# A community where every child thrives





### After staying late in the office one night,

I left through our lobby while children eagerly gathered to see their parents. On this occasion, three siblings filled our waiting area with squeals. A county-provided transportation worker had driven the oldest of the three, a girl of about seven, to this supervised visit. She came from a shelter to see her mother and father and was delighted to see her two younger sisters – twins – who were driven to the visit by their foster dad.



While I stopped to chat briefly with one of the girls, a pair of our supervised parenting team members entered the lobby. They informed the foster parent that the oldest child's dad was waiting in a family room to see his daughter. Unfortunately, mom

- the girls' shared connection - was not able to make it to FamilyWise tonight. The twins would not be able to share this two-hour visit with their sister.

The older of the girls became visibly upset and began to cry. She asked our staff why her sisters couldn't join her while she spent time with her father. "I need to see them," she insisted. Her tears fueled those of the twins.

I braced myself for conflict. However, I was reminded how skilled our team members are at their work. With great compassion, one of our staff distracted the young twins by coloring with them, speaking all the while to foster dad about why the visit was cancelled and when the next one would be. The older girl's feelings about the frustrating situation were validated by our other staff member and she walked through the door calmly to see her dad. Once she received a hug from her father, she settled into the visit and the twins were on their way home in the comfort of their foster parent's arms.

However peacefully concluded, I can only imagine the invisible ways that these brief minutes affected these three beautiful children. Not just in those moments, but in the hours, days and years to come. Decisions like removing children from an unsafe environment can be made for the right reasons – sometimes even the best reasons. However well-made, these decisions can still have negative and traumatic consequences.

The consequences of the hard work we help families walk through is the genesis for our strategic plan, developed last year. Over the next few years, FamilyWise is committed to innovations that will promote strong family connections and enhance the expertise and tools at our disposal, as well as our workforce. We will also engage the community in why decisions like the ones affecting these girls are made, and what can be done to make families whole after trauma. All of this supporting a more impactful mission: to strengthen families by promoting the safety, stability, and well-being for children.

We are excited to invite you to join this journey.



Ann Gaasch
Executive Director

Scott Zinken
Board President

### FamilyWise Mission

Strengthening families by promoting the safety, stability, and well-being of children. **Our vision** is a community where every child thrives.

### Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position
Cash \$703,429
Other current assets \$1,013,385
Noncurrent assets \$714,179
Total assets \$2,430,993
Current liabilities \$92,698
Long-term liabilities \$58,526
Net assets \$2,279,769
Total liabilities/net assets \$2,430,993
Statements of Activities
Summary of Support and Revenue
Contributions \$662,719
United Way \$221,005
Governmant contracts \$1,524,678
Program service fees \$435,858
Special events \$11,711
Earned and other\$3,255
Total support/revenue \$2,859,226
Summary of Expenses
Supervised Parenting and
Safe Exchange \$658,206
First Step Early Childhood
Education Center \$345,600
High-Fidelity Wraparound \$384,571
Adult Parent Education \$681,914
Bright Beginnings Young
Parenting Services \$112,454
Parent Assessments \$36,737
Total program expenses \$2,219,482
Management/General \$402,230
Fundraising \$256,580
Total annual expenses \$2,878,292
Change in net assets (\$19,066)

Complete financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2017, audited by Carpenter Evert & 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 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.

- **602** families received services in 2017, impacting the lives of **1,091** children.
- In 2017, **96%** of families were connected to community resources and **85%** reached self-efficacy.

### **Supervised Parenting 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.

- 937 families utilized these services in 2017, improving the safety of 1,017 children.
- In 2017, 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.

- 127 families and their 160 children were impacted by these services in 2017.
- In 2017, 89% of families reached self-efficacy and 100% of children reached development milestones.

#### **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 facilitators work with the youth and their families to build a team of supports to create a structured, individualized plan to manage their lives.

- 231 youth and their families utilized these services in 2017.
- 93% of youth remained in a community setting after finishing the program in 2017.

### 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.

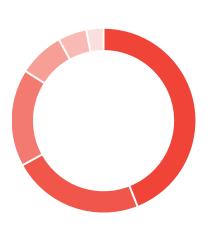
- First Step served 46 children in 2017.
- In 2017, 93% of children served achieved ageappropriate social/emotional development and 96% achieved age-appropriate language/literacy development.

### **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.

31 assessments were completed in 2017.

### Where we Serve



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Who we Serve

Hennepin Co.	44%
Other or homeless	23%
Ramsey Co.	17%
Anoka Co.	8%
Washington	5%
Dakota Co	3%

Caucasian/White	<u>36%</u>
African American	35%
Multiracial	9%
Hispanic/Chicano/Latino	8%
American Indian	5%
African	4%
Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islande	r 2%
Other	1%



## **Thank you** to the 243 generous individuals and groups who contributed a total of 11,961 hours. The excellent work of graduate and post-graduate clinical interns at FamilyWise is equal to about \$315,770 per year in additional in-kind staff resources.

We acknowledge the following who volunteered their time from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Nasteha Abdi Rema Absev Abby Addis Leta Albrecht Josephine Anang Amelia Baerenwald Johanna Barrera Brittany Baum Janna Beckmann Vicki Beebe Gretchen Beete Nicholas Bernarchy Martess Black Devan Blanchard Natalie Bodin Laura Breiter Tammi Cahak Arline Carpenter Natallie Chivers-Lockhart Yoojin Cho Brianna Christian Tiffany Collins Francisco Contreras Jill Contreras Courtney Corson Ashlev Nicole Covle Juliann Determan Bryan Deutch Amanda Devine John Duerscherl Samuel Dulian Kai Duus Sarah Elms Bobbie Erichsen Cate Everett Mitch Fallgatter Joan M. Fallin Aileen Fernanez-

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We apologize for any inadvertant error or omission from our list of volunteers. Please call 612.877.7849 to report a correction.

### Community Partner of the Year Landscape Architecture

Focusing on our families is our number one priority at FamilyWise. This can mean our attention turns away from our building and grounds. Landscape Architecture, Inc.'s principal, Stephen Mastey, has been a guiding force in revitalizing our lawn and parking lots. Through identifying funding, working with local groups and supporting upkeep we have a welcoming (and eco-friendly!) rain garden. We are now working with him on the sides of our building, including parking lots.

### Volunteer of the Year Amee McDonald

William Nelson

Amee is a Minneapolis-based writer, artist, entrepreneur, college instructor and activist. Honing her marketing skills in corporate America, Amee opened jabber logic with her husband Clint in 2011. Soon after, we welcomed her to our board. With her own firm, Amee provided key support to FamilyWise in refining and broadening our message and facilitated new community partnerships.

### George Kressin Intern Award Kristin Page

Kristin worked as a Supervised Parenting Monitor at our St. Paul site during the 2016-2017 school year. She is a senior at the University of St. Thomas studying Social Work, Family Studies and Social Services Management. "I am thankful for my time as an intern at Familywise, how it has opened my eyes to those that may be different from me and has reminded me that I am no better than anyone else and we are all deserving of a life full of love, joy and hope."

### **Thank you** to our donors for their generosity. We acknowledge the following whose monetary or in-kind gifts were received from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

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Kashi Yoshikawa

"I don't know if I would have been a bad mom, but now I am the best mom I can be. That was really something that I accomplished."

Diamond started working with FamilyWise's Bright Beginnings program while pregnant with her son Mason. She was a freshman in high school, about to be a new parent and very wary of adult figures. Diamond would ignore her parents and fought with her brothers. She wasn't sure what would happen after becoming a parent.

"I was a really mad kid, so I used to always say that it'd probably be better if I were in jail. But I don't feel that way anymore. When Mason was born, I was depressed and I actually didn't want to be around him a lot of the time. I would hold him, but I didn't want to. I thought that maybe I would drop him or maybe I would do something that I'm not supposed to do."

Guarded when someone suggested Diamond try FamilyWise, she said "It's not going to work, it's not going to help and it's not going to be worth anything." Diamond took a chance and met with Bertha, our Bright Beginnings Coordinator.

Bertha encouraged Diamond to listen before reacting. "I didn't like when people told me what I was doing wrong. We worked on listening to what others had to say before I said my piece." Bertha taught Diamond important parenting skills by saying, "this will be a good thing, you should do this more, you should do this less. This should be something you keep away from Mason." She helped Diamond know what to focus on and made sure she wasn't getting discouraged.

Diamond started to look forward to FamilyWise meetings. Because they were held after school, she started to attend school more. FamilyWise was helping her to be more optimistic when interacting with others. Diamond now talks with people positively, right off the bat. She learned to get along with her family. Over the next three years, Diamond worked to complete school and develop a post-graduation plan. She learned how to do woodworking and found an outlet for her creativity. Her son Mason was growing and developing and she was excited to see him master new skills like walking and finding the television remote, no matter how well Diamond hid it.



Diamond's experience with Bertha changed her outlook on life. Before, Diamond didn't want to like people. Bertha encouraged her to really look at situations differently: why did one thing happen and not another desired outcome, why is one thing that did happen actually amazing, etc.?

Diamond now looks forward to the future. Most recently, Diamond and her son Mason have moved into their own place and, now that she's engaged, their family is growing.

"Because of the work I did with Bertha, I am trusting of people, I'm more confident, and I'm being the best parent I can be."



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### MAIN OFFICE

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