



FAMILY MATTERS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ST. CROIX VALLEY

WINTER 2021



Reach for the Stars Gala Roaring 20s MASKERADE

Feathers, Flappers & Face Masks

SAVE THE DATE!

We cordially invite you **NOT** to attend in person but instead virtually on Sunday, April 18.

More details to come!

Contact Keri for sponsorship opportunities and donation needs at keri@frcscv.org



Thank you WESTconsin Credit Union for hosting a mitten drive!



Thank you Rachel for your Christmas Box donation for home visiting families.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Like us on Facebook to get updates about classes, registration deadlines, and links to children development resources. www.facebook.com/frcscv

NEW PROGRAM FOCUSES ON EMPOWERING FAMILIES AND BUILDING A SUPPORT NETWORK

In July Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley was one of five family resource centers in Wisconsin selected to offer a pilot program called Early Childhood Education Families and School Together (ECE FAST) to families in our service area. The opportunity was made possible with a capacity-building grant from the Department of Children and Families Preschool Development Grant initiative.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Founded 31 years ago, FAST was one of the first prevention/early intervention programs offered in school settings to develop practical applications for mental health and family theory research findings. The Wisconsin FAST project supports a pilot of the newly revised Early Childhood Education Level. Family Resource Center's entire parent education team, the parent partners and community partners received 16+ hours of training and coaching in the ECE FAST model.

The first eight-session ECE FAST program ended in October with a graduating class of eight families.

While the program is typically offered in-person, Family Resource Center team rose to the challenge of delivering the program virtually during the pandemic. Parent Educators Ashley Bruggeman and Jillian Cordova facilitated the group along with community partner, Michelle Johnson from Hammond Public Library. Two parent partners were also key members of the team, Robert Zubrod and Elizabeth Chapin. This FAST session focused on families with children age 2-4. It consisted of family-to-family interactions, parent empowerment activities, and weekly family meals. Program materials and prizes were delivered to participants' doorsteps each week.

Jillian shares, "ECE FAST is an early childhood program partnership with families that is meant to strengthen the parent-child relationship. It empowers parents, builds connections, and creates a support network – something that I witnessed firsthand as a facilitator. The parents were truly empowered and led their children in all the activities set forth."

"I was asked to be the father partner presenter and I have never been one to turn something new down," said Robert. "While I know participants took so much away from this group, as a presenter I took just as much away. **I learned that I need to slow down.** Let my son take the lead; let him take control and I need to follow his lead, just as we coached the parents." **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**



Each week families were put into a drawing for a lottery. Ryker is showing off the prize basket that his family received.

MONTHLY GIVING SINCE 2007 REFLECTS OEM'S INVESTMENT IN A STRONG FUTURE WORKFORCE

"By supporting Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, we are supporting our future," says Kelly Ingli, President/Chief Financial Officer at OEM Fabricators. "It is very important for when we look at the future—eventually these kids are going to be grown up and contributing members to society. They need a baseline to be successful."

OEM Fabricators, a manufacturer located in Woodville, was founded in 1986 by Mark Tyler and Jim Hauschild, both of whom have served on Family Resource Center's Board of Directors. Mark Tyler is currently on the board and is the incoming president. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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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NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



As COVID-19 cases continue to surge our Family Resource Center Team is doing its best to serve families, stay safe and contain the spread. While we yearn for normalcy, we continue to demonstrate ingenuity in creating the new normal. We look to 2021 with hope.

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in a Parents as Teachers national conference virtual session about *COVID-19 and Early Childhood*, led by Wisconsin pediatrician Dipesh Nasvaria. An associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Dr. Nasvaria also serves on the board of Parents as Teachers National Center. He encouraged us to pay attention to the emerging scientific findings and to demonstrate calm, caring, and confident compassion for everyone who is "postponing life" during this difficult time.

Dr. Nasvaria shared an excerpt of an article he had written early in the pandemic, posing that limiting social interaction during this challenging time is an expression of love: "This, ultimately, is love. Love for our fellow humans that we may not know, nor ever meet. Love that we care for their well-being, their existence and their contribution to our society. It makes me happy to see that. These threats do not single out political affiliation, race, ethnicity, sex, religion or immigration status. They are human-endangering and require a human-protecting response. When we protect all, we PROTECT ALL."

TRANSITIONS

Jeena Norenberg joined us in September as Office Manager/Program Administration Coordinator. Earlier in her career Jeena served as a parent educator at Family Resource Center. Jill Cordova joined our parent educator team in September and recently became certified in the Parents as Teachers home visiting model! Welcome Jeena and Jill. We were sad to see parent educator Erin Knegeendorf leave us this fall to pursue new opportunities.

On behalf of the staff and board, thank you to Tony Gould for serving as 2020 president of the board. Tony was always there for guidance and counsel—especially as we navigated all the decisions surrounding COVID. Welcome to incoming president Mark Tyler who will take the reins in January.

We are delighted to welcome Julie Foss to the Family Resource Center Board of Directors. Julie is the Vice President of Finance and Accounting at at Nolato Contour in Baldwin. A mother and grandmother, Julie and her husband reside in Clear Lake.

Our year end appeal was sent out in early November. Thanks to all who have donated so generously. Your support helps us strengthen children, families, and communities in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties.

Be well, stay safe, and Happy New Year,

Agnes Ring, Executive Director



Welcome, Julie Foss!



CALENDAR FOR WINTER 2021 GROUPS

ALL IN-PERSON GROUP CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AS PRECAUTION DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



WHAT PROGRAMMING IS AVAILABLE?

Check out our website and Facebook for the most up to date programming information! All of our programming is virtual.

Registration is required which is found on our website under the REGISTER TODAY! tab.

Jan 6	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Jan 11	Discussion Group: Dealing with Disobedience	10:00-11:30 am
Jan 12	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Jan 13	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Jan 14	Informed Workshop: Coping with Stress	10:00- 11:30 am
Jan 16	Informed Workshop: Coping with Stress	4:00-5:30 pm
Jan 19	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Jan 20	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Jan 21	Discussion Group: Dealing with Disobedience	4:00-5:30 pm
Jan 27	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Jan 28	Seminar: The Power of Parenting	4:00-5:30 pm
Jan 29	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Feb 2	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Feb 2	Informed Workshop: Tantrums	4:00-5:30 pm
Feb 3	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Feb 9	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Feb 9	Discussion Group: Developing Bedtime Routines	4:00- 5:30 pm
Feb 10	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Feb 11	Informed Workshop: Tantrums	10:00-11:30 am
Feb 16	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Feb 17	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Feb 18	Discussion Group: Developing Bedtime Routines	4:00-5:30 pm
Feb 23	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Feb 24	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Feb 25	Seminar: Raising Confident, Competent Children	4:00-5:30 pm
Mar 2	ECE FAST Group Connection	9:30-11:00 am
Mar 3	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Mar 4	Discussion Group: Managing Fighting & Agression	10:00-11:30 am
Mar 9	Discussion Group: Managing Fighting & Agression	10:00-11:30 am
Mar 10	Baby & Me	10:00-10:45 am or 5:30-6:15 pm
Mar 18	Informed Workshop: Balancing Work & Family	10:00-11:30 am
Mar 23	Informed Workshop: Balancing Work & Family	4:00-5:30 pm
Mar 25	Seminar: Raising Resilient Children	4:00-5:30 pm



(NEW PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"I was blown away with the amount we could accomplish in just an hour and half each week," Elizabeth says. **"This program really helps you see the world through your child's eyes.** It helps you understand how your child learns so you can cater to them and their way of learning."

"I got a little teary-eyed hearing the affirmations at graduation and how powerful they are," said Jillian. "This is something every parent needs to hear."

"It doesn't end at graduation," says Elizabeth. "The families will continue to be involved together. They will still meet for support – weekly or monthly." Families will continue to participate in follow-up meetings, run by the families, for 2 years.

"It was truly an awesome experience all around," commented Michelle. "A good team will make any program. Working with Ashley, Jill, Robert and Liz was such a wonderful experience and it showed every week when we were together, how we worked together so well in hosting a program that the parents and children were engaged in virtually."

"Families were surprised that their children were able to sit in front of their screens and take so much away from the program, "said Ashley. "While our lives have had to pivot in the last 9 months, **Family Resource Center will continue to meet the needs in our community and help support children and families in any way that we can.**" At the end of the training process Ashley will be designated as a FAST Trainer, certified to train facilitators in other FAST programs.

JOIN US...

Registration for our next session, starting in January is open! Register today by going to our website: www.frscv.org/register-today.

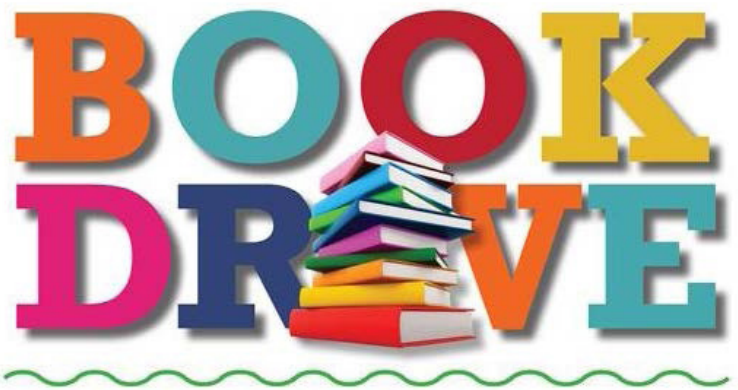
(MONTHLY GIVING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Dating back to 2007, OEM has provided monthly financial support to Family Resource Center. According to Kelly, OEM believes in the mission and recognizes the link between early childhood education and parenting support and developing a strong future workforce.

Programming that Family Resource Center offers to communities in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties promotes positive parenting practices, encourages nurturing behavior and increases parents' knowledge of child development. **Access to high quality learning in the early years is essential.** By age 3, there can be a 30-million-word gap between children from a language-rich environment and language poor environment. Research shows this vocabulary gap leads to delays in kindergarten readiness.

"Mark Tyler has always preached to his Team Members that if you invest early, the payback is much greater," says Kelly. "His passion has shifted to all of his Team Members as well. **It feels good to support our Team Members' families, the community, and our future.**"

Giving monthly is the most efficient and cost-effective way to support Family Resource Center. If your business is interested in learning more about supporting Family Resource Center's work in



SHARE THE MAGIC OF READING WITH CHILDREN IN WESTERN WISCONSIN!

Donate new or gently used board books for children ages 0–6 years. We are looking for diversity themed books but will accept any! All books donated go straight into the hands of the families in our home visiting program. Book drive will end December 31!

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Baldwin Public Library

400 Cedar St, Baldwin

Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley

857 Main St, Baldwin

Glenwood City Library

127 Pine St, Glenwood City

Luck Public Library

301 Main St S, Luck

Thrivent Financial Offices

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CALLING ALL PROFESSIONALS!

Join us for "Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work." Protective Factors is a research-based approach to preventing child abuse and neglect, strengthening families, and promoting optimal child development.

Participants will learn about 5 Protective Factors that build strong families and everyday strategies that will change how they work with families and improve outcomes for children.

This virtual workshop runs every Thursday from January 21 – February 25. Register on our website!



Thank you FNC Bank for your continued support to families right here in Western Wisconsin!

Thank you United Way for donating two cases of apples for families enrolled in home visiting.



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. (Gifts received August 1 – October 31, 2020).

Honor and memorial gifts received from November 1 – January 31, 2021 will be recognized in the Spring edition of our Family Matters newsletter.

Memorial gifts will be directed to the Bright Futures Long-Term Fund unless otherwise requested by the donor.

In honor of Keri Fitts
Kristin Thompson

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

In honor of the marriage of Lily Cohen and Thomas Vanasse
Agnes Ring and Mark Vanasse

Thank you Comfort Quilters for your donation of quilts! We are grateful for your longtime support!



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.frscv.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

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