

# Parenting through Poverty



**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

  
**FamilyWise**

**Like all the parents** who take part in FamilyWise programs, Desiree wants to offer her children the best opportunities possible. As she puts it, “I want a better life for my kids than my parents were able to give me.”

But like so many of the families we support, Desiree is parenting through poverty and a range of other challenges. Parenting on her own, she has a hard time finding backup childcare for her three kids—Donnie (8), Dream (5), and baby Dante—a situation complicated by her part-time retail store shifts often being in the evening.

“Dream and Donnie act out because school is so early and they’re coming home with me on the bus at 10 at night,” explains Desiree. “My FamilyWise educator told me they need way more sleep than they were getting.”

Because Desiree doesn’t have a car, she relies on the unreliable bus system in her neighborhood, and struggles to go grocery shopping with three kids in tow (as well as a stroller). Her manager at work told her to try Uber, but that can be pricey, plus Desiree doesn’t have a credit card so she’s unable to create an account. When she goes to apply for other jobs to supplement her income, people tell her to apply online—but she doesn’t have a computer. At every turn, new obstacles arise.

While her manager and others offering advice clearly had the best intentions, it is through FamilyWise support that Desiree was able to find more realistic solutions. Our staff connected her with a resource for free diapers, freeing up some of her income and ensuring she can pay the bills on time. The FamilyWise team also helped her ride the bus to and from her local food shelf, library, and other helpful destinations so she could be aware of them in the future.

FamilyWise support is also helping her find stronger footing in her everyday parenting. Desiree followed FamilyWise’s recommendation to make sure everybody does the same things with her kids so they have the same routine every day, regardless of who is taking care of them. “I feel much more confident that I can parent on my own.” Because of that ability to meet her goals for her family, she is calmer and doesn’t get as frustrated with the kids, especially on the bus.

Our team also connected Desiree with FamilyWise’s Adopt-a-Family campaign around the holidays. After receiving the gifts for her kids and learning they were all donated by generous FamilyWise supporters, Desiree said, “It made me realize that there were people out there who want my family to be happy.” Other fundraising support made a difference for her family, too. Thanks to FamilyWise donors, we were able to extend our support for Desiree beyond the usual timeframe, meaning she could continue reaching out to her family specialist with questions and needs.

For Desiree and other FamilyWise participants parenting through poverty, the challenges are many—but so are the tools and resources we can offer, with your support, to the families we serve every day.



## 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 . . . . .	\$1,174,409
Other current assets . . . . .	\$706,002
Noncurrent assets . . . . .	\$665,611
<b>Total assets . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,546,022</b>
Current liabilities . . . . .	\$82,071
Long-term liabilities . . . . .	\$57,711
Net assets . . . . .	\$2,406,240
<b>Total liabilities/net assets</b>	<b>\$2,546,022</b>

### Statements of Activities

#### Summary of Support and Revenue

Contributions . . . . .	\$855,189
United Way . . . . .	\$215,478
Government contracts . . . . .	\$1,359,831
Program service fees . . . . .	\$497,983
Special events . . . . .	\$12,471
Earned and other. . . . .	\$1,552
<b>Total support/revenue . . .</b>	<b>\$2,942,504</b>

#### Summary of Expenses

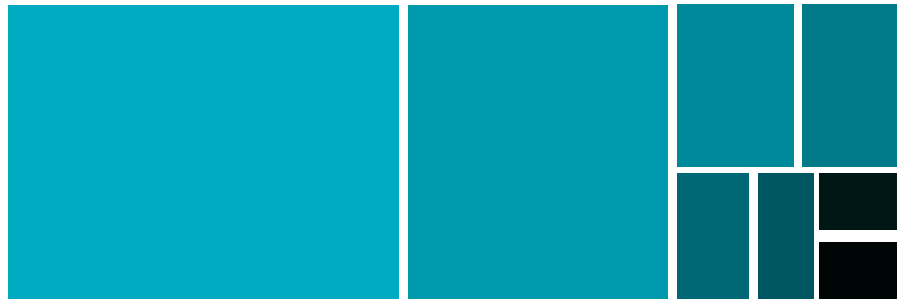
Supervised Parenting and Safe Exchange . . . . .	\$589,865
First Step Early Childhood Education Center . . . . .	\$356,410
High-Fidelity Wraparound . . . . .	\$393,788
Adult Parent Education . . . . .	\$680,448
Bright Beginnings Young Parenting Services . . . . .	\$100,520
Parent Assessments . . . . .	\$22,824
<b>Total program expenses . .</b>	<b>\$2,143,855</b>
Management/General . . . . .	\$460,809
Fundraising . . . . .	\$211,369
<b>Total annual expenses . . .</b>	<b>\$2,816,033</b>
<b>Change in net assets . . . . .</b>	<b>(\$126,471)</b>

Complete financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2018, audited by Carpenter Evert & Associates, Ltd. are available for inspection.

## Where we Serve



Hennepin Co.	54%	Other or homeless	5%
Ramsey Co.	21%	Dakota Co.	3%
Anoka Co.	14%	Washington	3%



## Who we Serve

African American	45%	American Indian	4%
Caucasian/White	30%	Asian	3%
Multiracial	9%	Unknown	2%
Hispanic/Chicano/Latino	6%	African	2%

## Our Programs

**Adult Parent Education:** Support for families at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect. A continuum of services guides parents to a greater understanding of the role they play in providing a safe environment for children. Last year, **530** families, including **1,087** children, received these services.

**Supervised Parenting:** In cases of family separation or family violence, FamilyWise offers supervised visitation between non-custodial parents and their children in a safe environment. FamilyWise is the largest provider of Supervised Parenting and Safe Exchange services in Minnesota. **666** families used these services last year, improving safety for **704** children.

**High Fidelity Wraparound:** FamilyWise is the only credentialed provider of High Fidelity Wraparound in the Twin Cities, using the evidence-based elements of family voice and choice and "wrapping" supports around families. **191** youth and their families used these services, with **62%** of youth remaining in a community setting after finishing the program.

**Early Childhood Education:** FamilyWise offers parents a highly accredited early childhood program, the First Step Early Childhood Development Center. Of the **56** children First Step served last year, **96%** demonstrated age-appropriate child development.

**Bright Beginnings:** A voluntary program for teen parents age 14-22 who have a history of out-of-home placement or justice system involvement. These adolescents receive life skills training, parent education, and mentoring. **174** young parents and their **138** children found support through this program last year, nearly doubling the number served the year before.

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### Key Employees

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### MAIN OFFICE

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FamilyWiseServices.org



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