jacob Young
Loretta Young

Grandparent Gift in Honor of Maxwell & Myles Markson

In honor of Barbara Nelson's birthday
John and Candy Varco

In honor of Jackson and Lucy Taylor
Susan Hessler

In honor of Sharon Rezyer's Retirement
Patty Draxler

In Memory of John Timmers
Patty & Dan Draxler

(Gifts received August 1, 2019 – October 31, 2019) Honor and memorial gifts received from November 1, 2019 – January 30, 2020 will be recognized in the next 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 WINTER 2020 GROUPS

PLAY & LEARN AND BABY & ME WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6TH THROUGH THE WEEK OF MARCH 2ND.

BABY & ME

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

Baby & Me is a play and discussion hour for parents and caregivers of infants. Babies can observe, interact and explore with other babies.

Parents have the chance to discuss their questions and concerns with a Family Resource Center parent educator. They may participate in a parenting discussion with other parents as well. 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.



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 NEW LOCATION!

Mondays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Friday Memorial Library
155 East 1st Street
(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

Register beginning Monday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. by calling 715-684-4440.

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.

AMERY

Mondays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Amery Public Library
225 Scholl Ct.

BALDWIN

Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Family Resource Center
857 Main St.

HUDSON

Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
YMCA
2211 Vine St.

LUCK

Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Luck Library
301 S. Main St.

NEW RICHMOND

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
365 W. River Dr.

OSCEOLA

Mondays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Discovery Center
310 Chieftain St.

PRESCOTT

Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Prescott Public Library
800 Borner St. N.

RIVER FALLS NEW LOCATION!

Mondays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
River Falls Public Library
140 Union Street

ROBERTS

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

YOUNG PARENT

The Young Parent Program is for teens who are pregnant or parenting and includes twice monthly group meetings and home visits. Participants receive support from parent educators and their peers and are eligible for elective credit toward graduation.

Young parents can be referred to the program by their high school guidance counselors or county agencies, or can sign up by contacting the Family Resource Center directly at 715-684-4440.

BALDWIN

1st & 3rd Thursdays,
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Family Resource Center
857 Main St.

BALSAM LAKE

1st & 3rd Tuesdays,
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Polk County
Government Center



SPRING PLAY & LEARN REGISTRATION
BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 9
BY CALLING 715-684-4440.

(BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Asked what makes the mission of Family Resource Center meaningful to him, Aaron responded, "It's all about kids. I love kids and grew up with foster children in my home. I have two adopted daughters and am so proud to be a part of an organization that puts children first."

A Senior Business Loan Officer with WESTconsin Credit Union, Aaron said that he has learned a lot in his time with Family Resource Center. His eyes have been opened to the needs of the three-county area which we serve. Not only is Aaron impressed with the support and education parent educators provide families, but he's impressed with their determination to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Aaron would like more people to know that Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley provides education, resources, and support to children and families. He credits the parent educators with building a strong reputation among families and our partners in the community. "We are nothing without our team of employees," said Aaron. "Family Resource Center has a highly educated staff of people who are here because they love what they do. I love being associated with that."

Aaron lives with his wife Tawnya and two children in Osceola. After six years with Family Resource Center he is stepping down from the Board but plans to attend the annual Reach for The Stars Gala in the Spring. Thank you, Aaron for your leadership. We wish you the best and look forward to seeing you in April!



PROTECTIVE FACTORS TRAINING

Family Resource Center hosted a second Protective Factors training. The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework is an approach which helps organizations or individuals work in partnership with families to identify their needs and utilize existing assets to prevent child abuse and neglect to support the healthy development of children.

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley will host this course again in the Spring! Call 715.684.4440 to sign up or request more information.



UNITED WAY GIFT

United Way has supported Family Resource Center with contributions since 2002. In September we celebrated another year with United Way. We thank United Way and look forward to continued work together strengthening children and families!

DONATION FROM SONS OF NORWAY



Audrey Severson (Valkyrien Lodge President) and Sandra Calvert (Valkyrien Lodge Secretary) from Sons of Norway Lodge 5-053 presented Family Resource Center with a generous \$500.00 donation. The donation will go towards programming and newsletter sponsorship.



DIAPER DRIVE

Board member and Superintendent of Ellsworth School District Barry Cain, led teachers, staff and Ellsworth Panther Den in diaper drive collecting 5294 diapers for area Families.

QUILT DONATION

Rachel Van Someren & Judy Ziegler have delivered dozens of homemade quilts to Family Resource Center over the last year. Quilts are distributed to area families with young children. The quilts were made by the Windmill Piece Makers—about 30 quilters from the Baldwin-Woodville area.



JEFFERSON & DODGE COUNTIES VISIT

In October Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley met with Kathi Cauley and Brent Ruehlw from Jefferson County, Tina Crave & Sarah Myers from Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation, Stephanie Curtis from Watertown Family Center, Rebecca Bell and Mark Bebel from Dodge County, Fred Johnson & Julie Krings of St. Croix County and Betsy Byker from United Way St. Croix Valley.

This was an opportunity for organizations to share ideas and information about parent education programming and partnerships with St. Croix County and United Way Success By 6.

Jefferson and Dodge Counties and their partners are exploring development of a Family Resource Center.