



Annual Report 2012



Smart parenting starts here.



FamilyWise seeks to promote social change by strengthening families and the community through programs that encourage self-determination, self-sufficiency, and healthy family lifestyles.

Dear Partners,

The years 2011 and 2012 have been very exciting and full of growth and change for FamilyWise!

The majority of our 2010–2015 strategic priorities have now been accomplished. Most significant and visible happenings in 2011 and 2012 were our merger of Children's Safety Centers into our organization and the exciting announcement of our name change and entire rebranding.

On January 1st, 2012 we merged with Children's Safety Centers in St. Paul becoming the largest provider of Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange in Minnesota. The merged organizations bring together more than 55 years of experience serving children, parents and families.

In addition to our merger, in May, 2012 we announced a name change and rebranding. Our new name, FamilyWise better represents the full range of services we offer families. With an educational component woven into all of our services we encourage self-determination, self-sufficiency and healthy family lifestyles in the people we serve.

With the long-standing support of government agencies, family and corporate foundations and individuals like you, our organization is bigger, stronger and more financially sound than ever and our hope for the future is clear—more people will live in balance in our community.

Thank you for your continued support,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Basham".

Michelle Basham, Esq.
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abby Bailey".

Abby Bailey
Board President



Program Goals



- Reduce or eliminate child abuse or neglect by parents.
- Facilitate self-sufficiency in families through a stable home environment, financial security, freedom from chemical use, and freedom from abusive relationships.
- Improve parenting skills.
- Assist the children to reach age-appropriate developmental levels.
- Provide work readiness skills and support families in finding and retaining long-term employment.
- Reunify children with their parents, when safe and possible.
- Delay onset of additional pregnancies.

FamilyWise is unique in both the scope of its work and in the population we serve. Services support families in overcoming the many barriers and challenges they face.

Our programs are intensive and comprehensive, working with families for a period of six months to many years, addressing all aspects of providing a safe and healthy home. No other program in the Twin Cities specializes in serving whole families—parents and children—with these multiple, severe risk factors.

FamilyWise helps educate parents, increase personal safety, reduce cycles of violence, and prevent homelessness for children, youth and entire families through a comprehensive array of services that educate, empower, and enrich.

[We invite you to learn about our programs and read stories about the impact on our families' lives.](#)

Education

Parent Education:

Parent education programming is available to parents of all ages and includes comprehensive parent education and support to at-risk families. Mentoring is available to any parent and they can receive services directly at their home and/or at our centers. Parenting programs include intensive case management and education regarding child development, parent-child communications, parent-child interaction coaching, behavior management, anger/stress management, social supports, healthy relationships, time, money and household management. The goal of our parent education programming is to help families at-risk who experience child abuse/neglect to learn positive parenting skills from the ground up, as well as learn how to provide a safe and stable home for their children. More than 200 adult parents and 70 teen parents seek education from FamilyWise each year.

Early Childhood Education:

First Step Early Childhood Education center is a licensed Parent-Aware Highest Rating full-time child care center and is an accredited National Association of Education for Young Children (NAEYC). First Step cares for children from infancy to the entrance of kindergarten and combines access to quality childcare with family strengthening and skill building to provide optimum opportunities for children to grow in a healthy way and to meet important development milestones for school readiness. On average, 100 children attend First Step Early Childhood Education center each year.

86%

of clients successfully completed programming.

85%

of parents demonstrated positive parenting techniques that fostered early childhood development and school readiness.

91%

of children demonstrated age-appropriate social/emotional, language and literacy development.

Lionel, Teenage Parent

Lionel is 18 years old and is the father of a 2-year-old girl. He is the oldest of 3 children and grew up in a single-parent household. Lionel is a self-referred FamilyWise client who entered the teen parenting program in 2010 and completed it in 2011. Lionel had limited access to his daughter and wanted to know how to parent her. He was committed to learning and staying involved in his daughter's life and was always on time to teen parenting classes. He started out quiet and shy, and as time progressed and his own father re-entered his life, he opened up and started sharing with other teen parents and FamilyWise staff.

It was hard for Lionel to not have consistent visitation with his daughter, but he was able to successfully petition in court to bring his daughter with him during Parent-Child Interaction Coaching sessions. In PCIT, he learned how to build a strong attachment with his daughter and increased his understanding of his daughter's developmental and safety needs. When at FamilyWise, Lionel's daughter was always well-dressed, cared for, and happy. It was evident she idolized her father. He displayed age-appropriate discipline, listened and talked with his daughter, read to her, and was always seeking new parenting skills and techniques.

After Lionel graduated from the Teen Parenting Program, he stayed involved and is participating in the aftercare program. He continues to develop parenting skills and a growing relationship with his daughter, while caring for himself. Currently he is a junior at college and is living with his mom.

Teach them to be a role model.



Jerry, Grandfather & Adoptive Parent

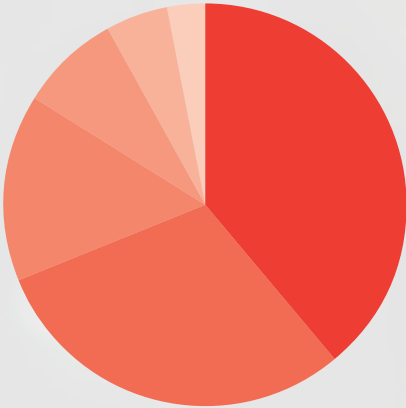
Eighteen years ago, Jerry’s daughter, Jenna, became pregnant. He was terrified of what this would mean for her and for her future. This was his baby girl after all, and how could this happen? After hearing the news, times were tough. Jenna struggled with many difficult decisions and she knew that she wasn’t capable of parenting this child or even taking care of her own basic needs. Eight months of turmoil, tears, and a few laughs, Jenna struggled with both the emotional and physical challenges and changes that pregnancy for a fifteen-year-old girl bring. One cold morning in January, Kinsey was born and two days later, Jerry adopted her. That was 1995.

Throughout the years, Kinsey has seen her mom often. They have played together and bonded, while Kinsey has had a stable and consistent life with Jerry. She has been able to grow and succeed, graduating from high school last year, with honors, and is now attending college.

Without the programming at FamilyWise, Jenna might not have made this decision. Jenna felt supported by staff and empowered in the midst of hard times. Staff at FamilyWise was able to show and teach Jenna just what it meant to be a parent—the good, the bad and the hard—and gave her the tools to make the most difficult decisions of her life. Because of this, eighteen years later they are still a family—all together!



The people we serve:



African American	39%
Caucasian/White	30%
Multiracial	15%
Hispanic/Chicano/Latino	8%
Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islander	5%
American Indian	3%

Safety

Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Service:

When families separate and/or family violence is present and the well-being of the child is at risk, FamilyWise provides center-based and in-home supervised parenting between non-custodial parents and their children in a safe, caring, and sensitive environment. FamilyWise is the largest provider of supervised visitation and safe exchange services in Minnesota. More than 1,000 families use these services each year.

Family & Parenting Assessments:

This service evaluates family strengths and parenting practices. Assessments are used to make timely and appropriate recommendations regarding permanency and family stabilization. Tools such as interviews, hypothetical vignettes, collateral information, observation sessions and inventories are used for evaluation.

99%

of children report feeling safe during visits.

70%

of clients obtained or maintained secure housing.

78%

of clients obtained or maintained employment, or continued their education.

Supportive Services

Supportive & Strengthening Services:

FamilyWise offers support and strengthening services to further educate, empower and enrich the lives of individuals and families. Services include co-parenting mediation and family group conferences. In addition, High Fidelity Wrap-Around services help families feel stable and supported by helping them prioritize goals and identify steps to reach them. With these services, families can develop a team of natural support systems including friends, family and community.

92%

of clients achieved a non-abusive, drug-free home.

67%

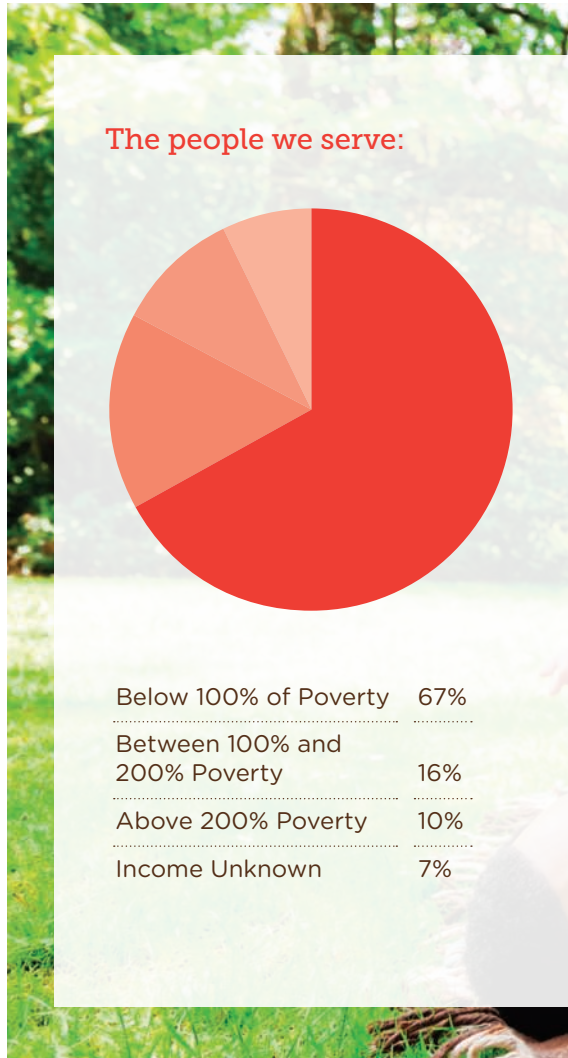
of children living in out-of-home care are safely returned to their parents' care.

97%

of children remained in their parents' care while in programming.

Guide them to know the parent within.





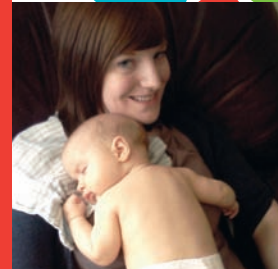
Diane, Mother of Three Children

Diane has three children, ages 2, 7, and 13. Three years ago, her Child Protection case made the newspapers, but after completing our program, Diane is finishing her GED, has custody of all three children, and has gained wonderful parenting and home management skills through the Supervised Parenting, Family Focus, and Wrap-Around Programs at FamilyWise.

In 2010, she participated in the Family Focus program and the Supervised Parenting Program, both court-ordered through Hennepin County Child Protection. Diane came into the programs apprehensive, not trusting of service providers, but greatly wanting her children back in her household. Over time, her distrust grew into toleration and eventually understanding. She demonstrated increased parenting skills and committed to making safer decisions for her and her children. She completed over 400 hours in Family Focus, a program that focuses on life skills, women's health, child development, and mental health; and graduated in late 2010.

The Supervised Parenting program offered Diane a safe, neutral environment for her to spend time with her youngest children, and over time, it was clear that Diane was utilizing skills learned in the Family Focus program during her visitations. Through the Wrap-Around Program, Diane worked with her family to develop a plan focused on their needs and goals. She has continued to maintain and develop her parenting skills and build strong relationships with her children.

Strengthen the bond between them.



FamilyWise Staff



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Bernell Buchanan, Associate Director
Ann Gaasch, Program Director

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Tanya Havens	Adair Mosley	Khaalida VanDeCruize
Kelley Hempel	Tsongfw Moua	Mai Vang
Eric Honoroff	Carl Nordine	Nichole Whaley

Staff:

Over 50 Full-time/Part-time staff
and 250 Volunteers

Clients:

Over 3,000 in 2011

The average cost to serve a child in foster care is more than \$7,500 (without factoring in the costs of serving parents and other family members).

By comparison, the average cost to serve an entire family at FamilyWise is less than \$1,200.

In Minnesota, in 2012, more than 5,000 children are in foster care but only 12% of them will be adopted. By comparison, FamilyWise serves more than 1,500 children every year and 82% of them are able to be safely reunited with or remain with their families after successfully completing our programs.

Board of Directors



Percentage of Board Making Contributions to Organization: 100%

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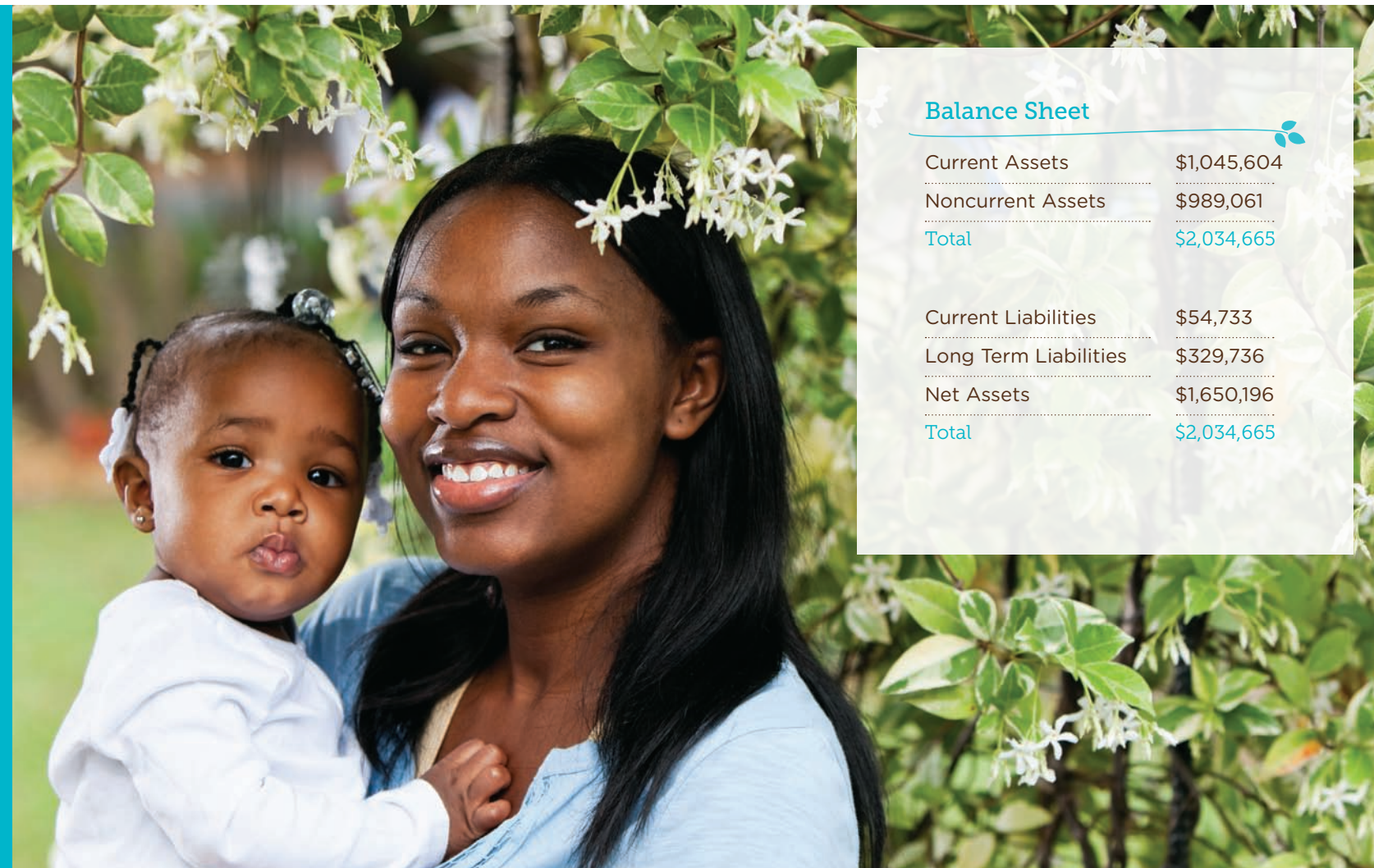
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Great parents aren't born. They're taught.



Your financial support allows FamilyWise to reach more families in need and make a greater impact on those we serve. While much of our cost is covered by earned revenue, we also rely heavily on the generous contributions of organizations and individuals.



Balance Sheet

Current Assets	\$1,045,604
Noncurrent Assets	\$989,061
Total	\$2,034,665
Current Liabilities	\$54,733
Long Term Liabilities	\$329,736
Net Assets	\$1,650,196
Total	\$2,034,665

Support & Revenues:

Contributions	\$885,787
United Way	\$570,527
Government Grants	\$724,111
Program Service Fees	\$312,297
Special Events	\$54,022
Earned Income	\$2,434
Other Income	\$731
Total	\$2,549,909

Unpaid Clinical Interns:

Our innovative use of graduate and post-graduate clinical interns is equal to about \$250,000 dollars/per year in additional staff resources.

Program Expenses:

Program Services	\$433,213
Adult Parent Education	\$165,965
Youths Services	\$440,746
Supervised Parenting	\$652,280
Parenting Assessments	\$31,768
Total	\$1,723,972

Support Expenses:

Management and General	\$191,509
Fundraising	\$147,313
Total	\$338,822

Total Expense **\$2,062,794**

Donors

Thank you to our donors for their support and generosity!

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