Our Mission

Strengthening families
by promoting the safety, stability, and well-being of children.

Our vision is a community
where every child thrives.

Dear FamilyWise community,

Typically, the opening message in an annual report is spent looking back, recapping the past year’s achievements. But the current moment—or moments, because they keep happening—seems to call for a different tone.

Both locally and globally, people of color and low-income families—the communities where FamilyWise focuses its programs—are living through a quickly changing set of challenges that began with the coronavirus several months ago, only to be followed by the devastating loss of George Floyd. Not surprisingly, we are seeing the trauma of these events fall most squarely on the communities already facing generations of inequities.

As the parents and children we serve confront profound new obstacles, our sharp focus on a wraparound system of support, from both professional and informal sources, is something that gives our families a steady source of care, both practical and emotional, to weather long-term challenges.

Over our history, and more than ever in 2019, our emphasis on natural supports (family, friends, community members) has extended the circle of care we can provide. As former Bright Beginnings Mentor Kelley, who is featured in our success story on pages 5 and 6, puts it: “When [your mentee] becomes like an extended family member, then that’s the right fit.” Kelley’s relationship with her mentee Tika was supposed to last a year; their relationship is now approaching a decade. Natural, community-based systems of support like this have incredible staying power.

Again, while this report focuses on our work over the past year, in the spirit of “extending the family” I cannot help but mention our July 2020 merger with MCCC. As the families in our community work through steeper challenges than ever, as one unified organization we can offer parents and children the deeper, extended support they all need.

Ann Gaasch
Executive Director
Our Impact

Supervised Parenting and Safe Exchange
In cases of family separation or family violence where the well-being of the child is in question, on-site and community/home supervised parenting is provided between non-custodial parent and their children in a safe, caring, and sensitive environment. 424 families utilized these services in 2019, improving the safety for 534 children.

High Fidelity Wraparound
An intensive care planning and management process helping youth ages 8-17 who are high risk of institutional placement to stay in their homes, schools, and community. Youth and their families build a team of natural and systems supports to create a structured, individualized plan. 148 youth and their families utilized these services in 2019.

Teen Parenting
Parent education and mentor services for teen parents between the ages of 14-22. Services include life skills training, parent education, parent child interaction coaching, and a full year of support by a community mentor. In 2019, 95 teens and their 95 children were impacted by these services.

First Step Early Childhood Education
Fully licensed and accredited child development program serving children ages six weeks to six 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 51 children in 2019.

Adult Parent Education
Comprehensive parent education and support services for at-risk families through in-home and center based programming, including intensive case management, parent education, parent-child interaction coaching, life skills training, early childhood education and counseling. In 2019, 307 families received services, impacting the lives of 644 children.

Parent Assessments
Assessments required by county social workers to determine the next step in a treatment plan. Assessments provide information on parenting competence and the quality of parent-child relationships from the perspective of both the parent and the evaluator. In 2019, 17 assessments were completed.

58.5% of participants are under 18
89% low-income families
70% people of color and indigenous people

Where we serve

1,012 households
2,513 individuals
1,469 children

89%
70%
58.5%
Our Stories

A Bright Beginning...
With No End in Sight

Nearly a decade after being paired up, a mentor-mentee team stays connected

Roughly nine years ago, Kelley discovered FamilyWise when looking for somewhere to donate her son's baby gear. But while on our website, something else caught her eye: a call for volunteers in our teen parent education and mentorship program, Bright Beginnings.

“I actually was a teen parent myself,” says Kelley, “but hadn’t thought about volunteering] until I realized there was a need for mentors.” The timing was right for Kelley. “I had had my fourth child, I was in my 40s, and you get to a point in your life when…you appreciate all that work you did when you were young and how far you’ve come. I [felt like I was] in a good spot where I could help somebody else out who’s now in that position, you know?”

After signing up and before being matched with a teen, Kelley took part in Bright Beginnings’ pre-mentoring training. “The training was really good.” Kelley recalls, in setting the expectations and philosophy mentors should bring to the experience. “Part of you wants to go right in and fix stuff, and that’s just not what you should do. You have to let them figure it out.”

After Kelley was matched with Bright Beginnings participant Tika, then in her third trimester, the training continued with monthly meetings led by FamilyWise staff, sometimes featuring a guest speaker. These sessions are designed to give mentors the tips and information to strengthen their mentor-mentee relationships, and help them equip mentees with not just parenting skills but life skills.

While Kelley says Tika was hesitant to open up early on, their relationship deepened when Tika called to ask Kelley to pick her up at the hospital after the birth of her baby daughter, Imahni. After building greater trust over time, Kelley was able to coach Tika through a number of positive parenting moments, including setting up Imahni with dental care, doing healthy, cost-effective grocery shopping, and encouraging Tika to get involved at school, such as when she switched Imahni to a different classroom.

“She’s switched teachers for ‘Mahn’ and advocated for ‘Mahn’ in the schools, making sure teachers are paying attention to her needs.”

Over time, Kelley says, the pair built a relationship that made them feel like “extended family members.” While the Bright Beginnings program technically lasts a year, Kelley, Tika, and Imahni’s bond is now going on a decade. This is the staying power of what FamilyWise calls informal or “natural” supports: those relationships in your life that create a circle of care that goes beyond the limits of more professional services.

“I think there’s a value to having somebody who is really invested in you and in your success and wants what’s best for you without anything being tied to it,” says Kelley. “It’s not school, you’re not graded, there’s nothing in it for anybody.”

Today, Tika has a steady job and she and Imahni live in their own apartment. Kelley recently visited to celebrate Imahni turning nine, bringing her a sewing machine as a gift. Tika’s reaction—“Oh, I can try to sew with her!”—was further evidence of Kelley’s ongoing, positive impact in Tika and Imahni’s life.

“It was quite the journey,” reflects Kelley, “from a pregnant teen who would not look at me when talking to all these years later—we just met up for her 28th birthday. (Our relationship) is still around nine years later because…‘Mahn’ is adorable and I love her and want her mom to continue to be a good mom. I really care about Tika being successful and taking care of herself because when she takes care of herself, she takes care of her baby. She’s had a lot of challenges, but she’s overcome them and I think she would be a fantastic role model.”

In fact, Kelley has an idea. “There are times when I’m like, you know, she’s getting old enough where she could step in and actually be a mentor now.” In this way, the circle of care might continue, the mentee becoming the mentor.

“She’s had a lot of challenges, but she’s overcome them and I think she would be a fantastic role model.”
Our Board

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Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

Cash .................................................. $987,837
Other current assets .............................. $581,827
Noncurrent assets ............................... $719,302
Total assets ...................................... $2,288,966
Current liabilities ................................ $79,676
Long-term liabilities ......................... $60,122
Net assets .......................................... $2,149,168
Total liabilities/net assets .................... $2,288,966

Statements of Activities

Summary of Support and Revenue
Contributions ...................................... $602,750
United Way ........................................... $158,309
Government contributions .................. $381,702
Program service fees ......................... $1,383,621
Special events ..................................... $8,226
Earned and other ................................. $4,496
Total support/revenue ......................... $2,539,104

Summary of Expenses
Supervised Parenting and Safe Exchange ........................................ $546,185
First Step Early Childhood Education Center ...................................... $413,833
High-Fidelity Wraparound ................... $491,693
Adult Parent Education ....................... $358,227
Bright Beginnings Young Parenting Services ................................. $98,423
Parent Assessments ............................ $35,528
Total program expenses ...................... $2,103,889
Management/General ......................... $484,067
Fundraising ........................................ $208,220

Total annual expenses ......................... $2,103,889
Change in net assets ............................ ($257,072)

Complete financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2019, audited by Carpenter Evert & Associates, Ltd. are available for inspection.
Thank You

We thank our supporters for the invaluable contributions they have made in 2019!

FamilyWiseServices.org

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