

Planting Seeds for Lasting Change

2025 Annual Report

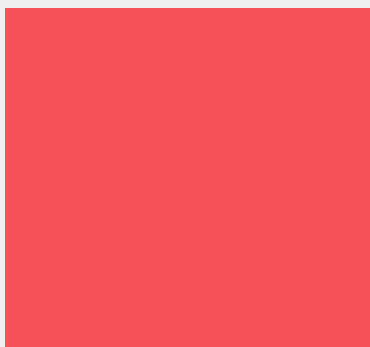


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Welcome



Dear Friends,

At FamilyWise, our mission is to strengthen families by promoting the safety, stability, and wellbeing of children. Protecting children in our community is a responsibility we all share, because children and their caregivers thrive when they have a robust support network.

In 2025, families' sense of safety was upended by the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School. This tragedy is an echo of the violence that children are facing in our communities. Neighborhood shootings and family violence continue to harm our collective wellbeing, and our work of creating communities that support kids and families through trauma is more important than ever.

This year we helped parents and kids build their natural support networks so they have family, friends, and neighbors to turn to through life's ups and downs. We provided deeper levels of navigation support for families as they face long waitlists for services like housing assistance and mental health care.

We also expanded the work of our Training Institute. Through educational and skill-building training, we help community members across the state understand childhood trauma and resiliency. We make space for communities and systems to reflect on how they can help make parenting, and life, easier for families in their community. Learn more about the trainings we offer on page 6 of this report.

Creating strong and supportive communities takes time. We're planting seeds today – one family and one community at a time – to create a safer world for future generations of children. Thank you to the community partners, donors, advocates, and neighbors that have stepped up to make children and families feel seen, valued, and supported.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Gaasch".



Ann Gaasch
Chief Executive Director

About Us



MISSION

Our mission is to strengthen families by promoting the **safety, stability, and wellbeing** of children.



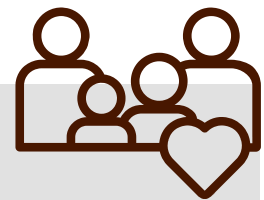
VISION

Our vision is a world where every child thrives.



APPROACH

With a focus on equity, FamilyWise supports the voice and choice of families as they grow their resilience, skills, and connections to achieve their goals.



Our Reach in 2025



650
families
supported



3,864
individuals
reached

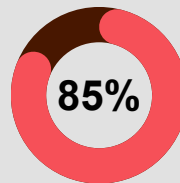


1,198
children
served

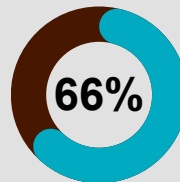


2,800
connections were made
to community resources

Participant Demographics



of participants
come from low-
income families



of participants
were from
communities of color



Over 40 County & 6 Tribal Community Partners

- Our services reached participants statewide, 56% from the 7-county metro and 44% from Greater Minnesota, outside Minnesota, or web-based participation

2025 Program Outcomes



Bright Beginnings helps pregnant youth and young parents become the best caregivers they can be through parenting, independent living, health, and social skills workshops. In 2025, Bright Beginnings served 86 unique participants across 49 young parent families, where 92% of children completed annual well-child checkups and were up to date on immunizations.

Adult Parent Education helps families who are or could become involved with the child welfare system to strengthen the whole family by building parenting and life skills. Individual and group classes are available. In 2025, 1,125 participants across 327 families received services, including 707 children. Of these, 94% of Parent Support Outreach Program participants improved Strengths & Needs assessment scores.

NEAR Communities and Tribal NEAR Communities provide education, train presenters, and work with communities to share neurobiology, epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and resilience (NEAR) research to catalyze individual and community-driven action that fosters understanding, hope, and healing. In 2025, 80 trainings were offered and 2,190 individuals were reached. Audiences represented over 16 Minnesota Counties.

Supervised Parenting operates in cases of family separation or family violence where the well-being of the child is in question. Noncustodial parents and their children visit in a safe environment in the home, out in the community, or at one of our sites. 184 participants, including 109 children, across 74 families utilized these services in 2025, and 750 visits were provided, totaling nearly 1,300 hours of visits.

First Step Early Childhood Education Center is a nationally accredited, affordable childcare center open to the public for all children ages six weeks to first day of Kindergarten. Children participate in activities that stimulate their physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and language development with a focus on early childhood readiness for school. In 2025, First Step served 35 children, with 97% reaching developmental milestones.

Circle of Parents is a national peer-to-peer parenting support group model that creates safe spaces for parents to share parenting experiences and resources and to build confidence and strengthen family relationships. In 2025, Circle of Parents began development on a new data collection system to better collect participant and group data for the program.

High-Fidelity Wraparound is a nationally recognized model that helps youth with significant behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues to remain in the community by creating an individualized support plan for the family. In 2025, 279 participants utilized High-Fidelity Wraparound across 92 families, with 941 face-to-face services provided.

The **Parent Leadership Program** uplifts parent and family leaders to participate in state and local planning processes and working groups promoting equity and helping to identify and eliminate bias in program services and policy development through co-creation with families and communities. In 2025, we gathered to celebrate the graduation of 21 participants from the program.

FamilyWise Training Institute: Creating Supportive Communities for Families

This year FamilyWise launched our Training Institute, turning the growing list of presentations and trainings we offer into a centralized suite of services. Available trainings range from 60-minute educational workshops for community groups to months-long intensive skill-building training for professionals.

While some of our trainings have a long history – community-based workshops on NEAR Science* and Circle of Parents training began more than 10 and 25 years ago – we’ve recently expanded offerings for service providers to include credentialing in High-Fidelity Wraparound.

Investment in training has been a natural progression for FamilyWise. Our staff have strong expertise to share, in upstream community-based prevention as well as best practices for direct partnership with families navigating systems. **One-third of FamilyWise program staff have tenures of 5+ years, with 15% exceeding 10+ years of experience.**

One of those staff is Susie Voss, Training Manager at FamilyWise. “When I started in Wraparound 12 years ago, before we were training other organizations, I was trained to do the direct service work.” shares Susie. “And then a couple of years later I had the opportunity to be trained as a coach.... Above a coach, there’s a consultant role. And so internally at FamilyWise, over my time, we have grown our own program to have each of those roles.”

Wraparound training is an in-depth process for organizations that want to start their own Wraparound program. Through

online training modules and 1:1 coaching, family service professionals learn to facilitate **Wraparound, a holistic case management model that lifts up family voice and choice and helps families grow natural supports to sustain them long-term.**

As one Wrap participant shared, “My boys have been involved in services since they were little, we’ve tried it all. Wraparound was different. I actually felt connected to my Wrap Facilitator because they included me in the planning and made sure that all my



Early Childhood Education Training Cohort

services were working for me the way I wanted them to.” To date, FamilyWise has provided training to 6 organizations and agencies in Minnesota as well as Delaware, California, and New York.

FamilyWise is also nationally known for our NEAR science training using the ACE Interface curriculum. **“We feel like everyone benefits from understanding how our brains work, how our experiences have shaped us, so that we can understand ourselves and each other better,” explains Susie.** FamilyWise both presents, and trains others to present, on NEAR science topics across Minnesota to expand awareness.

Understanding NEAR Science has the power to increase empathy. Presentation attendees report increased patience and compassion towards themselves and others, knowing that we are all products of our early environment. Attendees, most of whom are family service providers, left the presentation motivated to be present, attentive, and open-minded to more effectively support others. They strive to incorporate practices into their lives and work that strengthen their own resilience and to share resilience resources with others.

In 2025 FamilyWise partnered with 80x3, an initiative of Greater Twin Cities United Way, to customize the NEAR science training for Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals. “We were thinking about folks who are working with kids in that really tender young age and how vital they are as protective factors,” says Susie. Demand has been high, and since the initiative began, we’ve trained 27 ECE professionals to present with their networks, and collectively we’ve reached more than 400 ECE professionals with the information.

The recent growth of training programs feels like just the beginning. **“There is a lot coming that I’m excited about,” says Susie.** “The Training Institute has grown so much that we have hired a Training Coordinator to support the work.... I think that really signifies how far we’ve come in this work since I started.”

With support from the Sauer Family Foundation, FamilyWise is currently developing a new training on the Natural Supports Toolkit that our staff developed to help family service professionals partner with parents to address barriers and grow their informal support networks. Learn more about educational workshops and trainings offered on our website: <https://familywiseservices.org/get-involved/training-institute/>

**NEAR Science refers to Neurobiology, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Resilience research*

Our Supporters



Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who made this year possible.

Aidan and Rachel Mesic	Elizabeth Hutter-Seebart	Kirsten Ehresmann	Patricia Johnson
Aimee Barrett	Elizabeth M. Melton	Kristin Lundgren	Patrick and Aimee Butler
Aimee Johnson and friends	Emily Carlberg	Larry Christofar	Family Foundation
Alaina Nietz	Emily Dove	Laura Erchul	Paul and Amy Biewen
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Allison Woodwick	Erin Maass	Lawrence and Norma	Prennesha McCalister
Amee and Clint McDonald	Ethan Zmuda	Christianson	Priscilla Nelson Mitchell
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Our Leadership



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Stacey Rude, Executive Director, Aetna/CVS

Joanna Woolman, Executive Director, Keeping Families Connected Minnesota



Financial Report



Statement of Financial Position

Cash & Receivables	\$2,124,231
Other Assets	\$1,127,513
Total Assets	\$3,251,744
Current Liabilities	\$195,472
Long-Term Liabilities	\$13,465
Net Assets	\$3,042,807
Total Liabilities/Net Assets	\$3,251,744

Statement of Activities

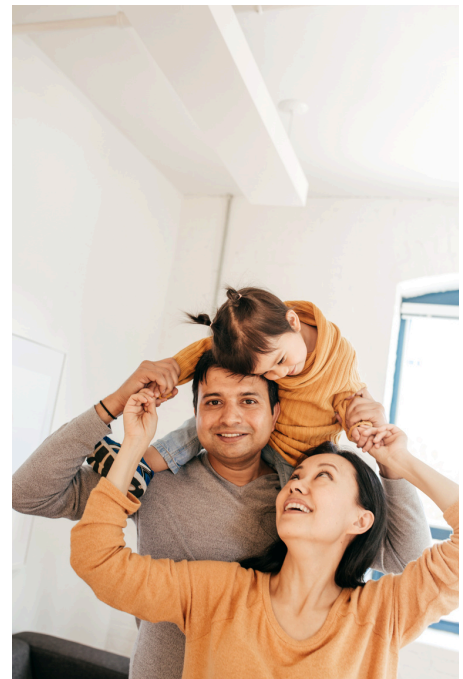
Summary of Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$645,321
United Way	\$116,250
Government Contributions	\$3,235,277
Special Events	\$14,721
Earned and Other	\$294,078
Total Support/Revenue	\$4,305,647

Summary of Expenses

Supervised Parenting and Safe Exchange	\$394,288
First Step Early Childhood Education Center	\$465,284
High-Fidelity Wraparound	\$872,363
Wraparound Training	\$71,654
Parent Support	\$698,712
Bright Beginnings	\$304,640
ACES Tribal NEAR	\$143,477
ACES Programs	\$527,896
Awareness	\$193,112
Total Program Expenses	\$3,671,426
Management/General	\$463,145
Fundraising	\$318,468
Total Annual Expenses	\$4,453,039

Change in Net Assets **-\$147,392**





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FamilyWiseServices.org



FamilyWise is the Minnesota Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and National Circle of Parents

Support Our Work

