



# FAMILY MATTERS

Supporting families in the  
St. Croix Valley since 1998

Fall 2017

## Young family thrives with support from home visits



### FALL PROGRAMS

#### Play & Learn

Register for Fall Play & Learn beginning Monday, August 28 at 9 a.m. by calling

715-684-4440.

Groups begin the week of September 11; see p. 3 for schedule and locations.



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Tianna and Avalynn participate in home visits with parent educator Robbyn Bowman.

Tianna first learned about Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley as a high school student when she was pregnant with her daughter Avalynn. She attended group classes and received home visits, and said she learned helpful information about the 'Baby Blues', infant sleep and crying, and generally what to expect with the birth of her first child.

"Everything was new to us and I thought there was no way we could do it," said Tianna, "but looking back I could never imagine not having her in our lives."

As Avalynn approaches her second birthday, the family continues with visits and is on a path for a successful future. Both mom and dad have steady employment and they have secured stable housing. Tianna is preparing to get her driver's license and graduate high school in the spring, and is looking ahead to her options for college.

When asked about her daughter, Tianna said Avalynn enjoys books, currently preferring to 'read' on her own, and loves to sing and play outside. Tianna credits home visiting with her understanding of Ava's developmental milestones. "I would never know what she was supposed to be doing if it weren't for home visits," she said.

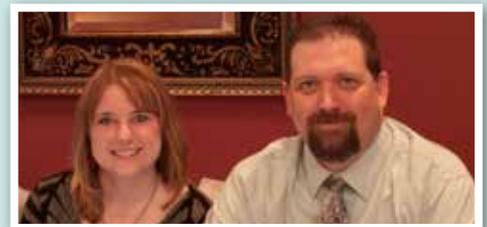
Parent educator Robbyn Bowman praised Tianna's confidence in parenting, saying, "I have never seen a mom reason with a toddler quite the way she does." Tianna's reply was simple and matter-of-fact, stating, "I believe kids understand everything you say."

## Former participant Jack Pollitt gives back through volunteer service, provides leadership in building expansion project

When Jack Pollitt and his family moved to Baldwin in 2004, his wife Jennifer was a stay-at-home mom and their son Jonathan was almost 2 years old. They found out about Play & Learn, and thought it would be a good opportunity for Jonathan to interact with other children. "It turned out to be a great thing for all of us," said Jack, as they developed good friendships that continue to this day. They continued participating in parent-child groups when their daughter Julia was born in 2007. "Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley really helped us get settled into the area," said Jack, who is an Engineering Manager at Vital Plastics.

Jack joined the Family Resource Center

Board of Directors in 2013, and began serving on the Executive Committee as Treasurer the following year. He has been involved with various fundraising initiatives including planning the Family Resource Center's annual spring fundraising gala Reach for the Stars. "I have enjoyed helping to give back to the organization that helped us get a good solid footing when we moved to the community," he said. *(Continued on p. 4)*



Jack and Jennifer Pollitt volunteer at the annual Reach for the Stars fundraising gala.

715-684-4440

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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

**Writer/Editor:** Kristin Thompson  
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Please notify us if your mailing address has changed. For an electronic version of this newsletter, email [info@frcscv.org](mailto:info@frcscv.org) or call Keri@ (715) 684-4440. Thank You!

## From the Director's Desk

With the opening this month of the long-awaited St. Croix River Crossing I think of how much the Family Resource Center is in the business of building bridges. Strengthening communities begins with strengthening children and families. Through our relationships with our participants, our supporters and our partner agencies we are making connections that make us all stronger.

I would like to share some observations from my first three months as director at Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley.

I am inspired by the stories of the parents who participate in our programs. They are committed to building a strong foundation for their children—facing life's challenges and rising above adversity to learn how to be the best parents they can be.

I am humbled by the generosity demonstrated by donors and volunteers—from the legacy supporters who have been with us since the organization was founded--to first-time patrons who have discovered our work and believe in our mission enough to lend their time and treasure.

I am energized by the collaboration I have witnessed among our public-sector and private-sector partners to prevent child abuse and neglect and build strong families. It takes a village. The village I see is filled with dedicated, hard-working, collaborative people intent on making a difference.

I am appreciative of the leadership demonstrated by founders of this organization, the board members past and present, and retired Executive Director Patty Draxler, for their perseverance in expanding the reach of the Family Resource Center and building a strong organization, poised to meet the growing needs of our region.

I am proud to be associated with the team members of the Family Resource Center. They are on the front lines-- professional, compassionate, and dedicated to building a better future for our children.

I appreciate the warm welcome and look forward to continued bridge building!

Speaking of warm welcomes, please join me in welcoming Stephanie Johnson to Family Resource Center's Board of Directors. Stephanie is Director of Women's Health at Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin, where she puts her passion to work—collaborating with care givers to deliver top-notch patient-centered women's health care.

Please be sure to share this newsletter with friends or family. Happy autumn!



Agnes Ring, Executive Director



Families enjoy a healthy snack at DD Kennedy County Park in Amery as part of the summer Play in Learn in the Parks program.

# CALENDAR FOR FALL 2017 GROUPS



**BABY & ME** (Register at any time by calling 715-684-4440)  
A play and discussion hour for parents and their infants. Babies can observe, interact and explore with other babies while parents connect with other moms and dads. Parents also have the chance to discuss their questions and concerns with a Family Resource Center parent educator and participate in a parenting discussion with other parents. Baby & Me classes are provided by Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley as a component of United Way St. Croix Valley's Success By 6 partnership.

- Amery** Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.,  
Amery Hospital & Clinic,  
Birthday Suites Waiting Room
- Baldwin** Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.,  
Western Wisconsin Health, Fitness Center
- New Richmond** Mondays 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., St. Luke's Lutheran  
Church, 365 W. River Dr. (Sponsored by  
Westfields Hospital & Clinic)
- Osceola** Thursdays 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., Osceola Medical  
Center, Cascade Room
- River Falls** Fridays 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., River Falls Area  
Hospital, Classrooms B & C
- St. Croix Falls** New day and time beginning September 8!  
Fridays, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., St. Croix Regional  
Medical Center, Glacier Room



**YOUNG PARENT** This program for teens who are pregnant or parenting includes twice monthly group meetings and home visits. Participants receive support from parent educators and their peers and are eligible for elective credit toward graduation.

Young parents can be referred to the program by their high school guidance counselors or county agencies, or can sign up by contacting the Family Resource Center directly at 715-684-4440.

- Baldwin** 1st and 3rd Thursdays 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.,  
Family Resource Center, 857 Main St
- Balsam Lake** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.,  
Polk County Government Center



**PLAY & LEARN** (Register beginning Monday, August 28  
at 9:00 a.m. by calling 715-684-4440)

Play & Learn provides an opportunity for toddlers and preschoolers to interact with their parents and other children (ages 1-5). Parents can also discuss parenting strategies, dilemmas, and everyday happenings with a parent educator and other parents going through similar situations. 90-minute sessions include parent-child play, story, circle time, children's activity and parent education discussion.

**Fall Play & Learn begins the week of September 11  
and runs through the week of November 13.**

## MORNING PLAY & LEARN

- Amery** Mondays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.,  
Amery Public Library, 225 Scholl Ct.
- Baldwin** Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.,  
Family Resource Center, 857 Main St.
- Ellsworth** Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.,  
Ellsworth Public Library, 312 W. Main St.
- Luck** Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.,  
Luck Library, 301 S. Main St
- New Richmond** Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., St. Luke's  
Lutheran Church, 365 W. River Dr.
- River Falls** Mondays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., River Falls  
United Methodist Church, 127 S. 2nd St.
- Roberts** Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Hazel Mackin  
Community Library, 311 W. Warren St.
- St. Croix Falls** Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., St. Croix  
Falls Public Library, 230 S. Washington St

## EVENING PLAY & LEARN

- Hudson** Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.,  
YMCA - Hudson, 2211 Vine St.

**Winter Play & Learn registration begins  
Monday, December 18 by calling 715-684-4440.**

**The office will be closed Monday, September 4  
due to the Labor Day holiday.**



Board member Jack Pollitt is providing leadership in the upcoming Family Resource Center building expansion and remodel.

*(Jack Pollitt gives back through volunteer service, continued from p. 1)*

As the programs and staffing of the organization have continued to grow, the Board of Directors has considered options for addressing space constraints for office and programs. Last winter, they were presented with the opportunity to expand the square footage of their Baldwin office while maintaining a Main Street location by leasing an adjacent storefront. With an interest in construction and experience in both building and remodeling, Jack stepped forward to help lead the initiative.

“The property owners have been very generous to our organization. They are investing in the refurbishment of the space along with the Family Resource Center to create a new multipurpose room, additional storage, a reception area, and additional and improved work space for our parent educators and our office manager,” said Jack. “We are working with Elliot Architects out of Hudson for the design of the space and will have a couple of contractors to help us do some of the work. We will be looking for volunteer help with painting, a minor amount of flooring, some trim work, and possibly hanging a new suspended ceiling. We are in the planning stages right now and will have a better idea of our needs for volunteer work in the next month or two.”

“We have a great staff and the work they do is really amazing! I know that the services we provide are important and valuable to any new or young family, regardless of their situation, having had that experience personally when we were just starting out our family.”

If you are interested in contributing time or financial resources to this project, please contact the Family Resource Center at 715-684-4440. Thank you!



Lillian Toulson, 4, pictured with her dad Sam and brother Oscar.

## Family donates as part of birthday celebration

Lillian Toulson recently celebrated her 4th birthday, and instead of gifts, she asked for donations from Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley’s wish list.

“We are grateful to Lillian and her family and friends for their generous support of area families,” said Development & Communications Coordinator Kristin Thompson.

The Family Resource Center has an ongoing need for donation of supplies. If you or your civic group would like to sponsor a donation drive, please contact Kristin Thompson at 715-684-4440 or kristin@frscv.org. Current needs include: infant/toddler board books, paper towels, baby wipes, copy paper and first-class (Forever) stamps.

## Appreciation for summer intern

Breann Johnson provided support for Play & Learn in the Parks and special projects as part of a summer internship, a final requirement for her bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Studies at UW-Stout. “Breann was truly an asset to our team this summer,” said Parent Educator Lead Susan Hodnefeld. “She was very efficient and willing to help wherever she was needed. She also has a great sense of humor.”

We wish Breann well as she moves on to a volunteer coordinator position at United Way of Dunn County, where she will be able to share her passion for volunteering with others. “I would love to just be a full-time volunteer; if someone would just feed me and put a roof over my head, that’s all I need,” said Breann. “To get paid to be with volunteers is like a cherry on top.”



## GRANDCHILDREN HONOR ROLL

WALTER & SANDRA BOROWSKI of Madison, WI

Grandchild: **Nolan Adams** of New Richmond, WI

BOB & CINDY CAMPBELL of Hammond, WI

Grandchildren: **Finley & Jordyn Campbell** of River Falls, WI

THOMAS & AMY CASEY of Woodville, WI

Grandchild: **Asher & Elias Casey** of Woodville, WI

CHRISTINE ENGLISH of Hudson, WI

Grandchild: **James English** of Hudson, WI

MELVIN & VIVIANNA HANSON of Downing, WI

Grandchildren: **Bridget Draxler** of Northfield, MN

**Breanna Draxler** of Seattle, WA

**Brooke Draxler** of Roseville, MN

**Trish Meyers** of Madison, WI

**Christopher Hanson** of New Richmond, WI

**Rhonda Rassbach** of Downing, WI

**Bo Standaert** of Downing, WI

**Treena Bonte** of New Berlin, WI

**Tara Bonte** of Spring Valley, WI

Great Grandchildren:

**Izabella & Peyton Rassbach** of Downing, WI

**Landon & Nolan Standaert** of Downing, WI

**Amelia & Stella Meyers** of Madison, WI

**Rowen Hanson** of New Richmond, WI

**Leif Wanken** of Northfield, MN

DEAN & LINDA HENDERSON of Hudson, WI

Grandchildren: **Taylor & Cole Causby** of Hudson, WI

**Mallorie, Will, Drew, & Amelia Brinkman** of New Richmond, WI

**Luke, Ella, & Mason Henderson** of Farmington, MN

**Bo & Ian Afdahl** of Arkansaw, WI

SUSAN HESSLER of St. Paul Park, MN

Grandchildren: **Jackson & Lucy Taylor** of Baldwin, WI

DANIEL & LINDA HUNT of Arvada, CO

Grandchild: **Adaline Ryba** of Hammond, WI

DEVEREAUX & ROSE LALOND of Rice Lake, WI

Grandchild: **Evelyn Young** of Hammond, WI

RANDY MEYER & DIANE SODERBERG MEYER of Roseville, MN

Grandchild: **Letty Fox Meyer** of Hager City, WI

JAY & BETTY MONSON of Baldwin, WI

Grandchildren: **Kaleb & Bella Drinkman** of Baldwin, WI

**Nella & Eleanor Vankeuren** of Amery, WI

GAIL & GERALD TESSMAN of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Jessie Maule** of Denver, CO

**Sarah Maule** of Madison, WI

**Tyler Maule** of Chicago, IL

**Nick & Erica Tessman** of Woodbury, MN

**Rachel Miller** of Northfield, MN

**Casey Miller** of St. Joseph, MN

LOU & KATHLEEN WILLIAMSON of Amery, WI

Grandchildren: **Hans & Elin Williamson** of Amery, WI

**Quinn & Olin Williamson** of New Richmond, WI

LORETTA YOUNG of Eau Claire, WI

Grandchild: **Evelyn Young** of Hammond, WI



## HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIVING: SUPPORTING FAMILIES MATTERS!

Beginning in November, our Grandchildren Honor Roll will expand to recognize any gift made in honor or in memory of a family member, friend or colleague. We invite your support in recognition of parents, children, grandchildren or other special individuals in your life.

All honor or memorial gifts received between August 1 – October 31, 2017 will be recognized in the winter edition of our Family Matters newsletter. Honor gifts support the annual operating expenses of Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley; memorial gifts will be directed to the Family Resource Center's Bright Futures Long-Term Fund unless otherwise requested by the donor.

SAMPLE OF NEW FORMAT: **IN HONOR OF JIM SMITH**

Jane and John Doe

*\*Please contact Kristin at 715-684-4440 or kristin@frcscv.org with questions*

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 \_\_\_\_\_

My check, payable to FRCSCV, is enclosed in the amount of:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will set up a recurring monthly gift with my bank in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ If you wish to give using a credit card, please visit our website at [www.frcscv.org](http://www.frcscv.org) to make a secure online gift.

I want my gift to fund:  Home Visits  Parent-Child Groups  Greatest Need  Bright Futures Long-Term Fund  Building Expansion/Remodel Project

My employer will match my gift; please contact me.

I would like to give in honor / memory (please circle) of a loved one: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please provide contact information if you wish for us to notify someone of this gift).*

I would like to make a gift through my will or estate plan. Please contact me about becoming a member of the Legacy Circle.

Thank you for investing in families! Please detach this form and mail to: Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, PO Box 2087, 857 Main St., Baldwin, WI 54002





FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER  
ST. CROIX VALLEY

*Growing Kids by Growing Families*

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Would you like to publicize how your business supports our community?  
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