



*Celebrating Over 10 Years of Service
to Children & Families!*

Winter 2009

Did You Know?

Family Resource Center programs by the numbers...

977 parents and children in Play & Learn groups

288 parents and babies in Baby & Me classes

75 families receiving monthly home visits

39 families on waiting lists for fall 2009 Play & Learn groups

28 parents in our Teen Parent Program

19 school districts

3 counties

1 person makes all the difference. When you choose to support the Family Resource Center this holiday season, your donation dollars stay right here in Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk Counties and immediately go to work for families in your community. You can make a gift today with the pledge form on page 5 of this newsletter or online at www.frscsv.org.

Our Newsletter is Online

Visit our website, www.frscsv.org, to read current and past newsletters or to share them electronically with a friend.

Help us Reduce Cost and Paper Use

When you choose to receive this newsletter by e-mail, you help the Family Resource Center save money on printing costs and reduce our use of paper. Please notify us at (715) 684-4440 or e-mail info@frscsv.org to receive this newsletter electronically.

Resources Working Together Work for Local Family

Pam Anderson and her son Travis have been coming to Play & Learn since 2007, when Travis was 17 months old. Last fall, before Travis turned 3, Family Resource Center parent educators became concerned about his language development.

"He had been saying some words," Pam recalls, but when his younger sister, Lisa, started to talk, "he started to regress." Concerned for Travis, FRC staff asked Pam if he had been screened for speech or language delays by Birth to 3, a county agency that serves children with disabilities from ages 0-3. Pam said that Travis had been screened by their school district, but the process had been a challenge.

"The screening process can be very stressful for some children," FRC Parent Educator and Program Coordinator Betsy Byker observes. "They are out of their regular environment, and they're meeting people they don't know who expect them to perform."

Because the initial screening had been stressful for Travis, his needs could not be determined. Betsy thought a screening would be more successful if Birth to 3 tried screening Travis in a place where they could observe him in



Family Resource Center Parent Educator Betsy Byker and Pam Anderson discuss an upcoming home visit.

his natural environment, a place where he was comfortable—a place like Play & Learn.

"Betsy got the ball rolling where an Early Childhood teacher and a Birth to 3 representative came out to Play & Learn, and they observed Travis there," Pam says.

After screening Travis in his home, Birth to 3 connected his family to services through Early Childhood and the Children's Therapy Center in Amery. Travis and his family now receive regular home visits and participate in preschool programming, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. Because of their involvement with Travis, Birth to 3 also met his younger sister, Lisa, who now receives speech therapy and occupational therapy services as well.

Pam and her family continue to benefit from FRC programs. For the past several months, Pam's family has been receiving home visits from FRC Parent Educator Betsy Byker. Pam lets Betsy know what Birth to 3 is working on with Lisa, and Betsy plans her visits to reinforce Birth to 3's efforts.

story continued on page 4...

FRCSVC Board of Directors

Bill Alleva
Mary Sue Ash
Rusty Helland
Jean Johnson
Tina Kippes
Heather Logelin
John Marnell
Barbara Nelson, Chair
Carla O'Connell
David Tyvoll
Michelle Williamson
Brian Zelenak
Rob O'Keefe

The mission of the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is to *strengthen children, families, and communities by offering education, resources, and support.*

FRCSVC Staff

Patty Draxler, Executive Director
draxler@frcscv.org

Betsy Byker, Parent Educator/
Program Coordinator
betsy@frcscv.org

Lauren Koshere,
Fund Development and
Marketing Coordinator
lauren@frcscv.org

Jeena Bignell, Parent Educator
jeena@frcscv.org

Marla Butler, Parent Educator
marla@frcscv.org

Maria Kitzberger,
Parent Educator
maria@frcscv.org

Apyrl Mullvain, Parent Educator
apyrl@frcscv.org

Mary Handrahan,
Office Manager and Volunteer
Coordinator
info@frcscv.org

NEWSLETTER

Writer/Editor: Lauren Koshere

Production: Mary Handrahan

Design: Minuteman Press

Printing: Minuteman Press

Please notify us if your mailing address has changed. For an electronic version of this newsletter, email info@frcscv.org or call Mary @ 715-684-4440. Thank You!

From the Director's Desk

My thoughts to you in this newsletter come in the form of many "Thanks!"

First, I would like to **thank** the Board of Directors, past and present, who, over the past three years, raised \$50,000 to establish our Long-Term (endowment-like) Fund with the St. Croix Valley Foundation. This fund was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Foundation, which also deserves our many **thanks** for choosing us as an organization "of promise" in the St. Croix Valley. We were so **thankful** to be part of this wonderful project. Building this fund is the first step toward our long-term financial sustainability. Congratulations and **thank you!**

Thanks also to those businesses that have chosen to sponsor our newsletter (see page 6 for current sponsors). In a task force meeting with business representatives, it became very clear that sponsors like to support organizations providing services in their local communities. **Thank you** for your time in assessing our challenges and your choice to sponsor. If you would like to be listed as a sponsor, give us a call for details.

Round-Ups at grocery stores in our three-county service area have been well received and have provided us direct financial support. **Thank you** to our local grocers and staff for implementing these projects and getting the word out!

Special **thanks** to outgoing board members S. Mark Tyler and Shari Turvaville. Both Shari and Mark were key people on organizational development and were outstanding in their roles on the board. **Thank you** so much for your dedication! Welcome to incoming board member Rob O'Keefe. Rob has been involved with us in a variety of capacities already, and we look forward to his role on the board. In addition, a special **thank you** to outgoing board president Mary Sue Ash and welcome to incoming president Barbara Nelson. Their vision and leadership are key to our board and to the organization. **Thank you** both so much for your commitment!

Finally, I want to **thank** each and every one of you for your past support of the Family Resource Center and remind you to keep this local organization in mind when you are making your year-end gifts. There is no better feeling than knowing your gifts are making a direct impact in your community!



Patty Draxler, Executive Director

Rounding Up Community Support

Between June and November this year, five grocers in five different communities chose to help the Family Resource Center by hosting a Round-Up For Kids fundraiser. For a timeframe of one or several weeks, customers at participating grocers could choose to round up their purchase totals to the nearest dollar, with the rounded-up amount going to the Family Resource Center as a donation. In total, Round-Up for Kids fundraisers raised over \$4000 in 2009.

Thank you, Round-Up for Kids Grocers, Staff, and Customers!

Nilssen's SuperValu, Baldwin
Dick's Fresh Market, River Falls
Nilssen's Market, Clear Lake
Wayne's Foods Plus, Luck
Ormson's SuperValu, Glenwood City

Please show these local businesses your support, as they have shown support for the Family Resource Center.

If your business is interested in hosting a Round-Up for Kids, please call us at (715) 684-4440.



FRCSCV's Grandchildren Honor Roll



Grandparents	honoring their Grandchildren
Chuck and Mary Sue Ash of Hudson, WI	Christian and Charlie Ash of Fridley, MN Elizabeth and Gracie Strandberg of Duluth, MN
Denny and Mary Handrahan of Glenwood City, WI	Owen and Gavin Cassellius of Roberts, WI Alex, Joe, and Mikaela Handrahan of Chisago City, MN
Melvin and Vivianna Hanson of Downing, Wisconsin	Bridget Draxler, Iowa City, IA Breanna Draxler, Nantes, France Brooke Draxler, Decorah, IA Trish Meyers, Madison, WI Christopher Hanson, New Richmond, WI Rhonda Rassbach, Downing, WI Bo Standaert, Downing, WI Treena Bonte, Whitewater, WI Tara Bonte, Menomonie, WI <i>And Great Grandchildren</i> Izabella and Peyton Rassbach, Downing, WI
John and Carol Marnell of Hudson, WI	Vivian, Marchella, and Roman Suhanosky of New York, NY Clementine, Campbell, and Adelia Hawkins of Boston, MA Owen, Eveyln, and Charlie Marnell of Hudson, WI Elena Marnell of Roseville, MN
Grandparents Stuff and Jackie Tyler of Woodville, WI	Honor first grandchild Rhyan Elizabeth Nichols of Baldwin, WI
Lou and Kathleen Williamson of Amery, Wisconsin	Hans Peter Williamson, Amery, WI

Honor Your Grandchildren

Attention, all grandparents (and those in a grandparenting role)! Honor your grandchildren for their birthdays, for their special achievements or milestones, or simply for the joy they bring to your life!

Your name and your grandchild(ren)'s name(s) will appear in this newsletter when you donate \$100 or more to the Family Resource Center.

Join other grandparents by completing the pledge form in this newsletter, or contact us to contribute today. Your donation not only honors your grandchildren, it helps the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley support all children and families in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties.

FRCSCV Partners with the United Way's Success by 6

The Family Resource Center works closely with United Way St. Croix Valley to provide services promoting the goals of the United Way's Success by 6 Initiative.



The vision of Success by 6 is that all children in our communities by age 6, with the strong support of family and community, will have the necessary physical, mental, emotional and social development to successfully grow and learn. By increasing services and advocating for public policies to improve children's lives, Success by 6 raises awareness about the importance of early childhood development. More information about the Success by 6 Initiative is available at www.unitedwaystcroix.org/success_by_6.htm.



Yes! I want to help the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley give children the best start possible!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Gift Amount:

_____ \$1000 _____ \$500

_____ \$250 _____ \$100

_____ \$50 _____ Other

My check, payable to FRCSCV, is enclosed.

Please charge my pledge of \$25 or more to: *(circle one)*
 Visa MasterCard

Card # _____

Exp. _____

My employer will match my gift; please contact me.

Please contact me about making a gift through my will or estate plan.

I want my gift to fund:

_____ Greatest need

_____ Program support

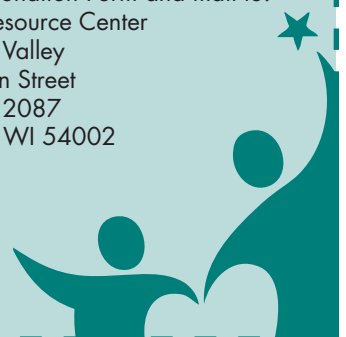
_____ Grandchildren Honor Roll
(for a gift of \$100 or more, please send us the names and locations of the grandchildren you would like to honor)

_____ Permanent fund

_____ Other

Thank you for helping us "Grow Kids By Growing families!"

Detach Donation Form and mail to:
 Family Resource Center
 St. Croix Valley
 857 Main Street
 P.O. Box 2087
 Baldwin, WI 54002





Find us on
Facebook

Congratulations and thank you to Matt Peterson, who became our 100th Facebook fan! We now use Facebook to post reminders and updates about upcoming classes, field trips, registration deadlines, and more. You can stay in the loop with Matt and other fans by becoming our fan today. Search for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley when you're logged in to Facebook, or find a link to our fan page from our website, www.frcscv.org.

You Can Help

Donated items from you help us help families! Whether in the office or teaching teen parent class, we are always in need of the following items:

- Paper Towels
- Gas Gift Cards
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Dixie Cups
- Board Books (new)
- Toilet Paper

Volunteer Opportunities

The Family Resource Center is in need of volunteers for cutting, making copies, cleaning, organizing donated items/books/clothing, and more. Please call Mary, our volunteer coordinator, at (715) 684-4440 to learn how you can help.

Parenting in the Valley: One Stop for Parenting Resources Online

Now you only have to visit one website to learn about all the parenting classes and family resources in Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk Counties. The new website Parenting in the Valley includes information on Family Resource Center programs as well as services from other local agencies and organizations. Check it out for links to parenting information, resources, and a parent education events calendar.

Find Parenting in the Valley at www.parentinginthevalley.com. The site is brought to you by University of Wisconsin Extension in cooperation with the St. Croix Early Childhood Interagency Council, of which the Family Resource Center is a member.

ACTIVITIES – January – February – March

CALENDAR FOR WINTER PLAY & LEARN GROUPS 2010

BABY & ME *(Pre-registration is required by calling 715-684-4440)*

A play and discussion hour for parents and their infants (Birth to 12 months).

- Amery** Mondays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Amery Regional Medical Center, Classroom D – no class Monday, January 18 or Monday, February 15
- Baldwin** Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at FRCSCV, 857 Main St. Baldwin
- New Richmond** Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at Westfield's Hospital Conference Center, New Richmond
- River Falls** Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C, River Falls
- River Falls** (Baby & Me PLUS) Mondays 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C

PLAY & LEARN *(Pre-registration is required by calling 715-684-4440)*

Play & Learn provides an opportunity for children to interact with their parents and other children their age. Parents can also discuss parenting strategies, dilemmas and everyday happenings with a Parent Educator and other parents going through similar situations.

Winter Session begins week of January 4 and runs through the week of March 15.

Winter Play & Learn Registration is Monday, December 21, 9:00 am by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required.

MULTI-AGE PLAY & LEARN

- River Falls** Mondays 9:30 – 11:00 am @ St. Bridget's Catholic Church, 135 E Division St.
- Spring Valley** Tuesdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ Spring Valley Village Hall, E121 South Second St.
- Hudson** Tuesdays 9:30 pm – 11:00 am @ Bethel Lutheran Church, 920 – 3rd St.
- Baldwin** Wednesdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ FRCSCV, 857 Main St.
- New Richmond** Wednesdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 367 W River Dr.
- Baldwin** Thursdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ FRCSCV, 857 Main St.
- Luck** Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00 am @ Luck Library, 21 – 2nd Ave W

PLAY & LEARN IN COLLABORATION WITH AMERY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

(Pre-register by calling Tracy @ 715-268-9771, x220)

- Amery** Mondays 9:30 – 11:00 am @ Lien Elementary School, 469 Minneapolis Ave.

EVENING PLAY & LEARN

- Baldwin** Mondays 5:30pm – 7:00 pm @ FRCSCV, 857 Main St.

Office will be closed Monday, January 18 and February 15

Winter Play & Learn Fast Facts

Registration Date

Monday, December 21, 9:00 am by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required for Play & Learn.

Dates of Session

Winter session begins the week of January 4 and runs through the week of March 15.

No Classes

There will be no classes Monday, January 18 or the week of February 15-19.

Story continued from page 1...

Pam, Travis, and Lisa also continue to come to Play & Learn each week, where Travis and Lisa enjoy playing with their peers. "We don't have close neighbors with children, and they need to be around other little kids," Pam says. As a stay-at-home mom, Pam appreciates the chance to spend time with other parents and participate in the parent education discussion at Play & Learn. "When you have kids that need a little extra help, Play & Learn is my break. It's my time to be around other adults."

It has now been just over a year since Birth to 3 came to Play & Learn to see Travis. Pam is pleased with the services her children are receiving from both Birth to 3 and the FRC. "They're making progress," she says. "It's slow, but they're making progress."

Betsy says that Pam has always been willing to find support to help her kids. "She's in control of her own services." Working with several different community services, Pam and her children benefit from "an ideal collaboration of resources for a family," Betsy adds.

Pam says she is committed to doing whatever she can to prepare her kids for success in school so they can do whatever they want to do as adults. "I know I use a lot of resources," she says. "But parents shouldn't be afraid to ask for help. If it weren't for services like the FRC, I think a lot of us parents would be lost. We wouldn't know how to help our kids."

Reach for the Stars 2010— You Can Help



Members of the Baldwin-Woodville royalty helped show off cakes before the dessert auction at Reach for the Stars 2009.

Reach for the Stars 2010, the Family Resource Center's 5th annual fundraising gala, will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010. We are busy planning the big event, but we need your help to make the night a success. How can you help us plan and enjoy a fun, successful Reach for the Stars?

Sponsor Reach for the Stars with a financial contribution from your business or organization.

Attend Reach for the Stars, and invite a friend to join you!

Donate quality items for our live auction
raffle
silent auction
dessert auction

Volunteer to help us plan and organize the event.

Call us at (715) 684-4440 for more information on sponsoring, attending, donating items, and volunteering for Reach for the Stars. We appreciate the support of all the generous individuals, businesses, and organizations that have helped us make Reach for the Stars a success in the past!

You Are Invited...

3rd Annual Wine Tasting Evening



**A FUNDRAISER FOR THE
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**
Sponsored by Liquor Haus in Baldwin

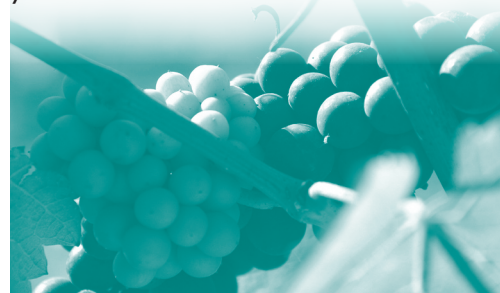
Thursday, February 11, 2010
6:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Historic Woodside Place, Baldwin
(2053 County Road N)
\$50/person

Ticket includes

- Wine tasting with multiple wine vendors
- Tasty hors d'oeuvres
- A fun opportunity to support the work of the Family Resource Center
- A pleasant evening out – just in time for Valentine's Day!

Ticket reservations are recommended. Tickets are not available through the Family Resource Center. Call the Liquor Haus at (715) 684-2578 to reserve your tickets. We hope to see you there!





FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
ST. CROIX VALLEY

Growing Kids by Growing Families

857 Main Street
PO Box 2087
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-4440
Fax: (715) 684-5122
E-mail: info@frcscv.org

Help us reduce cost when you contact us to receive this newsletter by e-mail.



Non-Profit Org.
US
Postage
Paid
NRMS, Inc.

Thank You, Sponsors

We are grateful to the following local businesses who help us by sponsoring this newsletter:

Associated Bank
Baldwin Area Medical Center
Baldwin Telecom, Inc.
First Bank of Baldwin
LarsonAllen
Liquor Haus
McMillan Electric Company
Nilssen's SuperValu
Shafer Financial Services

Would you like to publicize how your business supports our community? Call Mary or Lauren at (715) 684-4440.



Family Resource Center Snapshot

FRC teen parents recently joined FRC parent educators as guest speakers at the University of Wisconsin River Falls. The teen parents were invited to the Parent Education and Family Development class to tell their stories and answer questions from UWRF students studying early childhood. From left to right are FRC parent educators Apryl Mullvain and Maria Kitzberger with teen parents Lyndsey McPherson and Sam Tilson. Asked how having a child changed her, McPherson said, "I'm a really responsible person now, and I wasn't before. Everything changed. You're not ever thinking of yourself. You think of them first."