

# Educating Parents, Strengthening Families



**ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

  
**FamilyWise**



## Dear friends,

I was leaving the office the other day for a meeting, around the time when our neighborhood school lets out. As I walked toward my car, a child came up to me and asked for help tying his shoe. He chatted away about his day—what they had for lunch and playing outside at recess—as I double-knotted his small, dusty laces. As he walked away, I wondered that he came up to me, a total stranger, for help.



FamilyWise is known in our neighborhood as a family-friendly place. We invite neighborhood children to stop by with our cheerful Little Free Library. Families see other families coming in and out of the building. Our First Step toddlers wave to the big kids walking to school as they enjoy their own walk, tucked into six-person strollers. We are a safe place.

FamilyWise and our families served have achieved great outcomes together in the past year. 2,100 families have been strengthened and 2,460 children kept safe through the support and education of over 2,200 parents.

These are great achievements; however, we must not be complacent. While we are a safe place, many children in our community are not safe. Child welfare is both highly visible in our state (with the media attention brought to challenges in the system) and it is still an invisible issue.

We assume that everyone knows the importance of and the need for protecting children; we don't have to convince people: raise awareness, advocate for policy changes, raise money to support these efforts. Sadly, that assumption is simply wrong. We fervently need to remind others that family violence is an unrelenting concern. Systems are improving but are not fixed. Families still face barriers to stability. Parents still need resources for keeping their families safe.



To respond to these needs, FamilyWise is engaging its staff, board and many community partners in a robust strategic planning process. We have engaged new partnerships to better meet our participants' needs. In collaboration with high school students, we are creating interactive electronic learning tools targeted towards our teen parents. FamilyWise has committed to a hiring strategy to diversify its staff. 48% of our staff are now from communities of color and 16% speak languages in addition to English. The leadership team of FamilyWise is participating

in community forums working to improve our communities' response to families in crisis.

We'd love to share more about these efforts with you. Please like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or call us for a tour at 612.877.7827.



*Ann Gaasch*

Ann Gaasch  
Executive Director

*Willie Harbert*

Willie Harbert  
Board President

## FamilyWise Mission

Promote social change by **strengthening families** and the community through programs that encourage self-determination, self-sufficiency, and healthy family lifestyles. **Our vision** is for individuals and families living in balance in our community.

## Financial Report

### Statement of Financial Position

Cash . . . . .	\$968,077
Other current assets . . . . .	\$776,911
Noncurrent assets . . . . .	\$746,073

### **Total assets . . . . . \$2,491,061**

Current liabilities . . . . .	\$135,513
Long-term liabilities . . . . .	\$56,713
Net assets . . . . .	\$2,298,835

### **Total liabilities/net assets \$2,491,061**

### Statements of Activities

#### Summary of Support and Revenue

Contributions . . . . .	\$765,236
United Way . . . . .	\$227,084
Government contracts . . . . .	\$1,422,624
Program service fees . . . . .	\$394,343
Special events . . . . .	\$11,683
Earned and other. . . . .	\$4,852

### **Total support/revenue . . . \$2,825,822**

#### Summary of Expenses

Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange . . . . .	\$618,751
First Step Early Childhood Education Center . . . . .	\$321,656
High Fidelity Wraparound . . . . .	\$315,090
Adult Parent Education . . . . .	\$661,115
Bright Beginnings Young Parenting Services . . . . .	\$119,337
Parent Assessments . . . . .	\$56,164

### **Total program expenses . . \$2,092,113**

Management/General . . . . .	\$371,819
Fundraising . . . . .	\$197,468

### **Total annual expenses . . . \$2,661,400**

### **Change in net assets . . . . . \$164,422**

Complete financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2016, audited by Carpenter Everet & Associates, Ltd. are available for inspection.

# Our Programs

## Parent Support Services

Parent education is a part of everything we do. Giving parents the tools to be effective parents significantly improves children's chances for a better future. We provide comprehensive parent education and support services for at-risk families including intensive case management, parent education, parent-child interaction coaching, life skills training, early childhood education and counseling.

- **552** families received services in 2016, impacting the lives of **848** children.
- In 2016, **96%** of parents demonstrated positive parenting techniques and **99%** of children reached age appropriate development.

## Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchanges

In cases of family separation or family violence where the well-being of the child is in question, on-site and community/home-based supervised parenting is provided between non-custodial parents and their children in a safe, caring, and sensitive environment.

- **1,285** families utilized these services in 2016, improving the safety of **1,565** children.
- In 2016, **99%** of visits occurred without incidence of violence or unsafe circumstances.

## Bright Beginnings

Young parenting services and mentoring is for parents between the ages of 14 and 22. The program gives participants life skills training, parent and health education, parent-child interaction coaching, and a full year of support by a community mentor.

- **73** families and their **72** children were impacted by these services in 2016.
- In 2016, **100%** of young parents continued their education.

## High Fidelity Wraparound

An intensive care planning and management process helping youth ages 6-21 who are at high risk of institutional placement to stay in their homes, schools and community. Our facilitator works with the youth and their families to build a team of supports to create a structured, individualized plan to manage their lives.

- **154** youth and their families utilized these services in 2016.
- **80%** of youth enrolled had no new criminal charges while in the program.

## First Step Early Childhood Education Center

Our fully licensed and accredited child development program serves children ages six weeks to five years of age. Children participate in activities that stimulate their physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and language development with a focus on early childhood readiness for school.

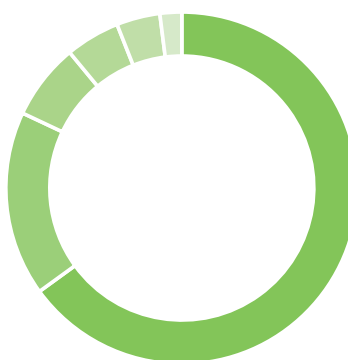
- First Step served **48** children in 2016.
- In 2016, **93%** of children served demonstrated age appropriate child development.

## Parent Assessments

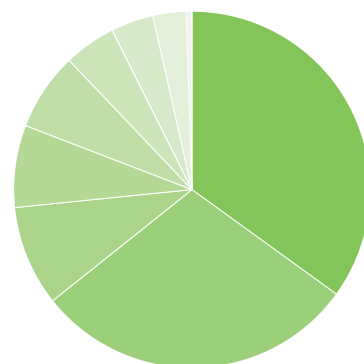
Assessments, required by county social workers to determine the next step in a treatment plan, provide information on parenting competence and the quality of parent-child relationships from the perspective of both the parent and the evaluator.

- **51** assessments were completed in 2016.

## Where we Serve



## Who we Serve



Hennepin Co.	65%
Ramsey Co.	17%
Anoka Co.	7%
Other or homeless	5%
Dakota Co.	7%
Washington	2%

African American	35%
Caucasian/White	29%
Multiracial	9%
American Indian	7.5%
Hispanic/Chicano/Latino	7%
Race Unknown	5%
Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islander	4%
African	3%
Other	0.5%



**Thank you** to the 200+ generous individuals and groups who contributed a total of 16,433 hours. The excellent work of graduate and post-graduate clinical interns at FamilyWise is equal to about \$222,618 per year in additional in-kind staff resources.

**We acknowledge the following who volunteered their time from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.**

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Mariam Ahmed  
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## Community Partner of the Year U.S. Bank

U.S. Bank has long been a supporter of FamilyWise. They have volunteered at events for several years, and this year, they stayed with us even as we transitioned to a new event. They sent a group of volunteers to the Summer Family Fundraiser at Park Tavern, who helped with set-up, the outdoor games and the silent auction. They have also held two drives for us—a hat and mitten drive and a book drive. They invited us to be one of about five nonprofits to be featured at a volunteer fair, and we recruited individual volunteers. Mary Watson shared her story at our Fall Fundraiser last year, and she became a mentor.

## Volunteers of the Year Abby Addis & Toni Forsland

**Abby** has been a very impactful mentor to Guadalupe and her 3 children. Guadalupe is a young married mom with a 3 year old daughter and 1 year old twin boys. Through Abby's support, Guadalupe obtained her driver's license and acquired numerous resources and parenting skills.

**Toni** is also a strong and supportive mentor! Through Toni's support, Sabrina has made excellent progress on healthy and age-appropriate parenting practices with her 1 year old daughter. Toni has also helped out with groceries and supplies as Sabrina navigates through life as a young mother, student and employee.

## George Kressin Intern Award Claire Cunningham

Claire is completing her dual Masters in Social Work and Public Health (UMN '18). She is dedicated and passionate about working with families. Completing her FamilyWise internship in May 2016, she continues on staff as a Family Specialist. Claire says it best in her winning essay: "FamilyWise has taught me to believe in the *power of people*, despite barriers and despite inequity. That simple belief continues to motivate me to create healthy families, healthier children and healthier communities. FamilyWise has laid the foundation for a career dedicated to empowering people and creating a stronger, healthier Twin Cities community."



# Thank you to our donors for their generosity. We acknowledge the following whose monetary or in-kind gifts were received from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

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## Life-long Learner

Lionel's senior year of high school was scarcely the victory lap he had anticipated. He broke his leg the week school started, ending his high school football career. He had an unplanned baby girl with his girlfriend (now, ex-girlfriend) last year. She and her mom barely let him visit. His own mom, overworked and overwhelmed, didn't support his interest in fighting to see the baby.

Lionel's own Dad barely saw him. Lionel wanted more for his daughter.

Thanks to Google, Lionel found and joined Bright Beginnings, FamilyWise's teen parenting support and education program.

Starting Bright Beginnings was rough. There weren't many guys and Lionel was the only parent who couldn't bring his daughter to class; he had limited visitation rights. Lionel kept showing up though and, after a few months, felt confident enough to petition the court for expanded visitation. The court cited Lionel's involvement in Bright Beginnings as the key factor in convincing them to grant his petition. Our staff vividly remembers those first times Lionel came in with his two year old. She would grasp firmly onto his crutch, to move it for him, solemnly explaining she needed to help Dad walk. Lionel would smile and talk while trying desperately not to topple over.

Lionel graduated from Bright Beginnings and promptly enrolled in the aftercare program to stay on top of the ever-changing parenting needs of his daughter, now age 4. Lionel describes himself as a life-long learner—of parenting skills.

## Lifetime Mission Award

In 2000, Carol Ann answered a newspaper ad and began volunteering as a Supervised Visitation Monitor at our Lakeville site. Little did she know that just a week after completing her training, her own family would both need and benefit from this service at a different agency. After serving as a dependable Monitor, with a passion for increasing the visibility of supervised visitation, Carol Ann wanted to do more. Volunteering in the office to build capacity for staff to serve clients, she eventually joined the board in 2006, spearheading many fundraising activities. In 2012, Carol Ann resigned from the board to focus on her volunteer work at our Lakeville site. However, she still visits the main office for special projects.

In 2016, Carol Ann was presented our Lifetime Mission Achievement Award by Arlene Nystuen, founder of FamilyWise and inaugural winner of the award.



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