

## Interpersonal violence in marginalized communities

**I**nterpersonal violence affects every demographic and every community. However, there are some communities that are disproportionately affected by interpersonal violence or who may have greater barriers when seeking services.

### What is “interpersonal violence”?

**Interpersonal violence** involves the intentional use of physical force or power against other persons by an individual or small group of individuals. This includes domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, violence in the home.

Family Support Center’s **free and confidential services** are available to ANY-ONE experiencing interpersonal violence. In our Sexual Assault Program, **17%** of participants identified as LGBTQ+ from January-March 2023, and **14%** were from communities of color. In that same time period in our Domestic Violence Program, **12%** of participants were from communities of color, and **7%** identified as LGBTQ+.

While every survivor faces barriers that may prevent them from reporting the incident and/or seeking services, members of LGBTQ+ community face additional barriers to getting help. Additional barriers include:

- Telling someone may be harder if they are not “out” yet.
- They may not have access to services, which may be especially true of transgender survivors.
- They may feel it reflects badly on their population or that they may be unjustly viewed as the perpetrator.
- Fear of being “outed”, having their sexual orientation or gender identity disclosed without their consent. That could mean further discrimination or violence if outed to someone who is not supportive.

### Who are we talking about when we say, “marginalized communities”?

These are groups and communities that experience discrimination because of unequal power relationships (social, political and economic). Some examples include LGBTQ+, people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, and tribal communities.

People of color face unique circumstances around domestic violence, and may count for both under-reporting and hesitancy to seek services. Some barriers to services include, but are not limited to:

- Differing cultural and religious beliefs
- Strong loyalty binds to race, culture and family.
- Distrust of law enforcement, criminal justice system, and social services.
- Fear experiences will reflect on or confirm racist stereotypes.
- Legal status in the U.S. of the survivor and/or the person causing harm.
- Lack of trust based on history of racism and classism in the United States.

Family Support Center strives to present inclusive outreach materials in hopes to reach underserved communities. **Our goal is to ensure that every person**

**who has been impacted by interpersonal violence knows that we are a safe place for support services and resources.**

~Lori B.  
Resource Development Coordinator

**40** percent of gay men and **47** percent of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to **21** percent of straight men.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CDC’s National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH



From all of us at Family Support Center!

**J**une is both Elder Abuse Awareness Month and PRIDE Month. You may have heard of both in separate contexts, but it’s important to recognize that they overlap. Being LGBTQ+ does not have an age limit. LGBTQ+ adults over the age of 50 do exist: about **2.7 million**. These individuals are in our communities, families, and workplaces. They live beautiful, full lives, yet they face discrimination, oppression, prejudice, and abuse. **Family Support Center serves, supports, and accepts LGBTQ+ older adults.** Our work is intersectional and inclusive. While not all places are a safe space, we pride ourselves in being one.

Cara  
Domestic Violence Advocate

**82%** of LGBT older adults reported having been victimized at least once and **64%** reported experiencing victimization at least three times in their lives.



## Hate speech=violence

Over the past few years we have seen an increase in hate speech against LGBTQ+ folks and people of color. When people in marginalized communities become the target of hate speech, they stop being seen as humans, and instead as part of a group that is an “other”, unknown, and therefore something to fear. Once their individuality is no longer recognized, the people within that community become more vulnerable. And when a person is hypervigilant that those around them might be an “other”, every one of us is at risk of becoming a target of their hate.

One needs to look no further than recent news events: young people have been shot for knocking on a stranger’s door, turning around in someone’s driveway, and for making a simple request of their neighbor. There have been shootings at places of worship, schools, malls, and movie theatres. The fear of the unknown that has been nurtured and empowered has horrific consequences throughout the United States, including our own community.

At Family Support Center, our goals are not only to save lives and heal childhood trauma, but also to create a healthy community through anti-violence work. We partner with many local organizations in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire to work together to prevent violence in the Chippewa Valley.

**Chippewa Falls main office**  
715-723-1138 or 1-800-400-7020  
familysupport@fscf.org

**Administrative**

**Executive Director-Geri**  
**Assistant Administrator-Sue**  
**Office Manager-Glori**  
**Resource Development**  
**Coordinator-Lori**

**Domestic Violence Program**

**Domestic Violence Program**  
**Director-Jeni**  
**Domestic Violence Advocates-**  
Cara & Erica  
**Domestic Violence Youth Advocates-**  
Victoria & Krista

**River Source Family Center**

715.720.1841

**Parent Services Program Director-**  
Becce

**Parent Educator-Robin**

**Rural Family Connections Facilitator-**  
Amanda R.

**CF Family Connections Facilitator-**  
Brenda

**Chippewa Falls satellite office**

**Sexual Assault Program**

**C.F. Sexual Assault Advocates-**  
Morgan & Finn

**Human Trafficking Case Manager-**  
Kenzie

**Eau Claire offices**

715-830-0188 or 1-888-407-7811

**Sexual Assault Program**

**Sexual Assault Program Director-**  
Amanda S.

**Sexual Assault Advocate-Annette**

**UWEC CASA Victim Services**  
**Coordinator-Hannah**

**Offices within the**  
**Chippewa Falls School District**

**Violence Prevention Education**  
**Program**

**Prevention Educator-**

**Family Support & Resource**  
**Coordinator-Ellen**

**Family Crisis Support Specialist-**  
Kristin

 **You deserve to live a life**  
**free from violence**



We would like to recognize one of our premier sponsors,  
**Northwestern Bank. Where people matter.**



**April was**  
**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**



**A**pril was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), and the Sexual Assault Program (SAP) advocates from Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire planned and participated in activities around the 2023 SAAM theme, "Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity".

In the community, we co-facilitated a special SAAM installment of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library's Tough Topics Book Club, where we discussed Garrard Conley's memoir Boy Erased. Tangled Up In Hue opened their doors to a SAAM Stitch & B\*tch event where participants brought their own craftwork, or tried their hand at SAAM-related projects, including pinback button pressing, message bracelet-making, and painting rocks for the FSC Peace Garden. Some of the knitted and crocheted pieces created were then used to construct a colorful, evolving "yarn bomb" installation on the fence outside FSC's Chippewa Falls office. Tangled Up In Hue also designed a special t-shirt for SAAM,



Yarn bomb on FSC's fence!



SAAM t-shirts at Tangled Up In Hue

which is available in-store and online for the next three months, with proceeds benefitting FSC. CASA collaborated with UW-EC Gender & Sexuality Resource Center to organize an on-campus Sexual Health Fair. FSC and CASA had adjoining tables at the event and

talked to many enthusiastic attendees. Finally, we continued our partnership with UW-EC Race, Ethnicity, Gender & Sexuality Studies capstone students, mentoring two students through their final project. We also spread the word about Sexual Assault Awareness Month through our FSC social media accounts. Throughout April, we offered a "SAAM Champion Spotlight" series, highlighting the work of individuals in the Chippewa Valley and beyond who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting survivors and preventing violence by utilizing their own unique skills and platforms. Our other SAAM social media posts included an "Ask An Advocate" series, in which Advocates from SAP responded to frequently asked questions; and a series of posts exploring different aspect of this year's SAAM theme.

~Amanda S.  
Sexual Assault Program Director

*Remembering Mark Hanson*

1960-2023



Family Support Center Board and Staff are grieving the loss of Mark Hanson, who died on March 28.

Mark was a long time Board member, friend, and supporter of Family Support Center.

It is hard to believe he is gone. It seems like just yesterday he was dropping by and telling us about some new music he thought we would like! Mark lived his life with guts, grace and gratitude, and touched the lives of many in our community.

He helped our agency in so many ways -

raising money, serving as our informal liaison to law enforcement, providing advice and support, assisting with our annual fundraiser, teaching us de-escalation skills, and always being a tremendous advocate for our services. He was also just an all-around wonderful, kind human being. He always talked about how proud he was to be part of our agency. Well, we are proud he was part of us. We will miss him so much.

~Geri Segal,  
Executive Director



Joann and Mark supporting FSC at a local music event.



Here's what's happening at

# River Source Family Center!

**A**pril was Family Strengthening Month. River Source Family Center (RSFC) celebrates and strengthens families all year long, but in April, we did some extra special things for our families and community partners. We delivered thank you cards and gifts to community programs that support and celebrate families with young children. River Source had themed Family Play & Learns on Tuesdays including an egg hunt, celebrating the color blue, family game day, and pajama party! We even had a special guest reader come



Special guest author/reader, Dr. Kristin Wegner

and read her book, *Brody the Lion Needs a Haircut*, by Dr. Kristin Wegner. This story time was interactive and loved by all!

**Five for Families** celebrates how to build upon your family's strengths in five essential areas that can help you feel more confident, less stressed and better connected to your

children. For more information about Five for Families, go to: [www.FiveForFamilies.org](http://www.FiveForFamilies.org). River Source

Cutest little photobomb!



Egg hunt!

Family Center handed out blue pinwheels to families throughout Chippewa County and shared Five for Families bookmarks, magnets, decks of cards, and blocks!

We offered **Calm Down Toolbox**, an interactive workshop for grown-ups and their young children to create DIY calm down tools. This Calm Down toolbox is a place to store your child's items that can help self-regulate, regain a normal heart rate, and center themselves.

River Source Family Center has been partnering with childcare providers in Chippewa County. RSFC was able to offer working parents



Family Game Day!

with children in Family childcare a **Parenting on the Go bag**. **100 bags were given out to local families** and included age appropriate toys and activities, which promote play and positive relationships.



Parenting on the Go bag!

To wrap up Family Strengthening Month, staff from River Source Family Center attended **Healthy Kids Day** at Chippewa Falls YMCA! We had a Catching Kindness activity and handed out Five for Families Strength bracelet kits, blue stickers and decks of playing cards! We saw many families out celebrating and supporting their child's health and well-being, surrounded by supportive community resources. What a fun way to end our Family Strengthening Month!

See what we are doing this summer to celebrate children and families in our community!!



Website

~River Source staff,  
Bece, Brenda, Amanda & Robin

Ask about our **Bright Starts S.M.I.L.E. home-visiting program!**  
715.720.1841



## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We are fortunate to have volunteers who play different roles here at Family Support Center. Whether they are washing toys to keep them sanitary for our playgroups, helping with office projects, serving on our board of directors, providing childcare during Parent Café, or answering crisis calls when our office is closed, they are all vital to the work we do.

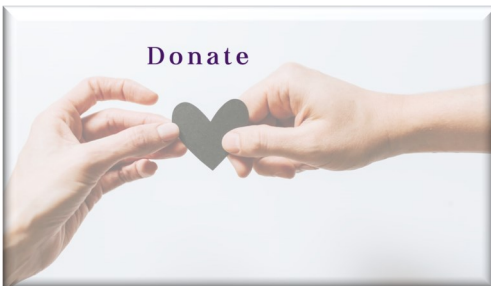
*We appreciate all you do for our agency and survivors of violence in our community!*

If you are interested in volunteering with Family Support Center, please contact Glori at [familysupport@fscf.org](mailto:familysupport@fscf.org).



### Family Support Center's spring intern graduates from UWEC

After a year of working with Family Support Center (FSC), Lauren Weis will be leaving due to her graduation from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (UWEC). She began working with FSC in 2022 as a volunteer On-Call Advocate and then joined the FSC staff as an Intern in January of 2023. She greatly enjoyed her time at FSC and loved getting to know all of the amazing advocates and staff. At UWEC, Lauren studied Psychology and received minors in Spanish and Pre-Professional Health Sciences. After graduation, Lauren plans on returning to her hometown in Madison, WI. She hopes to continue her education in graduate school studying Clinical Psychology.



Donate

## FSC FUNDING NEEDS RISE DUE TO INCREASE IN SERVICES

The need for the services Family Support Center provides has steadily increased over the past few years. Last year was no exception. In 2022, our Domestic Violence program served **20 percent more survivors** than in 2021. In that same time period, our Sexual Assault program served **25 percent more survivors**.

**In 2022 we had 3,475 calls into our main Chippewa Falls office alone.** That number does not include our CF satellite office, our two Eau Claire offices, or crisis line calls. Of those calls, **almost half** were individuals reaching out to us for the first time. The individuals reaching out to us are from our own community. Our family, friends, co-workers, and people we pass in the grocery store. And they need our help. We are working to make our community healthier and stronger, but we cannot do it alone.

**If you would like to donate to Family Support Center, send check to:**  
Family Support Center  
P.O. Box 143  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
**Or donate online at:**  
[www.FamilySupportCenterCF.com/donate](http://www.FamilySupportCenterCF.com/donate)



Family Support Center  
 P.O. Box 143  
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Family Support Center is an equal opportunity agency. Family Support Center celebrates the diversity of all people and does not discriminate in any manner on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, ability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

Family Support Center's programs are funded in part by United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.



**Thank you to those who have donated since our last newsletter!**

- Titus Women of Central Lutheran Church – Donation
- Latitude 44 Yoga – For a fundraiser at the studio for us
- 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Men, Chippewa Falls – Donation
- Chippewa Branch of AAUW
- Prevea Health Employees
- Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company
- Our Saviors Lutheran W/ELCA, Cornell
- Volunteer Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital
- Claudia Cayo – Boxes of children's craft kits & supplies and toys
- Barb Frazer – Box of toys and personal items
- Barb & Carl Wise; Michael Frank-gas cards for participants
- Our Wonderful Anonymous Donor!
- All who give donations through work programs



**Family Support Center Board of Directors**

- |                                    |  |
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**We are in need of the following items for client use.**

Please drop off items at **Family Support Center.**  
*With a little help you, too, can make a difference!*

- **Gas cards (urgent need)**
- Diapers-size 2, 3, 4 & 5's
- **Full size:** lotion, shampoo, conditioner, shave cream & body wash
- Laundry detergent
- Products for natural/Black/textured hair
- Children's shampoo & body wash
- Cleaning products
- Snacks! Whole grain crackers, cereal, applesauce, fruit cups, granola bars
- Plastic forks, napkins
- Elmer's glitter glue
- Fabric markers
- All white adult tube socks
- Fidget toys for children



Family Support Center was part of the state wide **Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive** in February sponsored by The Family Radio Network. Thank you to all who donated to this cause! This has been especially helpful for our participants with the rising costs of even simple hygiene & cleaning products, such as toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, diapers, and personal hygiene items which are so important to keep life in order. We were very appreciative of all the new participants for this event willing to put boxes in their work place, offices, schools, and churches. We are grateful to be able to hand these items out to our participants who may have no other way to pay for them. While our supply from this drive will not last the entire year, it helps a great deal. Please continue to look at our wish list and donate any of these items as you are able. Thank You!

To speak with an Advocate 24/7 call **715.723.1138** or **1.800.400.7020.**