

Better Tomorrows

An Annual Stewardship Publication of Family & Children's Center **2013**

Meet Jason Marco

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Family & Children's Center
Better Tomorrows Start With Us

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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Walking the Talk

Self-help author and speaker Wayne Dyer says children see what you're all about by what you live rather than what you say. There's a lot of truth in that simple observation.

Look around: you'll probably find people doing a lot of talking. We talk about wanting safer communities, more productive workplaces and healthier homes for our children. We talk about ending cycles of abuse, reducing the number of dropouts and improving mental health. Those conversations are important, but even more important is what are we doing to realize those desires.

In this report, you'll read about people who are living their talk. People who say they want better tomorrows and are creating them. People who say they want to give troubled kids a chance and are building the pathways to do so. People who say they want to stop child abuse and are supporting programming to make that happen.

Because of people like that, people like you — who provide time, expertise and financial support; who help us develop evidence-based programming to serve the unique needs of families and communities; who collaborate with us formally and informally — we are able to help countless children and families realize their better tomorrows. We are able to walk our talk.

This community report is dedicated to all of you who act on the words you say, who live out your lives in ways that truly will lead to better tomorrows — and make it possible for us to do the same.



With gratitude,

Mike Boehm
President and CEO

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Better Tomorrows

Better Tomorrows is published by Family & Children's Center for friends and supporters of our mission. To learn more about the center's services and community impact, or to inquire about making a charitable gift, please visit us at fconline.org or call the Development Office at (608) 785-0001 ext. 235.

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Wally & Jean Susdorf: Every Little Thing Matters

They may be a simple combination of flour, eggs and sugar, but the cakes coming out of Jean Susdorf's kitchen represent so much more. For the recipients — children and teens in Family & Children's Center's residential programs — the cakes demonstrate that someone really cares about them, that they do matter.

Unlike most kids, many in residential services cannot take those sentiments for granted. For many, it's the first birthday cake they've ever had.

It all began 30 years ago when a colleague introduced Wally Susdorf, Jean's husband, to Family & Children's Center. Wally, a Central High School administrator, had a natural affinity for kids and a sincere desire to see them grow into productive, happy adults.

"I was in the young people business," he says. "I liked Family & Children's Center's vision for young people and their mission to help them. They give kids a chance."

Jean liked the center, too, and immediately saw a place where she could help. The nurse and mother of five had earlier formed a group known as the Cake Ladies who baked birthday cakes for children at St. Michael's Orphanage in La Crosse, Wis. St. Michael's had closed in 1982. This was her chance to revive the Cake Ladies and she took it.

That was in 1984, and since that time, Jean has worked with around 150 other community women to bake more than 600 cakes for the kids at Family & Children's Center — each one greeted with a big smile by the birthday child.

But Jean's work with the Cake Ladies is really just a small part of the Susdorfs story with Family & Children's Center. Both Wally and Jean have served two terms each on the board of directors. Donors since the 1980s, they were the first to donate to The Children's

Fund when it began in 2002. They've also volunteered to help at special events and are to credit for the many baskets of tools and practical household items that the center has successfully auctioned over the years.

Wally says they support Family & Children's Center because he and Jean have faith in its leadership and mission, employing thrift and vision at the same time. "I like the way they do business. I like them being open to outside voices. They're going the right direction — both for kids and the community."

Jean agrees, saying Family & Children's Center is filling a gap. "It's so rewarding to see now what they're doing with the gifts. They have so much to offer."

With that last statement, Jean may just as easily be speaking of Wally and herself. They have much to offer and have been doing it for the community for decades. It may seem basic, even simple, to them. But like the Cake Ladies' creations, every little thing means so much to so many.



The Road to Better Tomorrows: The Marcos' Journey

Linda and Jason Marco* know the power of anger. The mother and son have seen how anger can destroy property, opportunities, relationships and families.

Widely considered a secondary emotion, anger is often what emerges from more vulnerable feelings, such as hurt, fear, rejection. It's a powerful survival tool, a basic human instinct, but one that can inflict devastation.

The Marcos' experience with anger began when Jason was in elementary school. Though his parents divorced, Jason's dad was an important presence in the young boy's life. Suddenly, before Jason's tenth birthday, that all changed. His dad left the U.S. for his home country, and all communication between Jason and him, as well as that between Jason and his half siblings and cousins, ceased.

Not that everything was great before his dad left. His dad had

abused his mother — in multiple ways and in front of Jason — for years before.



Linda tried her best under the circumstances. Already having been diminished by the abuse,

she lacked the confidence and strength to handle Jason's growing belligerence. When Jason wanted something, he knew that he just had to outlast his mother and he would get it. Linda realized what was happening but felt powerless to stand up to Jason's relentless badgering.

The chaos heightened, and following the example his father had set, Jason began physically and verbally abusing Linda, destroying property and nearly their relationship in the process.

After several calls to law enforcement from Linda, and Jason building a juvenile criminal record, social workers intervened and placed Jason in a group home at age 14. Still, Jason wasn't improving. He wanted to go home, and he and Linda tried it, but nothing had changed.

"I told people I didn't care about anything, but I did," says Jason, admitting he felt "angry, depressed, defiant."

In his second stint in the group home, Jason began asking a friend about Family & Children's Center's youth home. His friend had spent time

there and spoke highly of it. Most importantly, it had worked.

Truly wanting better tomorrows, Jason appealed to his social worker to get him to Family & Children's Center. The social worker made it happen and Jason began living at Family & Children's Center's youth home where he also received a range of other services, including outpatient therapy.

He was surprised at the relative calm he experienced at the Family & Children's Center youth home. The whole experience was structured and consistent. Rewards were earned, and it was positive behavior — not aggression — that got Jason what he wanted.

Equally important, Jason saw himself in others there. "I saw kids there who argued for no reason. I saw it third person and realized I didn't want to be that way," he says. "I wanted to be a better person. I wanted to do what I needed to get home. I had slip-ups here and there, but I fixed them."

It wasn't just Jason who had to fix things, however. Linda is quick to admit that she had to change as well. "It was a change for me to say 'no' and mean it. All this time, I had been enabling Jason. I had to learn to hold firm," she says. "If I didn't do anything, what would I be teaching him?"

The two began rebuilding their

relationship with an eye toward the day Jason would return home for good. It started with weekend visits home. In the beginning, the visits ended badly, with both Linda and Jason returning to their ingrained ways and Linda calling Family & Children's Center to come and get Jason early.

"I'd always say 'sorry' the next day," says Jason, "but I knew it was going to happen again."

After his home visits, Jason felt guilty, not just for how he treated his mother, but for the fact that he had a family to go to — something many of the other youth home residents didn't have.

The brief visits, however — and looking forward to them — served to remind both Linda and Jason what they were working toward.

"I kept thinking that if she weren't here, I wouldn't be going home. I'd have no home to go to. I learned to appreciate her," says Jason.

Together with Family & Children's Center, Jason and Linda worked on joint goals for becoming a healthy family. They also established ground rules to guide what happens when either is upset, ground rules that called for a cooling off period and reminders of what's at stake.

After 366 days — he knows the exact number — Jason returned home for good, and both mother and son say it's never been better.

"It made me feel good about myself to accomplish it," says Jason. "I

got pushed there in a good way. I got more focused on what I really want."

And what Jason really wants is a loving relationship with his mother, one that sets the foundation for him to have his own family one day. He also wants to be a counselor. "I want to work with kids who are going through what I went through. I've seen the difference counseling can make. I feel good about myself — accomplished, happy."

Linda, eyes filled with tears, observes those changes. Her son has transformed from a suffering, angry, depressed child to a mature, confident, appreciative young man who takes responsibility for his actions. "I am proud. I see a promising future for him."

While Linda ultimately attributes their progress to Jason's determination, she says their better tomorrows started with Family & Children's Center. "I've seen the structure there, the support. They know about each of the kids and their families, their home lives. They gave us that stepping stone, that push. They did us a lot of good."

Today, six months after being reunited at home for good, anger has found its place at the Marcos' — in the past. Vulnerability has found a safety net. Commitment to each other and to better tomorrows prevails. For the Marcos' home now is characterized by something far more powerful than anger. It's a home ruled by respect, by love, by hope.

**Names changed to protect privacy.*

Transforming Lives Across the Region



Bridges Day Treatment Receives Playground

In Spring 2013, donor Jane Biesanz, with the help of many friends, raised funds to purchase a playground set for the Bridges Early Childhood Day Treatment program in Winona.

Bridges provides intensive, therapeutic services in a safe and supportive environment to children ages three to six years old who may have had traumatic histories, struggle to interact with peers or follow directions, have difficulty

maintaining safe behaviors or trusting adults and asking for help. The program aims to help the preschool-aged children practice safe interactions and develop coping skills to manage difficult emotions.

The new playground equipment allows a safe place for youth in the program to practice interacting with their peers, while getting exercise and learning to follow basic directions from adults. It offers an active and safe outlet to youth who may not otherwise have access to safe community parks.



Jane Biesanz and Family & Children's Center's President/CEO Mike Boehm formally opened the playground in May 2013.

A Commitment to Trauma-Informed Care

Family & Children's Center staff are now trained to create family-integrated treatment plans that take traumatic experiences into consideration. Renovation projects at the Weston Street facility have begun to support this new priority. Donor Rob VanCraenebroeck and his family generously provided all of the furniture and materials needed for what they named the Education Suite and Rainforest Room.

The Education Suite was completely remodeled and each detail was chosen based on how our children think, act and feel. The room includes a homework area, a quiet reading corner, and an area for youth to watch educational DVDs. There are shelves of educational board games and books for all ages. Artwork done by and for the children decorates the walls.

With the help of a talented local artist, we were able to create a rainforest-themed room in our Residential Treatment program that has so far left our kids with a sense of amazement. In addition to the visual sensations, the kids that use the Rainforest Room will find there are manipulative objects that range from small, handheld, textured toys to large blankets, chairs, and hammocks that fulfill all sensory needs. A large area of a wall is covered in chalkboard paint allowing kids to write and draw on the wall.

So far the kids' reactions to the rooms have been overwhelmingly joyful. The Education Suite has helped the children focus on strengthening their study skills



and broadening their knowledge base, while the Rainforest Room is meeting their sensory needs in ways that our program had never been able to before.

Staff are already seeing the positive impact on kids' abilities to regulate themselves prior to and after periods of extreme stress and emotion. We are eager to promote opportunities for youth to succeed academically, as well as to achieve success through high-quality treatment.



Above: The Education Suite and the Rainforest Room have had a positive impact on the residents of Family & Children's Center's Weston Youth Home.

Staff Profile: Lisa Johnson and the Weston Garden

A critical component to Family & Children’s Center’s success is its staff. They represent the most skilled and talented professionals the area has to offer. And Lisa Johnson is no exception. Lisa – a program aide for Alternative Education and Residential Treatment in La Crosse – found a way to turn her gardening hobby into a highly successful therapeutic tool for the youth living at the Weston Street facility.

Since 1998, Lisa has taken it upon herself to plant and maintain a large garden at the center’s facility where kids with significant behavioral and mental health issues live. Most of the children have experienced trauma and as a result need intensive support and supervision that cannot be

provided in a traditional family setting. Lisa has creatively designed programming that incorporates everything the garden has to offer.



In the summer, the kids spend at least one hour each day with Lisa in the garden learning about how plants grow and change, the role of insects and the frequent animal visitors. They even harvest the produce for daily meals.

“My motivation for maintaining the garden is really the kids,” says Lisa. “They really enjoy it. So many kids have never had the experience and the responsibility of working in a garden. It’s great to see their excitement about all the activities we do with the garden.”

Gardening has always been a hobby for Lisa. She uses the garden as a stress reliever if she is feeling tense or troubled by the kids’ difficult cases.

Other Weston staff spend time helping Lisa maintain the garden: pulling weeds, planting, watering, and using the garden to help the kids learn about the environment.

Many hours of Lisa’s day are spent tending to the garden. She says, “Spring always comes; this is a never-ending project.”

Camp Coulee Continues to Expand

Camp Coulee is an eight-week summer day camp specifically designed for youth ages six to 17 with emotional and behavioral challenges. Camp Coulee is the only camp in the area designed to work with at-risk youth.

Originally created to fill the gap in services for this population during the summer when school is not in session, the camp supports their campers through the development of skills needed to build healthy relationships, behavioral and emotional control and positive thinking. Each week, campers will focus on one social skill while building on the skills from previous weeks. Our specially trained Camp Coulee leaders, effective programming and facilities work to create a safe, fun and magical environment for campers, resulting in everlasting friendships and memories!

Camp Coulee includes field trips, sports and recreation, arts and crafts, service projects and outdoor, nature-based activities. This year family nights were also incorporated into Camp Coulee! Summer 2013 marked the camp’s third year of operation.



Viroqua Drop-in Center Offers Fun, Substance-Free Socialization

Family & Children’s Center in Viroqua opened its drop-in center, The Other Door, for public use in May 2013. The Other Door grew from local resident and Family & Children’s Center staff member John Cox’s desire to provide alternative places to socialize.

The drop-in center first opened in September 2012 for consumers in the community support program (CSP). CSP is a county-funded program facilitated by Family & Children’s Center. It provides coordinated care for individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness who are having difficulty coping with the ordinary demands of life. Through intensive case-management, participants are able to live independently in their community.



John Cox, community support program staff and leader of the drop-in center.

A venture grant from the Great Rivers United Way provided the start-up funding for the drop-in center. And now, thanks to an annual grant from the Great Rivers United Way, the drop-in center is open year-round and for anybody needing positive social networking opportunities, particularly individuals living with persistent mental illness or recovering from substance addiction. The Other Door offers educational, self-help, socialization or daily living programs covering a range of topics. Nearly 20 individuals use the center each week.

An important component to recovery for individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness is healthy socialization with peers. Studies have overwhelmingly demonstrated that individuals

who learn and engage in pro-social activities are better able to build social support systems that promote and enhance their own recovery and assist in allowing them to better manage their mental health needs long term.

The need for a drop-in center was recognized by the lack of safe, substance-free recreation in the Viroqua community. Most options for recreation and socialization take place in settings that serve alcohol or require an admission fee. CSP participants may be in recovery from a substance abuse disorder and often have limited incomes, so present recreational options are not ideal. Family & Children’s Center’s drop-in center fulfills this need.

A Letter from a Grateful Parent

Dear staff at Family & Children’s Center,

I can’t thank all of you enough! You have been there for our daughter when we couldn’t. I never thought our lives would include one of our children living in a group home, but it did, and you all have made a difference. Thank you for being tough on her when she needed it, and showing sympathy and being kind when she needed that also. So often I think of how she was as a child, and wish everyone else could remember that. She was the sweetest, most softhearted child. She still is! We have a lot to work on but we’ll get there. Thank you for the help on this long, hard journey we’ve been on!”

Sincerely,

~ Lori and Randy S.

True Blue for Child Abuse Prevention

Healthy Families Celebrates 20 Years of Success

Child abuse has been prevented in more than 1,000 local families since 1992 when Healthy Families was first brought to La Crosse.

Family & Children's Center's (FCC) Healthy Families program was one of the first seven in the continental United States.

Utilizing a proven model created by Prevent Child Abuse America, the program is successful at preventing child abuse in families with new babies that are struggling with stressors like poverty, mental illness, social isolation and childhood trauma.

Families are screened prenatally or at the birth of a child at local hospitals and then matched with a home visitor at FCC who comes weekly in the first year to provide parent education, connection to community resources (including well-baby health care exams), child development assessment and assistance for parents to set goals to improve their overall stability. Visits can continue until the child enters kindergarten. The program was proven 98 percent successful at preventing child abuse in a study done by Viterbo University.

The program's success is possible only because of ongoing support from many community partners. The program operates almost entirely on community contributions because very few public dollars are available for prevention services locally. Yet preventing problems costs only a fraction of dealing with later consequences. One year of services in Healthy Families for one family costs less than \$3,000; one year in a residential foster care placement for one child can cost up to \$100,000.

The real savings, though, comes in saving lives. Families once homeless now own homes. Parents who never graduated high school now have college degrees.

Children with developmental delays still start preschool ready to learn. These are just a few of the better tomorrows families have achieved with help from Healthy Families.

Hope Academy Maintains 100% Graduation Rate

The United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the developed world. Nearly three in 10 girls in our country become pregnant before the age of 20. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 60 percent of these young women will not

graduate high school, and less than two percent of those who have babies before age 18 will finish college by age 30.

In La Crosse, Hope Academy paints a much better picture for teen moms. Hope Academy provides a family literacy program where pregnant and parenting teens can complete a high school credential and learn how to raise a healthy child. By serving two generations simultaneously, Hope Academy ensures the long-term self-sufficiency and parenting capacity of teen parents and the healthy growth and development of their babies.

Since 2008, the program has sustained a 100 percent graduation rate for its 33 students, and what is even more impressive is that more than 85 percent of those students have gone on to pursue higher education.

Hope Academy merged with Family & Children's Center in January 2013. Its comprehensive wrap-around approach to working with a very high-risk population for child abuse and neglect was a perfect fit with the center's mission.

Babies born to teens are at risk because young parents are uncertain about their roles and may be frustrated by the constant demands of caretaking. Hope Academy prevents child abuse through parent education, modeling and explicit child development instruction.



The 2013 graduates of Hope Academy, Nicole Cox, Tessa Meikins, Samantha Gudgeon, and Kylie Horton. Not pictured: Amber Fricke.

As the 2012 co-beneficiary, Karina Kujawa, Matty's Place family advocate, accepts a check from Carol Girard, co-founder of REACH.



Walking to Reach Everyone and Choose Hope

The 2012 Tour of Hope held in September by R.E.A.C.H. (Reach Everyone And Choose Hope) was a four-day journey at Lake Park in Winona. Marie Barrientos and Carol Girard, co-founders of R.E.A.C.H., walked 14 hours each day in honor of the 14 children killed in Minnesota in 2010 from child maltreatment.

Marie and Carol invited friends and other individuals passionate about child abuse prevention to walk, too. In fact, they didn't stop to rest unless someone else was walking in their place! Through pledges, sponsorships and a community garage sale, the 2012 tour provided more than \$6,400 to Matty's Place, Family & Children's Center's children's advocacy center in Winona.

R.E.A.C.H. is a local non-profit organization focused on child abuse prevention and awareness. Established in 2005, the organization has donated a total of \$29,855.45 to local organizations working to increase awareness and prevent child abuse. Learn more at reacheveryoneandchoosehope.weebly.com.



Partnering in Support of Strong Families

The Robert and Eleanor Franke Charitable Foundation is partnering with Family & Children's Center in our mission to strengthen families in the community. Thanks to a matching grant from the Franke Foundation, gifts to this year's spring appeal were doubled.

Annual gifts collected through the spring appeal help provide the strong base of support that enables Family & Children's Center to continue to work towards the end of child abuse in the La Crosse community.

Here in the Coulee Region, there has been great progress to improve the health and well-being of families with young children. But the turbulent economy and constant human service budget cuts are threats that could derail efforts at a time when families need help the most.

Family & Children's Center extends a warm thank you to the Franke Foundation—and other community-minded private funders—who have made a commitment to fund solutions that bring about healthier individuals, better family lives and brighter futures for everyone.

200+ Blue Kids Putting an End to Child Abuse in Winona

Did you see the Matty's Place Blue Kid signs covering the lawn at Family & Children's Center in Winona in May? These Blue Kids represented the hundreds of children at risk of child abuse in Winona. Each sign was sponsored by a friend or community partner who believes child abuse has no place in our community.

More than \$4,700 was collected through Blue Kids sponsorships in 2013. Proceeds support Matty's Place children's advocacy center where community agencies work as a team to care for abused children and support families.



BECAUSE CHILD ABUSE HAS NO PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY

It shouldn't happen here, but it does. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18. Many of them will suffer lifetime consequences. All of them are forever changed.

These companies have had enough. They partnered with Family & Children's Center in 2012 and 2013 to become True Blue by sponsoring programs that give children better tomorrows.

The children thank them. We thank them. We hope you thank them, too.

True Blue companies

- Allergy Associates of La Crosse
- Allstate Insurance – Jim Wickizer
- Dahl Automotive
- Gundersen Health System
- La Crosse Graphics
- La Crosse Mail & Print Solutions
- Logistics Health Inc.
- Merchants Bank - Onalaska
- Misty's Dance Unlimited
- Modern Crane
- Three Rivers Technologies
- Three Sixty Real Estate Solutions
- Travel Leaders – Goli's Avenues of Travel
- Trust Point Inc.
- US Bank Corp.
- UnWine'd
- Waterfront Restaurant & Tavern
- Wipfli LLP
- WKBT News 8
- Xcel Energy



Become a Treatment Foster Care Parent



TFC Parents play an important role in a child's life. Their primary task is to temporarily care and nurture a child until plans can be made for the child's future. However, providing treatment to children within a stable family setting involves much more.

Treatment Foster Parents help children develop positive self-esteem and communication skills, modify behavior patterns, and identify and express feelings appropriately. In addition, they participate in treatment team meetings and provide written documentation about each child's progress.

To obtain an application package, please call (608) 785-0001.

A Continuum of Care

The growing challenges facing families in our communities are real and are more complicated than ever before. The number of families living with mental illness, child abuse and neglect, social isolation, addiction, and poverty are increasing. These difficulties permeate our schools and workplaces and impact everything from safety and crime rates to societal productivity and taxes. To minimize that impact, Family & Children’s Center seeks to intervene as early as possible, adapting our proven, integrated programs and services to rescue struggling children, youth, adults and families and strengthen entire communities.



Our Mission

Family & Children’s Center serves children, families and individuals with a continuum of services designed to strengthen families and promote individual well-being.

Our Vision

To be the leading provider of human services in western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota: through quality, access and service.

Our Values

- Excellence:** We are committed to providing the highest quality services to our consumers, employees and community.
- Innovation:** We continually strive to improve our services and operations, focusing on current and future needs.
- Respect:** We treat all people with courtesy, thoughtfulness, honesty and kindness.
- Responsibility:** We are accountable for our actions to ourselves, others and the communities we serve.
- Responsiveness:** We develop services based on community needs and work collaboratively with communities and consumers to continually evaluate changing conditions and adjust our services accordingly.

Gifts of Tomorrow

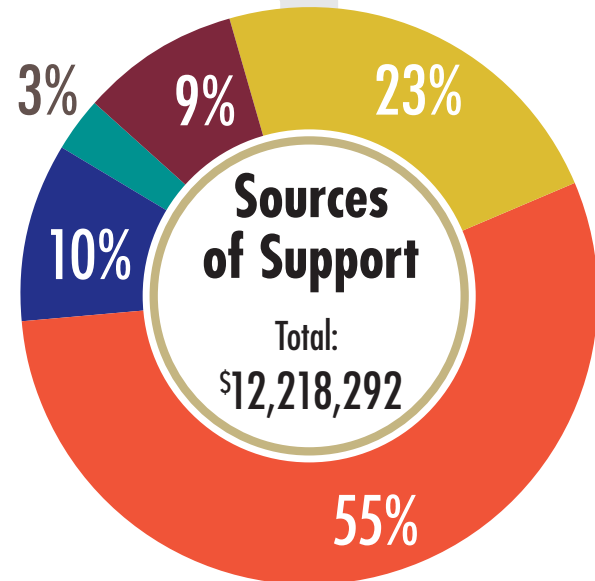
Through Family & Children’s Center’s planned giving programs, you can partner your financial goals with your personal values to bring better tomorrows to children, families and the community — all while improving your financial and tax situation today.

To explore the options that work best for you, contact Family & Children’s Center at 608-785-0001, extension 257, or sbattison@fccnetwork.org.

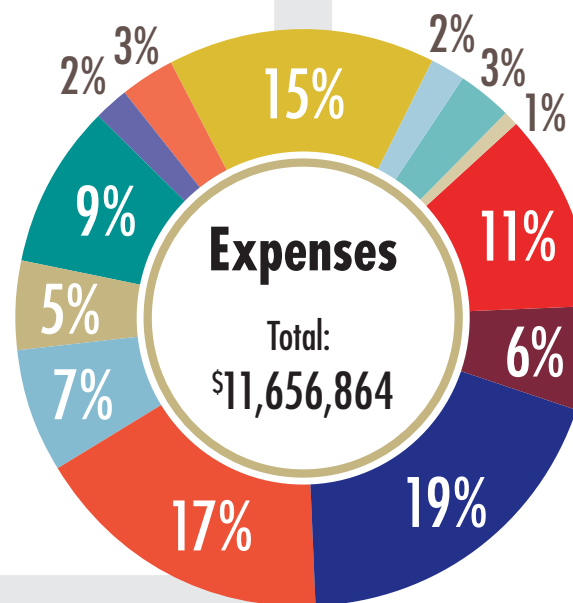
2012 Annual Report

Financial Highlights

\$1,093,103 Contributions (Public Support)
 \$2,817,483 Program & Service Fees
 \$6,711,960 State & County Agencies
 \$1,263,080 School Districts
 \$332,666 Rentals & Investments (Gains/Losses)



\$223,779 Healthy Families
 \$334,488 Youth Homes
 \$93,886 Intensive In-home
 \$1,282,360 Residential Treatment
 \$767,522 Treatment Foster Care
 \$2,230,169 Alternative Education/Day Treatment
 \$2,017,384 Community Support Programs
 \$809,223 Outpatient Counseling
 \$572,828 Hiawatha Hall
 \$1,073,060 Other Community Outreach Programs
 \$198,437 Development & Fundraising
 \$351,468 Occupancy
 \$1,702,260 Management & Other

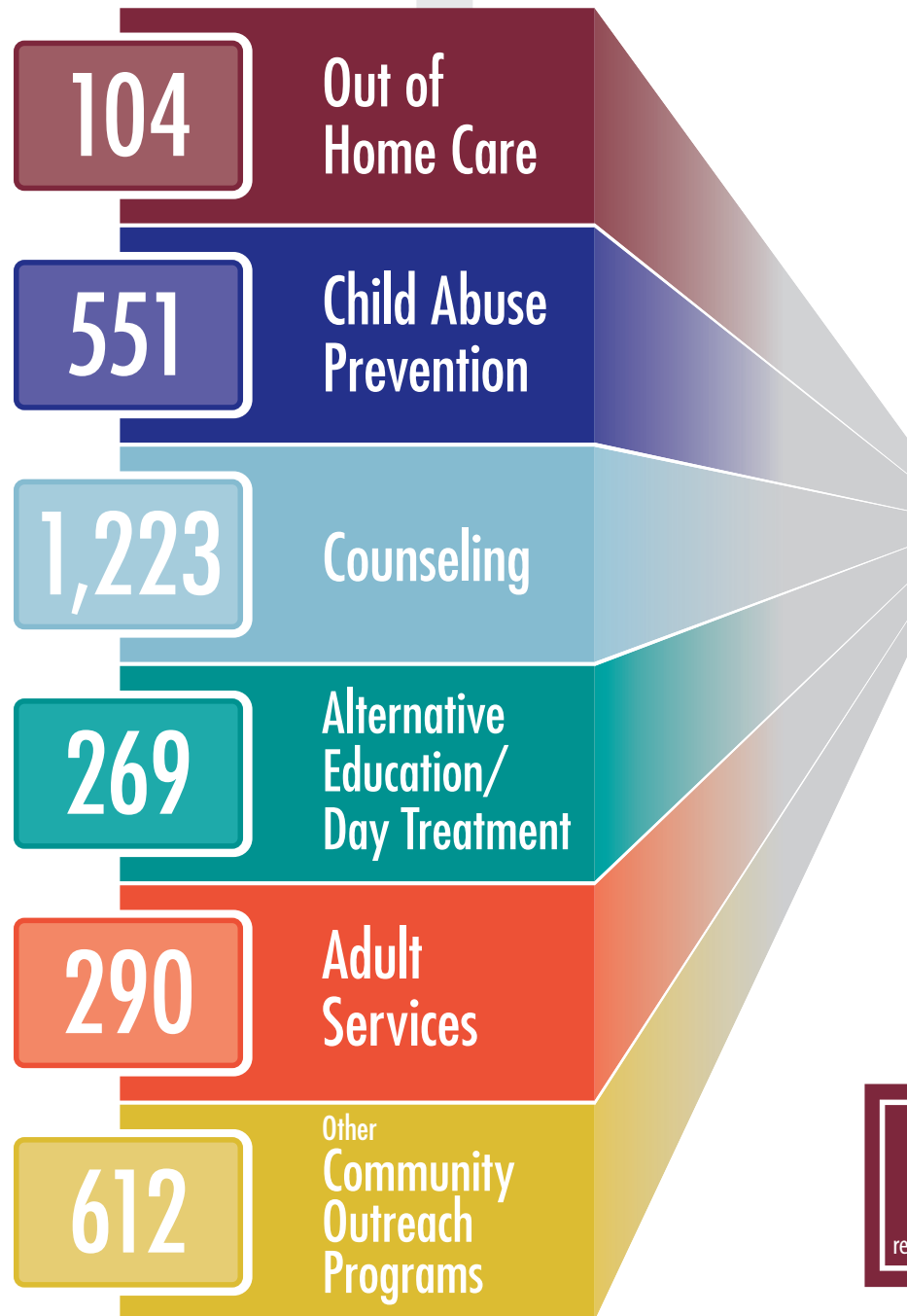


6
Locations

246
Staff

170
Volunteers

3049
Total number of people served.*



Program Outcomes

36 Children
in Residential Treatment and the Youth Home were discharged to less restrictive settings.

31% of Children
transition back to traditional school from Alternative Education.

197 Children
were interviewed at one of FCC's Children's Advocacy Centers.

\$1,088,024
in tax payer dollars was saved in Healthy Families.

14 Consumers
in Supported Employment found a job or were enrolled in school.

100%
of Hope Academy seniors graduated high school.

62%
of Youth Night Campus participants did not reoffend once in the program.

100%
of families in the Healthy Families program.

*Some clients utilize more than one program at any given time

Our Board of Directors

The community volunteers who serve on Family & Children's Center's Board of Directors are our most committed ambassadors and advocates. They share their time, talent and treasure to ensure the center's success in every area: strategy, programs, personnel and finances.

Board Spotlight - Laura Eddy



Residing in Winona, Minn., Laura Eddy is a partner and co-owner of Crescendo Consulting, LLP, specializing in raising funds for municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for construction, renovation and programming projects. Laura has also worked in medical sales, advertising sales, and volunteered at many different organizations including the Winona Community Foundation, the YMCA, the YWCA and Family & Children's Center. Laura and her husband were blessed with a family, raised with love and healthy emotional support, and she would like to help provide those opportunities to children and families who may not be as fortunate.

Why do you believe in the mission of FCC?

I believe in the mission of strengthening families and promoting individual well-being because strong families and healthy individuals make a strong community. Every child deserves to have a childhood that provides them with emotional well-being to realize their greatest potential. If their family is strong, they will grow and thrive.

How do you see the impact of FCC's programs in our community?

FCC has programs that help a child from before they are born until they are adults. When children can get the help they need during their most influential periods in life, they can have a chance to live full and productive lives. If we take care of the emotional needs of children, we won't have expensive social issues to take care of later.

Why should others support FCC?

Anyone considering a gift should know that FCC is a good steward of their funds, they work collaboratively with communities and other services and they focus on future needs. A gift to FCC is a gift to your community!

2012-2013 Board of Directors

- Tyler Dahl, CHAIR
Dahl Automotive
- Jim Warren, VICE CHAIR
Community Volunteer
- Mike Boehm, PRESIDENT/CEO
Family & Children's Center
- Gary Evans, SECRETARY/TREASURER
Community Volunteer
- Jerry Arndt
Gundersen Health System
- Elizabeth Burke
Winona State University
- Eva Dahl
Endodontic Specialists of La Crosse, Ltd.
- Dave Dregne*
Kickapoo Realty & Insurance, Inc.
- Laura Eddy
Crescendo Consulting
- Tom Fitzpatrick
Fitzpatrick, Skemp & Associates, LLC
- Perian Heffner*
Winona Agency
- Linda Lyche
Community Volunteer
- Sr. Linda Mershon
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Stacey Mounce, DDS
Downtown Dental PA
- Joan Mueller*
Mayo Clinic Health System
- Tom Reinert
Community Volunteer
- Barb Skogen
Festival Foods
- Barb Slaggie*
Community Volunteer
- Suzanne Tanke*
Western Technical College
- Libby Weber
The Waterfront Restaurant & Tavern
- Kelly Hein
Community Volunteer
- Peter Hughes
Mayo Clinic Health System
- Maria Peterson
Access Commercial Real Estate
- Jeff Wieser
Wieser Brothers General Contractor

*Term expired in 2012

Giving to Family & Children's Center

An Investment With Immeasurable Returns

Supporters of Family & Children's Center bring better tomorrows to thousands of children and families in our community every year.

In fact, more than 90 cents on every dollar donated to Family & Children's Center goes straight to programming, helping struggling children build more stable futures, parents develop more cohesive families and your community enjoy more positive, safe neighborhoods.

If you'd like to become part of our life-changing mission, please consider a gift to Family & Children's Center. Giving is easy: we gratefully accept gifts of all sizes throughout the year and in whatever form works best for you.

- Gifts of cash
- Gifts of stock and real property
- Matching gifts
- Memorials
- Tributes

We also offer planned giving programs that help you optimize the financial benefits of giving.

- Bequests in wills
- Charitable lead trusts
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Retained life estate
- Life insurance
- Retirement assets

With your help, we can bring our life-changing programs to the children and families who need them most and bring better tomorrows to our whole community.

**To learn more
about how you can help,
contact Family & Children's Center
at 785-0001, extension 235, or
jschloegel@fccnetwork.org.**



Family & Children's Center

Better Tomorrows Start With Us

www.fcconline.org



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Black River Falls:

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*Family & Children's Center
serves children, families
and individuals with a continuum
of services designed to
strengthen families and promote
individual well-being.*

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