

# NewsWise

August 13, 2013

We received a lot of positive feedback from our first edition of NewsWise, so we're going to keep going. We hope you enjoy this second edition of our electronic newsletter (and this print version), especially our first article about the celebrities that visited us.

## Grammy Award Winners at First Step

Kindie favorite The Okee Dokee Brothers sing for our pre-K-ers!

Our nationally-accredited child care center, First Step Early Childhood Education Center, was chosen to host the Grammy Award winning Okee Dokee Brothers today! First Step was the only non-family childcare center to be included on the tour and was chosen because of our excellent reputation, Four Star Parent Aware Rating, location and space.

The Okee Dokee Brothers have written an original song, "Growing Together," to support the efforts of Child Care Aware of Minnesota and the continuing roll out of Parent Aware, a rating tool designed to help families find high quality child care and early education programs.

Listen and download: [soundcloud.com/ChildCareAwareMN](https://soundcloud.com/ChildCareAwareMN)



The Okee Dokee Brothers



First Step's biggest Okee Dokee Brothers fan presents Joe and Justin a gift on behalf of FamilyWise.

## FamilyWise Teens Ready to Go Back to School

Thanks to all of you who answered our plea for donating school supplies, our kids received backpacks filled with supplies to start off the school year on the right track. Last night was a very special night when our teen parents were given their backpacks. The eight young moms were humbled by the generosity and couldn't thank our staff enough. They also shared things that were positive and hopeful in their lives like "I just got a new job" and "I want to work hard in school this year so I can go to college!"

**Interested in sharing joy with someone who needs support?** Teen Mom Mentors Needed! Must be female, over 21, able to pass a criminal background check and commit to the program for one full year. Training and support provided. Please email [volunteer@familywiseservices.org](mailto:volunteer@familywiseservices.org) or call 612.877.7826.

## The future belongs to our preschoolers!

**Ceremony last week sees three pre-K grads off to kindergarten.**

August 8th was an exciting day for three of our preschool students as they received their diplomas from our First Step Early Childhood Education Center. One of the children had been a part of our center since he was an infant! Family and friends joined the celebration that included a carnival with hot dogs, popcorn, cupcake walk, face painting and fun pictures. First Step is FamilyWise's nationally-accredited child care center that is open to any child ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

For more information, call [612.877.7821](tel:612.877.7821) or take a tour!



**Come grow with us!**

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