

## Lethality Program Saves Lives

The Chippewa Falls Police Department (CFPD) and Family Support Center (FSC) launched a Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in the fall of 2020 and have seen incredible results through this program. In 2023,

**61%**



of households screened were considered high-lethality.

Of these high-lethality calls, 97% were connected by CFPD to FSC at the incident or immediately after.

Throughout 2022, 96 people in Wisconsin died due to domestic violence homicides. Risk factors include threats to use a weapon, actual use of a weapon, stalking, strangulation, obsessive jealousy, and sexual assault. Many of these risk factors are included on the LAP screener that law enforcement officers use when responding to domestic incidents in Chippewa Falls.

Geri Segal, Executive Director, remarked that “this program is truly preventing homicides. We are excited that we have been able to use evidence-based practices to identify risk factors associated with lethal violence and connect these victims to our services. All the up-front work that was done by FSC staff and CFPD officers has had truly meaningful outcomes.”

In 2024, this program will expand to include Chippewa County, outside of Chippewa Falls. The Chippewa Co. Sheriff’s Department began implementing LAP mid-January and indicate they are committed to making this program as successful as possible.

## Volunteer Spotlight



We could not serve the people we do without our dedicated volunteers. The first of many ‘thank yous’ goes to Ty, who started as an on-call Advocate in November, 2023.

“Ty has demonstrated his ability meet with someone who has experienced a traumatic event and is in a very stressful situation, take in a lot of complex information, and extract the most urgent and salient points. Processing everything that is coming at you in those situations isn’t easy, but Ty’s great work allows me, as the advocate following up with that survivor, to focus in on the individual’s immediate needs and build on the positive experience they’ve already had with him. I so appreciate Ty’s willingness to share his time and talents with FSC and the folks we serve.”

*Annette*

“It’s been such a pleasure watching Ty grow confident in his advocacy skills from his first day in our intensive volunteer training to now. Like all our amazing volunteers, Ty was drawn to this role because of a desire to help others in our communities, often when they are facing significant struggles and are at one of the lowest points in their lives. What I see as being special about our volunteers is that they go one step further, translating caring into action. I’ve really enjoyed supporting and encouraging Ty as he’s fully embraced the responsibilities of advocacy.”



*Amanda G.*

“My time volunteering has been great; I continue to meet incredible people who care so much about the community. As hard as it is sometimes to hear about people’s struggles, being a part of someone’s journey, in whatever capacity, is so amazing. I continue to talk with some of the strongest people, and sometimes the hardest part is the initial ask for help. Being an on-call Advocate was one of the best decisions I have made. If you are considering being an on-call Advocate, it is hard and sometimes emotionally heavy, but it is so rewarding to help the community. The on-call Advocates, the Family Support Center staff, and the partners we work with are such a strong foundation and support system for so many people.”

*Ty*



## Thank You, Geri!

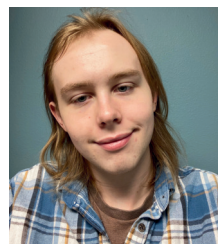


Row 1: Victoria, Krista, Cara  
Row 2: Hannah S., Jeni, Erica, Geri

In November, Geri Segal (back, right) celebrated 25 years as Executive Director of Family Support Center. Under her leadership, this agency, and its reach, has grown exponentially. Thousands of people in the Chippewa Valley have been impacted by Family Support Center services over the past 25 years and it would not be possible without her determination, leadership, and compassion. Thank you, Geri, from everyone at Family Support Center.

## Welcome, Freddy!

“I am a senior psychology student at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, studying primarily trauma and suicide prevention. I have primarily worked in a suicide prevention research lab on campus over the past year and love statistics. I also enjoy reading, drawing and listening to music, especially alternative and pop.”



We’re thrilled to have you on the team this spring, Freddy!

**Chippewa Falls Main Office**  
715.723.1138 or 1.800.400.7020  
familysupport@fscf.org

**Administrative**

**Executive Director** – Geri  
**Accounting Manager** – Amy  
**Office Manager** – Glori  
**Resource Development Coordinator** – Xander  
**Domestic Violence Program**  
**Domestic Violence Program Director** – Jeni  
**Domestic Violence Advocates** – Cara and Erica  
**Domestic Violence Youth Advocate** – Victoria  
**Domestic Violence Program Intern** – Freddy  
**River Source Family Center**  
**Parent Services Program Director** – Becce  
**Parent Educator** – Robin and Cody  
**Rural Family Connections Facilitator** – Amanda R.  
**CF Family Connections Facilitator** – Brenda

**Chippewa Falls Satellite Office**

**Sexual Assault Program**

**CF Sexual Assault Advocates** – Morgan and Finn  
**Human Trafficking Case Manager** – Krista  
**Therapist** – Tom

**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 Service Coordinator** – Hannah L.

**Offices Within the CF School District**

**Family Support & Resource Coordinator** – Ellen  
**Family Crisis Support Specialist** – Kristen

**“Transformation is not a journey but a destination.  
Transformation is not coming; transformation is NOW.”**

At the end of November 2023, Family Support Center Domestic Violence (DV) and Human Trafficking (HT) Program staff traveled to Madison, WI, to attend the Statewide Domestic Violence Conference hosted by End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. The conference, titled “Collective Transformation: Building Power Through Change”, provided over 30 workshops, along with keynote speakers, to work with advocates and other anti-violence professionals on the collective goal of sparking expansive, mindful, and courageous dialogues about domestic violence and how to support survivors.

Many of these workshops focused on the concept of Transformation as not just a singular destination for change and liberation, but an ongoing journey within the anti-violence movement. Workshops that focused on disability justice, trauma-informed courtrooms, mindfulness, emotional health & wellness, and many others helped bring together the idea from keynote speaker Miller that “we heal in community, we heal as a collective”. Our DV and HT Program staff came away from those three days energized, inspired, connected, and with great ideas to propel us all forward on the ongoing journey of transforming how we support and uplift the most vulnerable survivors in our community.

“I loved being able to spend time with my amazing colleagues thinking and talking about some of the more macro-level aspects of anti-violence work, and how it is so interconnected with other forms of oppression and social justice frameworks,” said Jeni (left), DV Program Director. Cara (center right) described the experience as “a powerful conference to collectively build power.”



(from left) Jeni, Krista, Cara, and Erica

**January - Stalking Awareness Month**

Domestic Violence Advocate Cara created a series of social media posts about the realities of stalking and set up displays around Chippewa Falls.

**January - Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

Human Trafficking Case Manager Krista shared survivor-vetted films, and dispelled common myths about trafficking on social media.

**February - Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**

What do you wish you knew about consent and respect as a teen? Talk with a youth in your life about how to create healthy relationships.

**February - National Parent Leadership Month**

Parents and caregivers are our superheros! Embrace the power of parents in shaping resilient children and fostering a harmonious society. Together, we make a positive impact!

**What to Look For:**

**April - Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Family Support Center and CVTC students are teaming up to deliver displays and educational materials about sexual violence and harmful myths that surround it. Support a survivor. Be an advocate. Be a friend.

**April - Family Strengthening Month**

Every family has strengths they can develop and build on! Let's promote these five strengths - Building Inner Strength, Connecting with Others, Parenting as Children Grow, Knowing How to Find Help, and Helping Kids Understand Feelings.

# What's Going On at River Source Family Center?

## 2023 in Numbers



**153 individual home and office visits for families**

**76 parenting groups provided to 149 individuals**

**7 parenting classes/workshops for 47 individuals**



**196 group connections**

**398 Facebook posts**

**173 Instagram posts**



**489 children's books given to families**



Wisconsin's Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) featured River Source in their "Showcasing Solution" series with Amanda (left) and Brenda's (right) Calm Down Toolbox. "the toolbox is a place for caregivers and children to store things that help the child self-regulate, regain a normal heart rate, and center themselves. The project of creating the toolbox is designed for caregiver and child interactions, and together they create their own tools to store in the toolbox and then take it home. The process also helps caregivers identify and share their emotions.

## Building Inner Strength

River Source Family Center's program is centered around proven approaches to help parents and caregivers. These approaches use Five (Strengths) for Families and are incorporated into every program at River Source including group connections, home visiting, and parenting classes and groups. Five for Families are protective factors for every family and include Building Inner Strength, Connecting with Others, Parenting as Children Grow, Knowing How to Find Help, Helping Kids Understand Feelings.

Today, let's focus on Building Inner Strength. Keeping it together – and even growing stronger – during times of stress.



"Raising a family is stressful, but staying strong and flexible when things get tough can help you guide your family through challenges. Nurturing our own strength builds parental resilience. Parental resilience allows adults to manage their feelings, solve problems with a clear head, take care of themselves and shelter children, even when things are difficult. Inner Strength can look like taking a breath or counting to 10 before you react, taking time to recharge, and staying flexible when things don't go as planned."



Build in "me time"

Start with something small and simple - like going to the store alone or a short walk with a friend.

### Tips to Try:

Don't give up. Ask for help or ideas from a friend.

Remember that people need and enjoy different things. Some like relaxing activities; others new challenges.

Find what works best for you!

Information from the Five for Families website: [www.fiveforfamilies.org](http://www.fiveforfamilies.org). Check out their website for more information and resources to build your Family Strengths.



## Looking to Get Involved?

River Source Family Center is looking to expand caregiver involvement. We have on-boarded two fabulous Parent Leaders and our next goal is to create a Family Advisory Council to incorporate caregiver voices more thoroughly in this agency. The Family Advisory Council is a group of caregivers who provide input to River Source Family Center on community issues, equity, inclusion, programming, support, and services that meet the needs of all families in our community.

We also want our Family Advisory Council to promote the agency's activities and events, as well as supporting the mission. If you are interested in being part of the Family Advisory Council, or would like more information, please reach out to River Source Family Center at 715-720-1841 or by emailing us at [rsfcpartner@fscf.org](mailto:rsfcpartner@fscf.org).



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### Address Service Request



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.



### We are in need of the following items for participants and River Source programming

- Baby wipes
- Can openers
- Cleaning supplies (disinfecting wipes, Febreze, dish soap)
- Gift cards (gas and groceries)
- Laundry detergent (liquid and pods, small and regular sizes)
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shaving cream
- Tampons
- Glitter glue
- Glue sticks
- Play-doh
- White paper plates (large and small)

*thank you*

For the most up-to-date information, follow Family Support Center and River Source Family Center on social media!



[www.facebook.com/FamilySupportChippewaValley/](http://www.facebook.com/FamilySupportChippewaValley/)

[www.facebook.com/RiverSourceFamilyCenterChippewaCounty/](http://www.facebook.com/RiverSourceFamilyCenterChippewaCounty/)

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