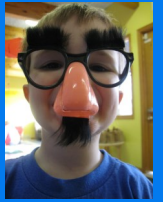




River Source Family Center is turning 25 this year!

Here are 25 things about River Source that you might not know:



- 1. We are the family resource center for Chippewa County
- 2. We offer programs for families with children ages birth to 5 years
- 3. All our programs are free of charge
- 4. Everyone is welcome!
- 5. We offer support to families through a variety of programs:

- a. Playgroups & family events – *Play & Learns, Movin' & Groovin' music classes, Park Tours, Rural Play & Learns, Family Fun Events and Workshops*
- b. Parent Connections – *Parent Cafés and Baby & Me playgroup*
- c. Parent Education – *parenting classes and workshops, warmline phone calls*



Fun at Play & Learn

- d. Parent Support and Child Development – *Bright Starts SMILE Home Visiting Program*



Amanda, Robin, Brenda & Becce ready for trick-or-treaters

- 9. We love to connect families together and see friendships blossom and grow
- 10. **The staff gives 100% to our mission.** Every staff member brings amazing talents to our program!
- 11. We worked with families throughout the pandemic, bringing creative programs and connections to families throughout Chippewa County!
- 12. In the past two years, River Source developed a great partnership with Chippewa Falls and Chippewa County Parks Departments as we enjoyed parks throughout Chippewa County
- 13. In the last two years, River Source created **3,529 craft kits and activities** for families to take home and do together

- 18. River Source Family Center is celebrating the diversity of all families by sharing a variety of holidays, crafts, and books for everyone!
- 19. We see the importance of Child-led play: sensory, constructive, pretend, dramatic, movement, and group! *“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.”* ~Fred Rogers

- 20. We have given away 1000s of books over the years!

- 21. We focus on children’s early health and well-being by offering healthy snacks and partnering with Public Health Nurses for our Bright Starts home visiting program



Baby & Me

- 22. River Source is one of the main violence prevention programs at Family Support Center. Our program focuses on building on family’s foundations, celebrating their strengths, and supporting families through child development milestones.

- 23. This spring, we offered “Calm Down Toolbox Workshop” where families gathered tools & activities to help soothe themselves when emotions feel big

- 24. We can work with families who are expecting their first child or their fifth child! All families can benefit from connections and resources!

- 25. River Source Family Center supports, educates, and celebrates all families in Chippewa County!

Check out our website to see all of our fun summer programs!



- 6. We strongly believe in community partnerships and collaborations including Public Health Nurses, WIC, Birth to Three and SPOTS House, Early Childhood Education programs, Libraries, Early Head Start programs...

- 7. We love being a part of all communities in Chippewa County!

- 8. We are a non-profit program that receives funding from state and local grants/foundations, including United Way, as well as donations!



Easter fun-Amanda, Robin & Becce

- 14. We stay connected with families on social media!
- 15. The pandemic we offered “delivery services”! We delivered meal kits, books, craft kits, and home visiting activities to families throughout Chippewa County!
- 16. Throughout the years we have offered a wide variety of Playgroups!
- 17. We offer families resources and referrals to community programs, that help support and strengthen their families’ needs.

“Like” our Facebook page!



~Becce Parent Services Director



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-
Ka & Morgan
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-Kathryn
Family Support & Resource
Coordinator-Ellen
Family Crisis Support Specialist-
Kristin



You deserve to live a life
free from violence

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month, when Family Support Center focuses heavily on educating the public about this difficult topic. **Elder abuse and domestic violence are about power and control**—and, yes, we do serve survivors of elder abuse. Our community, and survivors alike, often believe that we serve people who are younger, in dating relationships or married, and/or have children with their abuser. While this may be true, we also serve students, youth, and elders. Older adults have unique circumstances where they may be abused by a

family member, someone who cares for them, a child, or their (ex) partner. **Family Support Center is the best organization to help combat abuse of any kind**, because we are equipped with the most effective trauma-informed, client-centered tools and knowledge. If you'd like to learn more about elder abuse, check out our social media. If you or someone you know has been affected by elder abuse, give us a call. We're here for you.



~Cara,
Domestic Violence Advocate

Sexual Assault Awareness Month



In April we, once again, commemorated Sexual Assault Awareness Month as an annual opportunity to draw special focus to the ways our community

can work to support survivors, and engage in prevention strategies, all year long. Our month full of programming included collaborations with the UW-EC WGSS Capstone class, student group WUF (Women Uniting and Fighting), the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library's Tough Topics Book Club, the Social X Change, Certified Professional Midwife and Sexuality Educator Lucky Tomaszek, and S. Carey!



participated in community conversations, and hosted webinars (recorded content available at our YouTube channel: bit.ly/FSCchannel). We valued the opportunities to connect with existing supporters and meet new partners in our mission!

~Amanda S
Sexual Assault Program Director



FSC staff & supporters at S. Carey Concert

June is Full of PRIDE

June is a month for flowers and sunshine. It's a month full of potential and hope. It's a month of love. A month of **PRIDE**. Pride is the support for, acknowledgement of, and love for people who are LGBTQ+. You may (like many) wonder why we need a gay recognition month and why don't we have a straight (cisgender) recognition month? That's simple: every day is a recognition and appreciation for

people who are straight (and cisgender). Straight/cis folks get to hold hands in public, get married, have automatic rights at work, and much more. Straight/cis people don't have to fear that their love or sexuality or gender identity will be used against them, harm them, or kill them. Every day should be full of **PRIDE**, not just one month.



~Cara,
Domestic Violence Advocate

Look for FSC's table at events this summer!

Donate online at: www.FamilySupportCenterCF.com



Ladies Evening Extravaganza

Ladies Evening Extravaganza

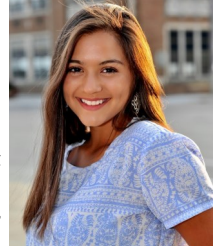
in support of survivors of

(LEE) has been our largest annual fundraiser for 14 years. The event began in 2007 at White's Wildwood Retreat, featuring fabulous prizes and serving food made by generous volunteers. Many things changed over the years-most notably moving the event indoors to beautiful Heyde Center for the Arts. LEE was an opportunity for FSC staff, supporters & community partners to gather

violence. After thoughtful consideration, we have decided to not have a Ladies Evening Extravaganza this fall. We will instead focus on new fundraising initiatives in the coming year. A huge thank you to each sponsor, prize donor, attendee, and volunteer for years of helping to create a fun and worthwhile event. Keep an eye out for future Family Support Center events!

Jocabeth, FSC's first Human Trafficking Intern

For the past few months, I have had the pleasure of being Family Support Center's Human Trafficking Intern. **I have gotten to learn and experience a lot of what it means to be an advocate in the community of Chippewa Falls.** I



was able to attend policy meetings where we stay up to date on what laws are being changed, added, or taken out in Wisconsin. I have also been able to establish connections with nearby hotels to work with our agency, facilitate groups, attend a federal court trial, and present a community needs assessment to a taskforce we work with. I have gone through a 24-hour training to be an On-Call Advocate for Family Support Center's crisis hotline. This is where people can safely call if they have experienced any sexual or domestic violence and need assistance. **This experience alone has shown just how imperative our agency is in this community.** I have graduated from UWEC as a social worker, and I am so glad that I picked this agency to finish off my practicum. I have truly gained so much from this experience!

Meet Hannah, our CASA coordinator

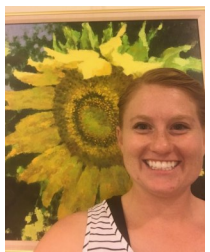


Hello! I am Hannah, the sexual assault advocate in the Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault (CASA) at UW-Eau Claire. I started working at UW-EC in 2017 as a lecturer, primarily in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. College students are such a unique group of people that I love interacting with. While teaching was a wonderful experience, I am so excited to be in

this new role serving students and to be a part of the Family Support Center.

A little more about me: I graduated from UW-EC in 2011 and moved back to Eau Claire in 2015. My partner and I have 2 children in elementary school. I have served as a peer breastfeeding supporter for almost 6 years. Reproductive justice and reproductive education are areas that I am especially passionate about. I love knitting, puzzles, and *Schitt's Creek*.

Good-bye, Kathryn!



Protective Behaviors (PB) is back in person and loving it! After a year of video or virtual lessons for only CFUSD, PB was able to teach lessons in CFUSD, Stanley-Boyd, Bloomer, and Cadott. **We have reached a total of 5,250 students in Chippewa County in 2021-2022.** PB had to adapt and make changes to how it was taught while maintaining the content. Instead of writing, the students could draw or circle their answers. Instead of sitting still, the lesson activities emphasized movement. I really encouraged self-care for students during the lessons - for example using a coping skills break if they needed to step out. The students were so happy to have PB in person! It was so rewarding to know that I was still familiar and trusted even though PB changed for two years.

Besides the students who disclosed abuse, or the ones who passionately contributed to class, there was one recent addition to my "reasons why I do this" list. While teaching about sexual violence prevention at CFHS, one beaming student said "thank you for teaching us. It. Was. Awesome!" Those words hit deeply because teaching teenagers about sexual violence and the importance of consent brings out the most awkward bits of myself. It was also encouraging because it was my last CFHS class for the year and

forever. I am going to step away from teaching and into a new season as a stay at home parent after the school year ends. It will be excruciating to leave PB and Family Support Center (FSC). Even so, it is my honor to help the new educator find their way before my FSC chapter ends.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to all of the counselors, teachers, and students at the schools. They have impacted who I am as a person and my growth as an educator. Interesting fact: many of the current 7th graders at CFMS were in my first kindergarten classes!

Now for the hardest part. To my amazing coworkers (past and present) at FSC, you have no idea how much your gentle guidance and support has changed me. Whether it was surprising the team with my hidden singing talent, literally running to the agency for fun (my first marathon!), or learning about living out inclusive, trauma-informed advocacy, there are so many moments that represent your impact while I worked at FSC. You have my deepest gratitude, love, and support for all you have done (and will do) in the Chippewa Valley and in my life. I would also like to thank the board and all of our funders, without you, the PB program would not exist. **Each person who has given time or financial gifts to FSC is essential to the thousands of lives changed.**

An endless supply of gratitude and love to you all,

~Kathryn,
Protective Behaviors Educator

Family Support Center's Annual Fundraising Drive

The past couple of years have been financially challenging for Family Support Center. Due to the pandemic, our in-person fundraising efforts have had to cease. Although we have had two virtual fundraisers, they simply do not make as much money as an in-person event. Along with that, the need for our services have increased dramatically.

As always, local dollars through fundraising are an important component of our ability to continue all of our services. **Our fundraising goal this year is \$100,000. We hope you will help us meet it!**

We have just sent out our annual fundraising letter. Inside, you will find a donation card and envelope. Another option is to donate online at: <https://www.familysupportcentercf.com/donate>

Please, if you are able, donate to Family Support Center.



Interested in volunteering? Contact Glori at 715.723.1138/familysupport@fscf.org



Family Support Center
 P.O. Box 143
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
 715-723-1138 or 1-800-400-7020

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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.



Family Support Center staff would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who have donated since our last newsletter.

Great Northern Company	Bloomer United Methodist Church
Mike & Julie Felske	Community Corrections Department
Titus Women of Central Lutheran Church	Anonymous donor of bakery items from Wild Flour Bakery
Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Association	Bill Volker
Chippewa Falls Lions Club	Anonymous annual donor
Barb Buker & Betty Bialk	

2022 FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Stella Clark	Vice President Michael Strubel
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Theresa Zirbel	Kristin Karnes-Frederickson
Dena Manier	Pastor Karen Behling
David Schaller	Teresa Germain
Sheridan Welch	
Carolyn Strand	

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-all sizes
- Baby wipes
- Goodwill gift cards* (*from local Goodwill)
- Full size: lotion, shampoo, conditioner & body wash
- Products for natural/Black/textured hair
- Children's toothpaste
- Children's shampoo & body wash
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Snacks! Individually packaged/snack size
- Brown construction paper
- Cleaning products
- Bubbles, jump ropes, sand buckets & shovels, glue sticks, glue bottles, kids aprons

In honor of **PRIDE** month and our continuing anti-racism work, we are highlighting 3 wonderful children's books this quarter. You can purchase these for your littles, ensure they are accessible at your local library, or donate them to our organization. Each is a special way to share unique stories and histories and highlight the need for diversity.

		
My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis	This Day in June by Gayle E. Pittman	Sparkle Boy by Leslie Newman

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