



# FAMILY MATTERS

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Service to Children & Families!

Spring 2010

## Did You Know?

In 2010, the Family Resource Center celebrates 12 years of service to local children and families. Several Play & Learn parents recently shared why they appreciate our programs:

*"Play & Learn is the one thing during the week that we get to do together where he gets a chance to interact and I get a chance to chat with other parents. Thank you so much for such a great program. It has been invaluable to our family. And we both look forward to it every week!"*

- Luck parent participant

*"What I like about the Family Resource Center is that it gives my children a chance to get out and socialize with children of all ages. The playgroup allows my children to interact with others and learn many valuable lessons."*

- Baldwin parent participant

*"Discussing different parenting topics with other parents makes you feel like you're not alone."*

- Spring Valley parent participant

## 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@frcscv.org to receive this newsletter electronically.

## Reach for the Stars Tops \$28,000



The Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley's 5th annual fundraiser, Reach for the Stars "Under the Bella Luna," brought in over \$28,000 to help provide free parent education and support for local families in Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk Counties.

Held the evening of Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club in River Falls, Reach for the Stars "Under the Bella Luna" was organized with an Italian theme and featured an Italian sit-down dinner; raffles, live, silent, and dessert auctions; music; and stories from parents who participate in our programs. Over 230 people attended.

"I believe children are the products of their environment," said parent Tatiana Volin of Hudson, who receives monthly Family Resource Center home visits. She spoke at Reach for the Stars about why she values the Family Resource Center's parent education programs. She added that the Family Resource Center had helped her with her parenting challenges when no other resource could. Teen parent Brenna Delaney of New Richmond also shared her story as a speaker at the event.

We thank the following business sponsors for their commitment to local families. Our work wouldn't be possible without community support from businesses like yours.

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

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## NEWSLETTER

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**Design:** Minuteman Press

**Printing:** Minuteman Press

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## From the Director's Desk

As we enter into this busy summer season it is with gratitude that I share the comings and goings of some important people who have been or will be critical to the life of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley. **Patrick Hayes**, CFO of OEM Fabricators, Inc. has joined our Board of Directors. Patrick and his wife Donna live in Hammond and have been very active in FRCSCV over the years hosting our very successful annual wine tasting event.

In addition, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to **Lauren Koshere**, our Development and Marketing Coordinator, who will be moving out of the area to attend graduate school in the fall. **Margaret Escabi** has been hired as our new Development and Marketing Coordinator and comes to us with a wealth of experience and personal appreciation for the organization as a participant in FRCSCV programs. Margaret and her husband, Jose, and daughter, Gabriela, live in Baldwin. **Good luck, Lauren, and welcome, Margaret!**

"Under the Bella Luna" was the theme for our 2010 Annual Gala held at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club in River Falls. What a wonderful evening it was. I am grateful that we have such a strong family of friends that support the mission of the FRCSCV! Special thanks to our participant speakers for the evening: teen parent **Brenna Delaney** and home visiting parent **Tatiana Volin**. Their words brought the FRCSCV to life for all those in attendance!

Thanks also to the Development Committee and Reach for the Stars sub-committee, business sponsors, volunteers, and auction item donors. A special thank-you to staff members **Lauren Koshere** and **Mary Handrahan** who really made this event the success that it was! Thank you!

Every year, as we plan this spectacular event, our family of friends and supporters grows. Building a strong, stable support system for the future of the FRCSCV parallels the work our parent educators do in the field—building strong, stable support systems for local families.

The Reach for the Stars event, like no other, assists in building our strength as an organization. If you haven't attended in the past, consider it for next year. Reach for the Stars builds our family and we have a great time doing it!

Have a GREAT summer!



Patty Draxler, Executive Director



Find us on  
**Facebook**

We now use Facebook to post reminders and updates about upcoming classes, field trips, registration deadlines, and more. You can stay in the loop 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.frscv.org](http://www.frscv.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	Dixie Cups
Gas Gift Cards	Board Books (new)
Diapers (all sizes)	Toilet Paper
Baby Wipes	

### 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](http://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.

### June Dairy Farm Trip

Watch our website, [www.frscv.org](http://www.frscv.org), for details.

### Fawn-Doe-Rosa

Friday, August 6 at 10:00 am  
Fawn Doe Rosa Wildlife Education Park  
2131 Hwy 8  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
\$5.00 per person 2 years & older  
(under 2 free)  
Pay at the door. Corn bags available  
for \$1.00  
Bring your picnic lunch to enjoy in their  
picnic area after the tour.  
Call to register by Monday, July 26 at  
(715) 684-4440.  
Check it out at [www.fawndoerosa.com](http://www.fawndoerosa.com).

## ACTIVITIES – June – July – August

### CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 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).

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Amery</b>        | Mondays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Amery Regional Medical Center, Classroom D – no class Monday, January 18 or Monday, February 15 |
| <b>Baldwin</b>      | Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at FRSCCV, 857 Main St. Baldwin   |
| <b>New Richmond</b> | Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at Westfield's Hospital Conference Center, New Richmond  |
| <b>River Falls</b>  | Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C, River Falls                                      |
| <b>River Falls</b>  | (Baby & Me PLUS) Mondays 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C 715-684-4440                       |

#### 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.

**Summer session groups begin the week of Monday, June 14, and run through the week ending Friday, August 27. No classes the week of July 19.**

#### SUMMER PLAY & LEARN SCHEDULE

- 10:00 -10:40 – Parent/child free play
- 10:40 -10:50 – Activity
- 10:50 -11:00 – Snack and story

#### MULTI-AGE PLAY & LEARN

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Baldwin</b>       | Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 am @ Millpond Park<br>Rain location: Family Resource Center, 857 Main St, Baldwin                     |
| <b>Elmwood</b>       | Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 am @ Butternut Park<br>If raining, class is cancelled  |
| <b>Glenwood City</b> | Fridays, 10:00-11:00 am @ Hinman Park<br>If raining, class is cancelled  |
| <b>Milltown/Luck</b> | Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 am @ Milltown Park, Milltown<br>Rain location: Luck Library, 21 – 2nd Ave W, Luck                     |
| <b>River Falls</b>   | Mondays, 10:00-11:00 am @ St. Bridget's School playground<br>Rain location: St. Bridget's Catholic Church, 135 E Division St |
| <b>Roberts</b>       | Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 am @ Roberts City Park<br>If raining, class is cancelled   |

### Fall Play & Learn Fast Facts

#### Registration Date

Monday, August 30, 9:00 am, by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required for fall Play & Learn.

#### Session Begins

Fall session begins the week of Monday, September 13



## Welcome to the FRCSCV Margaret Escabi Fund Development and Marketing Coordinator

Margaret Escabi is a Baldwin resident who served as Director of Development for the Mental Health Association of Minnesota for the past four years. Margaret grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah and graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. After completing a Master of Public Affairs degree at the University of Texas at Austin, she relocated to Baldwin in 2005 with her husband. Margaret has a two year-old daughter, Gabriela, and has been a participant in Baby & Me and Play & Learn classes at the Family Resource Center. Margaret said, "I am excited to join the FRCSCV staff and work for an organization that has been a wonderful resource for my own family."

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## Family Resource Center Partners with Pierce County in Wisconsin Pilot Alternative Response Program

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) recently announced that Pierce County will receive a \$60,000 grant to pilot a program to improve the lives of local children and families. The Family Resource Center, a grant partner, will provide contracted parent education services in Pierce County as part of the new program.

The grant to Pierce County will fund an alternative response program, which is a new approach that helps families succeed without entering the traditional child welfare system. Pierce County is one of five counties selected for the pilot program.

"We recognize that our state's families—their strengths and their challenges—are unique. There is no 'one size fits all' solution," stated Reggie Bicha, DCF Secretary. "Alternative response allows caseworkers to provide the right level of support to families facing challenges; helping them tap into their strengths and those of the community to keep their family safe, together, and strong."

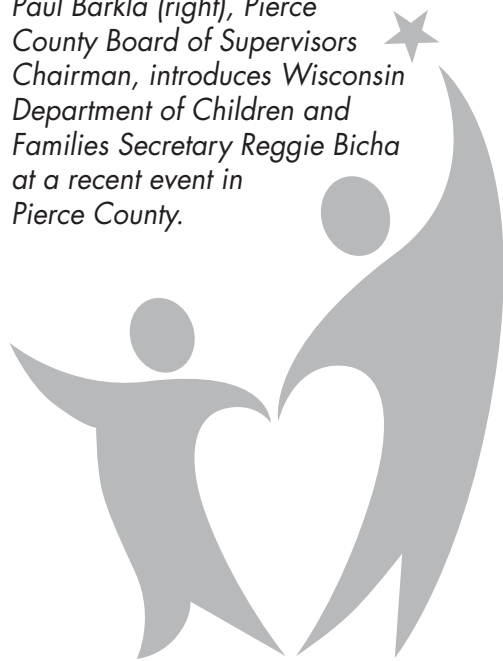
Alternative response programs allow child welfare workers to intervene with families in supportive ways. The approach builds on a family's strengths and connects them with community resources. Used in low-risk cases where there is no immediate threat to child safety, alternative response programs give parents support that helps them achieve safety and success without disrupting their home.

"With our strength-based prevention model, Family Resource Center programs certainly support the alternative response strategy of utilizing community-based alternative approaches to assist families," said Family Resource Center Executive Director Patty Draxler. "The staff at the Family Resource Center is excited for the opportunity to focus our prevention model more fully in Pierce County."

For more information about the alternative response pilot program, visit the DCF website, <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov>.



*Paul Barkla (right), Pierce County Board of Supervisors Chairman, introduces Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Secretary Reggie Bicha at a recent event in Pierce County.*



# FRCSVC's Grandchildren Honor Roll



Grandparents	honoring their Grandchildren
Betsy & Brad Byker of Osceola, WI	Ava Schueller of New Richmond, WI
Kay & Glen Clayton of Spooner, WI	Brady Wainionpaa of Somerset, WI
Becky & Rick Elsenpeter of Buffalo, MN	Haley Matzek of River Falls, WI
Cheryl & Gregory Gryskiewicz of Eau Claire, WI	Jack Todd of New Richmond, WI
Hege & Grant Herfindahl of Benson, MN	Halvard & Annelise Herfindahl of River Falls, WI
Mary & Jim Krook of Barnes, WI	Riley & Mikayla Andersen of Prescott, WI
Carol & John Marnell of Hudson, WI	Vivian, Marchella, and Roman Suhanosky of New York, NY Clementine, Campbell, Adelia and Genevieve Hawkins of Boston, MA Owen, Eveyln, and Charlie Marnell of Hudson, WI Elena Marnell of Roseville, MN
Laurie & Dick McConnell of Glenwood City, WI	Jerry & Lily Leonard of Glenwood City, WI
Cecil Mitchell of Chester, VA	Julian Mitchell of River Falls, WI
Marie Miller of La Crosse, WI	Zachary Miller of River Falls, WI
Stacy & Bruce Noll of Luck, WI	Isaac Noll of New Richmond, WI
Naomi & Blake Pacheco of Pueblo, CO	William Pacheco of River Falls, WI
Jackie Savall & Gerry Bauman of Chippewa Falls, WI	Avery VanAllen of River Falls, WI
Jane Schmid of Long Prairie, MN	Austin Schmid of River Falls, 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.

## FRCSVC 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](http://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 FRCSVC, 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





FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER  
ST. CROIX VALLEY

*Growing Kids by Growing Families*

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PO Box 2087  
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-4440  
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Valley Orthodontics - Hudson & Stillwater

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



### Family Resource Center Snapshot

Congratulations to Play & Learn child participant Mary Rose Foster, age 1 ½, of New Richmond, for her winning entry in the Family Resource Center's recent thank-you card coloring contest. Mary Rose's painting will be scanned and used as the cover of the Family Resource Center's new thank-you cards. Thank you to all Play & Learn children who participated in the coloring contest!