

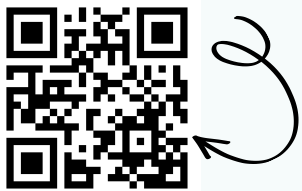
## Supporters raised over \$63,500 for Family Resource Center!

Read about the 18th Annual Reach for the Stars Greatest Hits Gala on Page 4.





## Scan Here


to visit our website and learn about our no-cost programs and services for all families with young children in Pierce, Polk & St. Croix Counties.



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## New Executive Director assumes leadership of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley (FRCSVCV) is pleased to announce the selection of Jennifer Griggs-Address as its new Executive Director.

Prior to joining FRCSVCV, Jennifer served as the Executive Director of the Mental Health Task Force of Polk County for the past three and a half years. As part of the Mental Health Task Force, Jennifer was a FRCSVCV community partner with ECE FAST (Early Childhood Education and Families and Schools Together), Parent Café and Recovering Together Café programs where she witnessed firsthand the positive impact that FRCSVCV has on local families. Jennifer has a strong passion for strengthening families through parent education, social connections and creating informal support systems.

"I am excited to continue the great work that has been done at FRCSVCV and build upon the vision and mission to strengthen children and families by offering education, resources and support," said Jennifer.

In addition to her experience working in Polk County, Jennifer is excited for the opportunity to expand relationships and continue to build partnerships into Pierce, and St. Croix Counties. She is impressed with the wide variety of programs and services FRCSVCV offers.

Jennifer has extensive experience in nonprofit administration and has also served within two PK-12 school systems and a county human services department. Her passion is collaborating with community partners and community networking. Jennifer has administrative and program experience in grant writing, family programming, staff development and team building. She is looking forward to being part of the FRCSVCV team.

Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in social work and a master's degree in counseling.

Jennifer will be replacing Agnes Ring, who has been the FRCSVCV Executive Director for the past six years. "I have great respect for the leadership Agnes has provided for the past six years. Jennifer started June 1, 2023, providing transition time with Agnes whose last day was June 30, 2023. You can contact Jennifer at [griggs-address@frcscv.org](mailto:griggs-address@frcscv.org).

## Thank you Agnes!

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley Staff and Board of Directors would like to thank Agnes Ring for the past six years of leadership as Executive Director, wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

During her tenure, Agnes was instrumental in the growth and positive impact made in the organization. She managed a building expansion, was a trailblazer during COVID, finding alternate ways to continue serving families, strengthened partner and community relationships, was instrumental in bringing the Parent Advisory Committee to FRCSVCV and so much more!

A FRCSVCV past participant and now parent partner said it best, "Thank you for all your dedication and kindness. One thing that always stood out to me with how you always remembered the small details of each person you met, for me personally only seeing you a couple times a year, you would still follow up with me on where we left off our last conversation. You have blessed so many families."

Agnes plans to spend time with her husband Mark, their family and new granddaughter, Nora Mae. She will also enjoy more time swimming, practicing yoga and tending to her garlic field.





FROM THE

# Director's Desk

Hello Friends of FRCSVCV,

Summer is in full swing! The best word to describe this season at FRCSVCV would be TRANSITION. At the end of June, we said goodbye to Agnes Ring, who served as Executive Director for the past six years. We are grateful for the many wonderful contributions Agnes made to the organization and wish her well in retirement.

Agnes and I were fortunate to have a month of overlap to ensure a smooth transition. The FRCSVCV Board of Directors and staff have been warm and welcoming. I have also been overwhelmed with the outpouring of welcoming messages from partners at the local, regional and state level.

In addition to the transition of leadership, we are preparing for a transition of space as we soon plan to vacate our building to begin much needed renovations on FRCSVCV's 100-year-old building on Main Street in Baldwin.

During construction, a limited number of staff will be housed in a temporary space located in the lot behind the FRCSVCV building from August until October, with the rest of our staff working remotely. Please continue to contact us via phone and email during this time. Our staff have been busy preparing and packing, as we will be removing all of the interior items prior the start of the project. Due to the nature of the remodel, we will be unable to accept donations at this time but rest assured will continue to provide education, resources and support to local families. We look forward to welcoming families, community members and partners back into our building late fall or early winter.

I am also pleased to announce a new addition to our team, Cinthia Johnson, Bilingual Parent Educator. Cinthia joined us this summer and is focused on growing our connection within the Hispanic community by conducting outreach and providing programming. She has already made such a positive impact by connecting with families. In the fall, Cinthia will return to her full-time position with the Amery School District, but we are pleased that she will be available to FRCSVCV eight to ten hours per week during the school year. Additionally, we are in the process of hiring a full time Bilingual/Bicultural Parent Educator to help with group connections and home visiting. Collectively, our staff will be expanding our knowledge in diversity, equity and inclusion.

We have started planning for our fall programming and look forward to once again offering high quality, no-cost programs and classes to families.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer,

Jennifer

FRCSVCV Executive Director

FRCSVCV'S

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Mary Sue Ash - Secretary  
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**Jennifer Jones**

Office Manager & Program Coordinator  
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**Marla Butler**

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**Cinthia Johnson**

Parent Educator  
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# Building Renovation

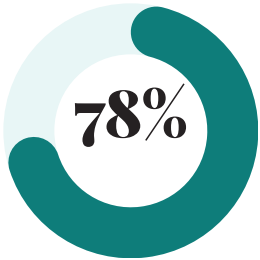


FRCSVC will be improving the building at 857 Main Street in Baldwin. The FRCSVC building is approximately 100 years old and approximately 6,000 square feet in size.

The scope of the project will include a new and improved façade, providing less confusion, ease of access for guests and a more aesthetically pleasing store front for Main Street. Included are additional workstations to accommodate anticipated growth, two consult rooms and one home visiting space where visits with families can be confidential, along with a new conference room.

The plan includes new flooring, replacing the wood floor in the program room with softer carpet tiles for improved functionality when working with children in the space, wall repair, painting, doors, glass & glazing and replacing ceiling tiles. This also gives staff the opportunity to utilize the back of the building with improved roof drainage and access to parking at the rear of the office.

**Total Project Cost = \$925K**



**\$725K Pledged to Date**

FRCSVC, Inc. has applied for capital grants from:

- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for a construction grant (funded)
- Village of Baldwin Façade Program (funded)
- Otto Bremer Trust (funded)
- Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation (funded)
- Hugh J. Andersen Foundation (funded)
- Royal Credit Union (pending)
- FRCSVC Board Development Committee launched a quiet campaign to establish a matching fund for community capital donations to the project.

## Project Timeline

2022

**April**

FRCSVC Properties, LLC Formed. Purchased building at 857 Main St., Baldwin, WI

**September**

FRCSVC Properties, LLC hires architect Studio EA to develop schematic design for renovation to address needs.

2023

**January**

Conduct Construction Manager interviews, hire Kraus-Anderson. Village of Baldwin submits Community Development Investment Grant on behalf of FRCSVC Properties, LLC AND accepts FRCSVC application for Façade Grant.

**February/March**

Submit grant applications. Development Committee launches quiet fundraising campaign.

**April-May**

Obtained building permit approvals. Bank orders appraisal. Community fundraising continues.

**June/July**

Execute WEDC contract and Loan Agreement with Bremer Bank. Fundraising continues. Groundbreaking and launch public Capital Campaign.

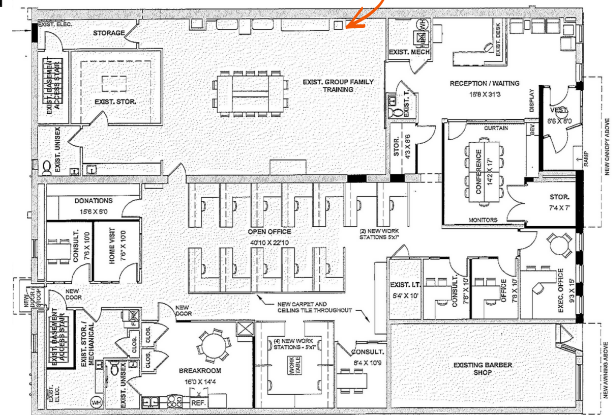
**August-November**

Construction underway, fundraising continues.

**December**

Project Closeout

## Interior Design



## ★ BOOKS ARE magic

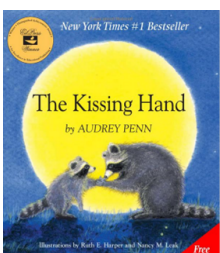
by Marla Butler, Parent Educator Lead

Going to school for the first time can be scary for both the parent and child. I am featuring two books that can help ease those worries with humor and love.

### The Kissing Hand

by Audrey Penn

This book is written for children ages 2-6 years old. Little Chester Raccoon does not want to go to school. Mrs. Raccoon helps ease Chester's fears with a family secret called the Kissing Hand. With this they kiss the palm of each other's hands and hold it tight all day long. With this little secret your child can know that you will continue to be close and love them while they are away learning. This story gives the opportunity to relate Chester's feelings to your child's feelings.



### The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!

By Mo Willems.

This book is for children ages 3-6 years. Everyone goes to school in some way, but Pigeon believes that he already knows everything and doesn't need to go. As the story reads, there are many other questions Pigeon has that causes children to be nervous. This story uses humor to work through the anxieties of going to school in a new environment. Throughout the story you have the opportunity to talk with your child about the things that worry Pigeon. You can ask your child what Pigeon can do to help himself feel better. Finish the book and conversation with why Pigeon will love school and ask what they think they will love about school.



# Greatest Hits Gala

On Sunday, April 23rd more than 250 supporters of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley came together at Tattersall Distilling in River Falls, WI for the 18th Annual Reach for the Stars Greatest Hits Gala. Guests were encouraged to wear disco glam attire, enjoy auctions, raffles, delicious food, and live entertainment by NEW Dueling Pianos.

“The Reach for Stars gala is held in April every year to mark Family Strengthening Month” said Family Resource Center Executive Director Agnes Ring. “The generous financial support provided by local businesses, individual donors, and community leaders at this event –and throughout the year–reflects a caring community. The event shines a light on the challenges of families raising young children and the life-changing work of our parent educators.”

The event raised over \$63,500 to support Family Resource Center’s mission of providing education, resources, and support for families with young children in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. Family Resource Center is a non-profit founded in 1998 and located in Baldwin, WI.

Each year, Family Resource Center acknowledges an individual at the event for their leadership, dedication, and service through the annual John M. Coughlin Volunteer Award. The award honors the memory of Coughlin’s extraordinary leadership, dedication, and commitment to the well-being of children and families in the region, as well as his vision to create a comprehensive early childhood system through United Way St. Croix Valley and Success By 6 initiatives.

Last year’s recipient and Board member Carla O’Connell with O’Connell Family Funeral Homes presented the 2023 award to longtime supporter, Barbara Nelson, who has served on the Board of Directors for more than 14 years including leadership positions such as Secretary, Vice-President and President. Barbara has been instrumental on the Reach for the Stars Committee for the past 16 years and continues to source funding for FRCSVC’s annual book drive. Each year she organizes Seed Planting and ‘Eat what you Grow’, a project where families plant seeds in a mini greenhouse, watch them grow, transplant them, then eat the vegetables - teaching families the importance of gardening and healthy food. For the past 10 years she has been adding beauty, color, and life to the office by planting flower boxes, putting her master gardener title to work!

As part of the event program, guests heard from a Family Resource Center parent participant couple, Samantha and Kyle, residents of River Falls. They shared that through the support of Family Resource Center programs and services they “have found such a strong connection and sense of community, one might even say a family here. We were given the tools to be strong in and we are putting them to work. We know where to go when we need help, and where to find people that are honest with us. We know that the hard work doesn’t end, and it’s going to be a lifelong effort, but we have built something so beautiful, especially when you see where we’ve come from.”

Guests also heard from a 13-year-old program participant on the importance of investing in early childhood education, and credit’s FRCSVC’s programs for her love of reading and success in school. She brought the crowd to a standing ovation. This event is made possible by the generosity of the many sponsors:



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# Council (PAC)



Front Row (L-R): Jessica Demulling, Vice Chair, New Richmond; Nakeyia Carlson, Somerset; Amanda Schug, New Richmond  
Back Row: (L-R) Kelly Davis (and child), River Falls; Dawn Nissen, Chair, Somerset; Erika Lamoureux, Osceola; Louis Campbell, River Falls; Ashley Smith, Woodville

FRCSCV was part of a pilot cohort of 10 Family Resource Centers in Wisconsin who have participated in a 24-month initiative to enhance the quality of Family Resource Centers in Wisconsin.

FRCSCV is on track to be accredited as a Family Resource Center of Quality in July of 2023. One of the key quality standards for Family Resource Centers is to have a Parent Advisory Committee, to give parents (and caregivers; including grandparents, relatives, foster parents) a direct voice in articulating challenges and providing insight into effective early childhood programming.

After six months of planning and preparation, FRCSCV's PAC launched in January. The PAC has 10 members (two slots are currently open); all of whom are current or past participants in FRCSCV programs. The PAC meets 10 times per year, alternating between locations in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties.

## FRCSCV PAC WELCOMES

# State Legislators



This spring it was announced that the Governor's proposed budget included \$4.1 million to support the work of Family Resource Centers in Wisconsin.

Members of the FRCSCV PAC voted at its March meeting to invite State Legislators representing Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties to learn directly from parents and caregivers, in their own voices, about how FRCSCV programming has made a difference in their lives. PAC members also answered questions legislators had about how parent education and family support make a difference in the lives of families with prenatal and preschool children as they determine the final budget.

# Association of Minnesota Counties



In May, FRCSCV hosted a meeting for 18 representatives from nine Minnesota Counties, the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation, and the Sauer Family Foundation who are exploring the development of a Family Resource network in Minnesota.

Brenda Mahoney, project coordinator, shared that their network is sponsored by the AMC, a non-profit representing all 87 counties in policy and legislative work, which started through philanthropic support. They are in the very early stages and receiving technical assistance from the National Family Support Network. Their goal is to develop the network and move it to another entity in 3-5 years.

Sarah Weiske, FRCSCV Development and Communications Coordinator moderated a one-hour discussion, where FRCSCV staff, community partners, parent partners and board members shared agency and program information, experience, insights, and feedback. Amanda Schug, FRCSCV PAC member, also shared the positive impact that FRCSCV has made in the lives of her family and community.

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Donations can be mailed to: Family Resource Center, 857 Main Street, Baldwin, WI.



**Family Resource Center**  
St. Croix Valley

Serving Families in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties  
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