



FAMILY MATTERS

Supporting families in the
St. Croix Valley since 1998

Spring 2018

Save the Date
Reach for the Stars:
Black & White Ball

Sunday, April 15
4:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Please plan to join us for our annual gala at R & D Catering in New Richmond. Guests will enjoy great auctions, raffles, guest speakers and a gourmet meal, all in support of our programs for local families!

Tickets go on sale in early March! Visit www.frscv.org and click 'Support Us' to learn more.

11th Annual Liquor Haus Wine Tasting

Thursday, March 1
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Phoenix Event Center

Contact Donna at 715-684-4384 or liquorhaus@baldwin-telecom.net to reserve your tickets today! All funds raised support Family Resource Center programs.

 **Find us on Facebook**

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

www.facebook.com/frscv

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

New Directions for Home Visiting: Priority on Prenatal Enrollment

New this year, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley has become a grantee of the Wisconsin Family Foundations Home Visiting Program. Through this program, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Family Foundations Home Visiting Program will reimburse Family Resource Center for a portion of its costs.

"Family Resource Center staff and board have spent years preparing for this opportunity," said Executive Director Agnes Ring. "It was a very competitive process to be selected as one of the 30 programs in Wisconsin. We continually meet rigorous accreditation standards as an affiliate of the evidence-based *Parents as Teachers* model, and participate in statewide continuous improvement initiatives for home visiting. This support will allow us to expand, reaching more families in our service area." (Continued on p. 4)



Family Resource Center staff recently met with Western Wisconsin Health to discuss strategies for increasing patient referral to home visiting prenatally.

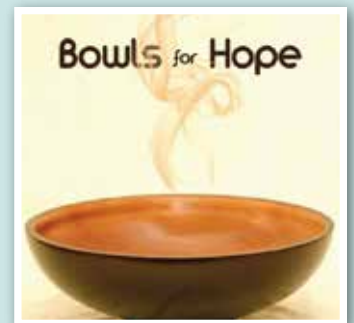
Bowls for Hope Event to Benefit Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley

Each year, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls hosts 'Bowls for Hope' to raise funds for an organization that is making a difference in the lives of people across the St. Croix Valley.

The Family Resource Center has been selected as the recipient of funds for this year's event, which will be hosted on Tuesday, March 6 from 5-7 p.m. at the University Center Ballroom. For an entrance fee of \$25/adults and \$5/children under 12, attendees may select a handcrafted bowl to take home with them, created in ceramic, pottery, fiber, wood and glass, the bowls are made by students at UWRF and local schools, or by area artists. Participants may also sample a variety of soups donated and served by area restaurants.

"It is an honor to be named the recipient of UWRF's 2018 March Bowls for Hope event. Our board and staff are excited to participate. We appreciate the generosity of all the volunteers from the university, local artists and restaurants in bringing people together in support of children and families through the work of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley," Executive Director Agnes Ring said.

"The proceeds from this event will help make it possible to meet emergency needs of families who are enrolled in our home visiting program. Our parent educators work with families one-on-one to understand child development stages and improve parenting skills."



Tickets can be purchased from Family Resource Center staff and board members, at the UWRF Chancellor's Office (116 North Hall), and at the information desk in the University Center on campus. Purchasing tickets in advance guarantees that attendees will receive a bowl. Tickets will also be available at the door.

FRCSKV Board of Directors

Chad Fett, President
Mary Sue Ash
Sam Cari
Bill Findlay
Larry Gee
Stephanie Johnson
Jessie Klopp
Aaron Mork
Barbara Nelson
Carla O'Connell
Jack Pollitt
Cathleen Shimon

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

FRCSKV Staff

Agnes Ring

Executive Director
ring@frcscv.org

Kristin Thompson

Development & Communications
Coordinator
kristin@frcscv.org

Keri Fitts

Office Manager
keri@frcscv.org

Robbyn Bowman

Parent Educator Lead
robbyn@frcscv.org

Marla Butler

Parent Educator Lead
marla@frcscv.org

Susan Hodnefield

Parent Educator Lead
susan@frcscv.org

Yazmin Alvarado-Soto

Parent Educator
yazmin@frcscv.org

Kristine Brede

Parent Educator
kristine@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

As we enter our twentieth year, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of children and families in our region.

Children in Protective Services

At a recent meeting of the United Way Success By 6 Executive Board, discussion focused on how drug abuse—especially methamphetamines—is affecting children, families and communities in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. Local representatives from health and human services agencies, private industry, K-12 and higher education, the medical community, nonprofits, and service providers learned about dramatic increases in cases of substance abuse. This has resulted in higher levels of child neglect and abuse—leading to increased child protection caseloads, long service cycles, and increased demand for foster families.

At Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, our parent educators witness first-hand the trauma experienced by children and families enmeshed in the cycle of drug abuse. Through home visiting, Family Resource Center parent educators use a strengths-based approach to empower parents with tools to improve their parenting skills. We are at the table with our Success By 6 Partners to explore ways our parent educators can best meet the changing needs of families and foster families. We remain committed to the United Way Success By 6 goal of making the St. Croix Valley the best place to raise a child.

Family Foundations Home Visiting

In this month's newsletter we feature a story about an initiative to work with our partners to expand prenatal enrollment of families in our Home Visiting program. We greatly appreciate the bipartisan support of Wisconsin lawmakers who made this opportunity possible through expansion of the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program focused on at-risk families. Funding to expand the reach of home visiting services was recommended by the Wisconsin Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). Former Family Resource Center Board member Mark Tyler serves on the Council, the purpose of which is to help ensure that all children and families in Wisconsin have access to quality early childhood programs and services.

Lend Your Support. Mark Your Calendars.

See the details in this newsletter for three fun(d)-raising events! Donna & Pat Hayes of the Liquor Haus are sponsoring their annual wine tasting event on **Thursday, March 1** at the Phoenix in Baldwin. The Family Resource Center was selected as the recipient of the University of Wisconsin River Falls Bowls for Hope fundraising event on **Tuesday, March 6**. April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Join us for our annual gala on **Sunday, April 15**, at Ready Randy's in New Richmond for the Black & White Ball!

Thank You & Welcome

I would like to extend our appreciation and well wishes to outgoing board members Alex Holsman and Erik Johnson. Thank you for your service and support! Also, I offer my sincere thanks to outgoing Board President Aaron Mork for his steady leadership during a dynamic year for the Family Resource Center. I extend a warm welcome to Chad Fett as our President for 2018, and to our new UW-Stout intern Holly Davis.

Bring on Spring!



Agnes Ring, Executive Director



Family Resource Center
Board of Directors 2018

CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2018 GROUPS



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

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.

- Amery** Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30 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



YOUNG PARENT This program for teens who are pregnant or parenting 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 and 3rd Thursdays 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.,
Family Resource Center, 857 Main St
- Balsam Lake** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.,
Polk County Government Center



PLAY & LEARN (Register beginning Monday, March 19 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 discussion.

Spring Play & Learn begins the week of March 26 and runs through the week of May 21.

MORNING PLAY & LEARN

- 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.
- Ellsworth** Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.,
Ellsworth Public Library, 312 W. Main 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.
- River Falls** Mondays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., River Falls
United Methodist Church, 127 S. 2nd St.
- Roberts** Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Hazel Mackin
Community Library, 311 W. Warren St.
- St. Croix Falls** Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., St. Croix
Falls Public Library, 230 S. Washington St

EVENING PLAY & LEARN

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

Summer Play & Learn registration begins Monday, June 4 by calling 715-684-4440.

The office will be closed on May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday.

(New Directions for Home Visiting continued from page 1)

Family Foundations is a grantee of the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Aligning with state and federal objectives will result in some changes in the Family Resource Center's Home Visiting program over time; the most significant change is a goal of enrolling 75 percent of participants in the program prenatally.

Research and best practice recommend making home visiting services to pregnant women early in their pregnancies to maximize positive outcomes, such as:

- Improved maternal and child health;
- Reduction of child injuries, child abuse and neglect and child maltreatment, and emergency department visits for children and mothers;
- Improvement in school readiness and achievement;
- Reduction in domestic violence;
- Improvement in family economic self-sufficiency; and
- Improvements in the coordination and referral for other community resources and supports.

To accomplish the goal of reaching more families prenatally, the organization is looking to established partnerships for support – specifically, partner hospitals and clinics, physician groups, and county health and human service agencies. “There has been a very warm reception to the concept among the Family Resource Center's partners,” said Ring.

Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin is among partners eager to work closely with the Family Resource Center in a pilot project. Director of Women's Health Services Stephanie Johnson serves as a member of the organization's Board of Directors, and is enthusiastic about the new direction for services. “We are excited to partner with Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley in building a process that creates seamless prenatal identification and referral of those families who will benefit from the programs and resources the Family Resource Center offers,” she said.

“The key to establishing this early relationship is families and parent educators navigating through the pregnancy course together, ensuring all available needed resources are utilized. The trust and bond of this early relationship will encourage more families to take part in the amazing parent education programs offered post birth, encouraging family health and well-being. In turn this will benefit our community by having empowered families parenting our future.”

To learn more about the Family Resource Center's programs for families and eligibility for the Home Visiting program, please call 715-684-4440.



'Give A Child A Book' Board Book Drive

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is pleased to partner with Thrivent Financial to hold a 'Give a Child a Book' board book drive. Every new or gently used board book contributed will be shared with families participating in the Family Resource Center's Home Visiting program. Thrivent member and Family Resource Center board member Barbara Nelson is sponsoring the event, and has received a grant to purchase a book for each one donated.

“I'm pleased to be able to provide extra support to families through this project,” said Barbara. “Promoting literacy from birth is a key component of Family Resource Center programming. I am hopeful that matching support from Thrivent will help inspire our community to give generously.”

The goal of the project is to collect at least 100 books appropriate for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Books will be collected from mid-February until the end of March. Please contact the Family Resource Center at 715-684-4440 or info@frcscv.org if your business or civic group would like to participate in the book drive. We are also looking for community locations that are willing to be a drop-site for donations. Thank you for your support!

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 Nolan Adams
Walter and Sandra Borowski

In honor of Vinny Allen
Timothy Conroy

In honor of Adelaide Berg
Great Grandma Nettie

In honor of grandchild Bailey Berg
Peggy Berg

In honor of grandchildren Finley and Jordyn Campbell
Bob and Cindy Campbell

In honor of Lily, Sean and Laura Cook
Gene and Cheryl Niewoehner

In honor of Dexter Cronquist
Grandpa Rick and Grandma Jodi
Great Grandma Bev Mann
Alice Woodman

In honor of Steven, Lizzie, and Eden Denison
Gloria Denison

In honor of Dylan Dewitt and her family
Great Grandpa Vern and
Great Grandma Elmira Aiken

As a tribute to the years of fine leadership from Patty Draxler
Lauren Koshere

In honor of grandchild James English
Christine English

In honor of grandchild Joseph Erdman
Carol and Chuck Semple

In honor of Ean Frandsen
Jill Mitties

In honor of grandchild Weston Hinckley
Alan and Karen Mack

In honor of Cooper Hove
Mimi and Papa Taranto

In honor of grandchild Kerry (Kiki) Larson
Mike and Sally Jensen

In honor of Hazel Lehman
Jeanne Lehman
Jackie and Dan Lehman
Grandma Bauer

In honor of John Raymond McAlpine
John and Denise McAlpine

In honor of Lincoln and Beckett Meyers
Lori Meyers

In honor of Barbara Nelson
Judith Edgar

In honor of Emily Perry
Stuart Perry

In memory of Jean Marie Pearson
Dick Pearson, children and grandchildren

In memory of Ethan Ranallo
Jim and Nada Merth

In honor of Adaline Ryba
Daniel and Linda Hunt

In honor of Nakula Tan
Kari Schisel

In memory of Alex Taylor
Tanya Taylor

In honor of grandchildren Jessie, Sarah, and Tyler Maule, Nick and Erica Tessman, and Rachel and Casey Miller
Gail and Gerald Tessman

In honor of Claire Tetreault
Given by her Grandmother

In honor of Hana Uebel
Grandma Rosemary

In honor of Addison Warner

In honor of grandchildren Evelyn and Jacob Young
Loretta Young

(Gifts received November 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018)

Honor and memorial gifts received from February 1 – April 30, 2018 will be recognized in the summer 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 the 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 FRCSCV, 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 Building Expansion/Remodel Project

My employer will match my gift; please contact me.

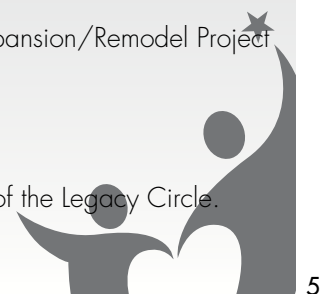
I would like to give in honor / memory (please circle) of a loved one: _____

(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

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



Parents as Teachers™
Affiliate



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

Angela Olson Law - www.AngelaOlsonLaw.com

Bakke Norman - 715-246-3800

Bremer Bank - www.bremer.com

Bridge Investment Group - www.bridgewhatmatters.com

Carlson SV - www.carlsonsv.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.fsbt.com

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

Hudson Physicians - www.hudsonphysicians.com

JA Counter - www.jacounter.com

Liquor Haus - 715-684-2578

McMillan Electric Company - www.mcmillanelectric.com

MidWestOne Bank - 715-386-8700

Minuteman Press - www.hudson.minutemanpress.com

Nilssen's - Baldwin, Ellsworth & Glenwood City - www.nilssensfoods.com

Osceola Medical Center - 715-294-5736

Russ Davis Wholesale - www.russdaviswholesale.com

Shafer Financial Services - www.shaferfinancialservices.com

St. Croix Regional Medical Center - www.scrmc.org

Village Pharmacy - www.villagepharmwi.com

Vital Plastics, Inc. - www.vitalplastics.com

WESTconsin Credit Union - www.westconsinu.org

Western Wisconsin Health - www.wwhealth.org

Westfields Hospital & Clinic - westfieldshospital.com

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