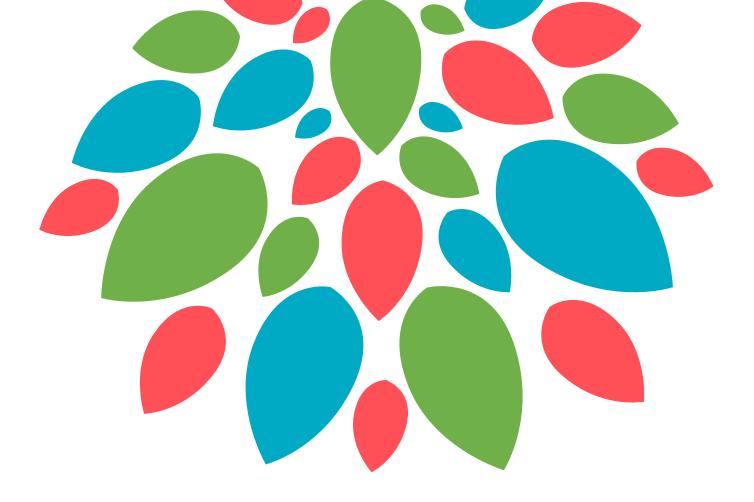


2020 Annual Report

## Walking Alongside Families and Communities



# 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,

When 2020 began, FamilyWise was eagerly preparing for **our merger with long-time partner Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC).** The promise of the union: as one collective organization we could better serve families statewide with a broader continuum of services. Together, we would walk alongside families and communities, supporting and empowering them to ensure child safety and wellbeing.

By the time we officially merged on July 1, the kickoff celebration had been moved to Zoom due to COVID-19, while most of our programs shifted to virtual platforms. The families and communities we partner with faced rising levels of economic instability, and families across the state lost their sense of safety during the pandemic and the uprising for racial justice after the murder of George Floyd.

Through it all, we were able to live out the promise of the merger: **to walk alongside families and communities at a time when they most needed our support**. We met families where they were – at home. We gave parents respite through virtual storytelling sessions with their kids. We offered regular virtual resilience sessions where people could practice mindfulness together to combat stress. We convened virtual trainings and workshops with family service providers and schools on the impacts of trauma and how to build resilience. Meanwhile, our childcare and supervised parenting staff showed up in person every day to support children and families. Along the way, FamilyWise and MCCC donors and volunteers stepped up to ensure families had the extra resources they needed.

Knowing the families we support, the staff I'm honored to work with, and committed supporters like you, it did not surprise me to see how we all came together to adapt, persevere, and thrive in an incredibly challenging year. Building on everything we learned in 2020, I am hopeful about what our new, merged FamilyWise team will do in the coming year as we emerge from the pandemic. We know that recovery and healing will be a slow process, especially for the families and communities we serve, and I'm grateful and confident in our ability to do that critical work together.

Dagsch

**Ann Gaasch** Executive Director

## Families & Communities Together

## Longtime parent leader John Soghigian founds FACT, a nonprofit extending the legacy of FamilyWise and MCCC

When we think of this annual report's theme—walking alongside families and communities—it evokes a sense of journey, a purposeful series of steps guided by the needs and goals of the families we support.

In that sense, John Soghigian's story and vision perfectly fits the theme. Both parent leader and community partner, John has been walking alongside parents, children, and

communities for years, and his work has crossed paths with MCCC and FamilyWise at many points on that journey. For example, from his early days on work groups and parent panels, John stressed the importance of addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), an emphasis that led him naturally to connect with MCCC, eventually getting involved with NEAR Communities, Circle of Parents, and other likeminded parent-empowerment efforts.

Building on his experience of supporting parents and caregivers to be leaders in their



communities and elevating their voices at state and local decision-making tables, John started Families and Communities Together (FACT) to spread programs like Circle of Parents to new communities. "There's a need for this type of work across the state and nation," says John. "Wherever there is poverty, [we need to have] free services like this for families to connect with one another." During the pandemic, FACT started 10 virtual Circle of Parents groups in response to community needs.

John is also excited about FACT's partnership with FamilyWise to bring High Fidelity Wraparound (Wrap) services to youth and families in St. Louis County, where the community has identified a need for holistic support to address inequities among youth at risk of out-of-home placement and other challenges that have historically prevented them from thriving. In talking with an educator at a local alternative school, John quickly identified the need for a program like Wrap among students who had struggled to find success in traditional high schools. "She said the one thing that's been missing from all the programs she'd looked at is they fizzled out because they didn't have family involvement—and Wraparound has family involvement."

A signature program at FamilyWise, Wraparound uses the evidence-based elements of family voice and choice to wrap supports around youth, helping families tap into a network of informal, natural supports from neighbors, friends, and family who all contribute to a healthy home environment where youth can thrive.

There's a real spirit of knowing what is needed," says John. We know parents want more support, we hear it from them, and we hear it so much we can start specialized groups that focus more on individual needs of parents." With so many years of experience building so many relationships, John is a true connector. "I'm a person who connects the dots," he shares. "If people are passionate about the work, I know where they can do it, and I'll find a way for them to do it. And those philosophies come from being part of MCCC and FamilyWise."



## Our Impact

Active programming in 35 counties, with 75% of participants from the 7-county metro area and 25% in Greater Minnesota.

**58% of people served were** people of color and indigenous people.

**87% of people served were** *low-income families* 

**30% of those served were** *under eight years of age.* 

This year FamilyWise merged with **Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC)**. As a result, the scope of the FamilyWise programs now includes prevention programs and programming in greater Minnesota.

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

Cash	\$1,248,539.00
Other current assets	\$770,907.00
Noncurrent assets	\$834,940.00
Total Assets	\$2,854,386.00
Current liabilities	\$171,140.00
Long-term liabilities	\$62,715.00
Net assets	\$2,620,531.00

## Total liabilities/net assets \$ 2,854,386.00

#### **Statement of Activities**

Summary of Support and R	levenue
Contributions	\$767,205.00
United Way	\$ 107,493.00
Government contributions.	\$868,089.00
Program service fees	\$1,268,932.00
Special events	\$11,739.00
Earned and other	\$52,863.00

## Total support/revenue \$3,076,321.00

#### Summary of Expenses

Supervised Parenting and Safe		
Exchange	\$ 532,973.00	
First Step Early Childhood Education		
Center	\$322,810.00	
High-Fidelity Wraparound	\$425,432.00	
Adult Parent Education	\$403,228.00	
Bright Beginnings Young Parenting		
Services	\$106,067.00	
Parent Assessments	\$2,145.00	
Prevention Education	\$499,922.00	
Circle of Parents	\$266,348.00	
Total Program Expenses	\$2,558,925.00	
Management/General	\$388,050.00	
Fundraising	\$153,885.00	

Total annual expenses	\$ 3,100,860.00
Change in net assets	\$ 471,363.00





### We thank our supporters

for the invaluable contributions they have made in 2020!

FamilyWiseServices.org

*Main Office* 3036 University Ave SE Minneapolis, MN 55414



