

Tomorrow's Hope



Family & Children's Center
2007 Annual Report

Hope:
The feeling that
what is wanted
can be had.



The word hope
means so much to so many. For a single mother sacrificing to give her children a better tomorrow, it represents a belief that she can achieve her hopes and dreams for her children, despite odds against her. For an abused child, hope means believing there is a loving home somewhere for him and the promise of a brighter future. For people with the means to help others, hope is a gift they can share.



Mission



Family & Children's Center serves children, families and individuals with a continuum of services designed to strengthen families and promote individual well-being.

Programs & Services

- Residential treatment
- Residential youth homes
- Treatment foster care
- Alternative education programs for youth with behavioral problems
- Day treatment
- Community support programs
- In-home counseling
- Individual and group counseling
- Child abuse/neglect prevention
- Transitional services for youth aging out of foster care
- Domestic Abuse Project (Vernon County)
- Alcohol treatment
- Divorce mediation
- Assessment
- Senior housing
- Sandcastles for children whose parents are divorcing

2007 Highlights

- Healthy Transitions (support for youth transitioning out of foster care and residential programs) was added to complement Family & Children's Center's Independent Living Skills program.
- The Great Rivers United Way awarded a \$4,000 venture grant to provide transitional housing for participants in Family & Children's Center's Healthy Transitions program.
- A Greater Winona United Way Venture Grant cleared the way for a new preschool day treatment program in Winona, Minn.
- Anne Gearity, a nationally recognized specialist in early childhood behavioral problems, led a professional workshop sponsored by Family & Children's Center and the Winona Community Foundation.
- The Roaring Ride 2007, a fund- and friend-raiser in La Crosse, Wis., attracted more than 100 motorcycle riders and raised more than \$6,000 for Healthy Families.
- Family & Children's Center's Community Support Program provided in Jackson and Vernon Counties expanded to La Crosse County.
- The 12th annual Tri-Quest run-bike-golf event in La Crosse, Wis., raised \$38,500 for Family & Children's Center.

Tomorrow's Hope: The Campaign for Better Tomorrows

Dear Friend:

Earlier this decade, Family & Children's Center found itself at a crossroads. Families and other natural support systems were deteriorating, and children and our communities were showing the effects. At the same time need was increasing, resources were diminishing.

We had a choice to make. We could continue on our current path with ever-increasing waiting lists and fading quality of life for individuals and communities going without needed services. Or we could act boldly on our hope and faith in humanity. For those who know Family & Children's Center, our choice to pursue solutions surprised few; and in 2007, we publicly launched our first-ever fundraising campaign: The Campaign for Better Tomorrows.

Response to the campaign is exceeding our expectations. Individuals and families throughout the region have opened their hearts, contributing time, talent and treasure to give hope for tomorrow. Because of your generosity, we are well on our way to achieving our goals, assuring better tomorrows for everyone living, working and raising families in the region.

On behalf of Family & Children's Center and all the children and families who can now look forward to better tomorrows, thank you.

John Burgess,
President & Chief Executive Officer

Kevin Mahoney
Chair, Board of Directors

Don Weber
Chair, Campaign for Better Tomorrows

Handwritten signature of John Burgess in blue ink.

Handwritten signature of Kevin Mahoney in blue ink.

Handwritten signature of Don Weber in blue ink.

*"Not only is another world possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."*

~ Arundhati Roy



Tomorrow's Hope

Kids and families today are struggling. Families are isolated and fragmented. Children are abused and neglected. Communities are paying the price with higher incarceration rates, increased taxes and self-perpetuating problems.

But Family & Children's Center has the programs and expertise to provide hope for better tomorrows. With your support, we can reach the children, teens, adults, seniors and families who need help today and tomorrow.

The Campaign for Better Tomorrows represents Family & Children's Center's first-ever fundraising campaign. With a focus on prevention and intervention, the Campaign for Better Tomorrows seeks to raise \$7 million throughout the region. Success will assure quality services for children and families in our communities for generations to come.



"I have learned two lessons in my life: first, there are no sufficient literary, psychological, or historical answers to human tragedy, only moral ones. Second, just as despair can come to one another only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings."

~ Elie Wiesel



Regional Approach to Community Problems

Problems of child abuse and neglect, social isolation, mental illness and others addressed by Family & Children's Center are widespread in the United States. As the Center continues to develop and adapt life-changing programs and services, more and more communities are calling upon the organization's expertise. As a result, Family & Children's Center has grown to serve communities throughout a 48-county region in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota.

It makes good economic sense for one successful, highly-effective agency to serve the regional area. One infrastructure and a unified team approach means more efficient and more effective solutions to community problems.

Hope for Generations Ahead

La Crosse's Dahl family was among the first to pledge support for the Campaign for Better Tomorrows, calling it a family tradition to give to those in need.

Indeed, the Dahl family has been supporting the community throughout the five generations it has run Dahl Automotive. In 2004, the family formalized the tradition by creating the Dahl Family Foundation, from which they pledged \$500,000 to the Campaign for Better Tomorrows.

The Dahls — grandfather Kenny, dad Harry and sons Jansen, Andrew and Tyler — base giving decisions on a number of criteria but look especially for family and youth organizations. They say they chose Family & Children's Center because it is an all-encompassing organization that helps with both prevention and intervention for families in need. "We feel our charitable contributions are a direct reflection of our values and perspectives on life," says Harry.

Andrew points to Family & Children's Center as a good example of an organization that addresses newer needs in today's society. "Divorce rates are up and single parenting has increased in our generation. We have been blessed with the means to address these needs in a positive way through our family foundation."

The family is especially concerned that county, state and federal funding cuts are leaving more children and families in need.

"You read the newspaper and you see it. Our communities are growing and so are crime rates, alcohol use, binge drinking and gang activity. There's more of that than the system can handle. That tears away at the social fabric of a community. People don't want to move to towns with crime and drug issues," says Jansen. "Family & Children's Center can be proactive and nip it in the bud, saving incarceration costs, police costs and immeasurable costs for communities and families."

The Dahls believe strongly that their gifts build better tomorrows. "If we didn't believe that we could make an impact, we wouldn't contribute," says Tyler. "By investing in families and children, we are investing in the future well-being of our community; we are investing in hope for the future."



Hope for Healthier Families



Healthy Families, Family & Children's Center's highly successful child abuse/neglect prevention program, plays a critical role in building hope for better tomorrows.

Mistreated children can develop crippling behavioral, emotional and physical problems. Without help, these children can grow into nonproductive adults, unable to maintain employment or develop positive, life-sustaining relationships. They can also become abusers themselves, perpetuating the problem for generations.

By equipping highly stressed, at-risk parents at the outset with the tools and supports needed to raise healthy, happy children in a loving environment, Healthy Families has been proven to be 98 percent effective in preventing child abuse and neglect. It's also been shown to save at least two taxpayer dollars for every \$1 invested in the program.

But Family & Children's Center only has the resources to serve one-third of the families who need the Healthy Families program. The Campaign for Better Tomorrows will establish an endowment for this program — the first step to assuring it can provide hope for future generations.



"The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."

~ Allan K. Chalmers

Springtime of Hope

The 2007 Springtime of Hope Recognition Dinner recognized Lee A. Johnson, MD, Rebecca Naugler and Anne Stekel for their efforts to help families and children in the La Crosse, Wis., community. Sponsored by the Healthy Families Medical Consortium, the 2007 event raised more than \$10,000.

The Healthy Families Medical Consortium is a joint effort by Franciscan Skemp Auxiliary, Gundersen Lutheran Partners and the La Crosse County Medical Society Alliance. It was formed to provide support to the Healthy Families program at Family & Children's Center.

Katie's Story

The oldest of four children in a traditional, middle-class family, Katie, at age 16, shocked her parents with news of her pregnancy. After dealing with the shock, Katie's parents encouraged her to look at all of her options, but Katie knew all along she wanted to keep her baby.

Recognizing the stress and challenges for very young, single mothers like Katie, her health care provider referred her to Family & Children's Center's Healthy Families. There, Katie began working with family support worker Katie Rommes.

Rommes helped Katie with everything from child development, affordable housing and resources for finishing her high school and college education.

"It's tiring, but rewarding," Katie says of single-parenting. "It can be tough not having a break or someone to relieve you." Still, she says it would be "ten-times harder" without the support of Rommes and Family & Children's Center.

"Without them, I'd probably be at another job making minimum wage. Instead, I'm a registered nurse, and I love it," says Katie. "Katie [Rommes] helped me realize the possibilities that are out there. If you have a goal, you can achieve it."

It's a lesson Katie now is modeling for her own children — assuring healthy tomorrows for future lifetimes.



Springtime of Hope Volunteers

Special thanks to the Healthy Families Medical Consortium and all those who made our 2007 Recognition Dinner such a success!

Mary Bartos, Chair
Rebecca J. Brown
Evonna Burr
Cheryl Dailey
Joanne Degenhardt
Elaine George
Carey Kroner
Robin Krumholz
Sue Lynch

Marilyn McElligott
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Tara Molling
Rebecca Nesse
Mary Patros
Susan Rodzak
Maria Runde
Chris Stauffer
Deb Stover

Christine Stovey
Susan Tarm
Rick Thiesse
Lori Van Lin
Joan Waniger

Hope for Healthier Communities

Because of increasing need and demand for Family & Children's Center's proven programs, the agency has expanded rapidly in recent years to become the largest, private provider of human services in western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota.

Keys to our success are preventing problems where possible and intervening quickly where problems have already occurred. Family & Children's Center provides a range of services to address emotional, social and behavioral problems in virtually all aspects of an individual's life — within oneself, the home environment, even schools and social circles.

The challenge to continuing and growing these intervention programs is securing affordable, appropriate facilities, especially as funding from government agencies lags far behind inflation and need.

The Campaign for Better Tomorrows will secure the capital funds needed to renovate and update critical facilities — including our Wisconsin and Minnesota headquarters, outpatient facilities in Black River Falls and Viroqua, Wis., a residential treatment center and a youth home — assuring quality facilities over the long-term.

Hope for Healthier Futures

Today's youth represent tomorrow's hope. If we send ill-prepared teens into the world with no supports and no fallback position, studies have shown we can expect increased homelessness, crime, welfare assistance and incarceration rates.

Yet that is how we dispatch hundreds of youth from the foster care system each year in our region.

If we choose instead to send today's teens into the world with the tools to become independent and self-sustaining, there's hope for all of us to enjoy a healthier future.

Family & Children's Center has the way: The Healthy Transitions program to move children more successfully from foster care and residential programs to independence.

Again, the challenge is funding. Through the Campaign for Better Tomorrows, Family & Children's Center can endow the Healthy Transitions program, assuring teens aging out of treatment programs can continue building on their success and everyone's hope for better tomorrows.

Austin's Story

Sometimes, tomorrow's hope comes from other people. Sometimes it's found from within. In 17-year-old Austin's case, it was both.

Austin was born to parents who were ill-equipped to care for themselves, much less their five children. Though the parents loved their children, their cognitive challenges led to severe neglect, and Austin grew up angry, frustrated and without boundaries. He fought often, failed in school and acted out in a number of harmful, and sometimes illegal, ways.

Child welfare authorities stepped in when Austin was 11. After several failed placements, Austin came to Family & Children's Center's Treatment Foster Care program and was placed in the loving home of Max and Betty Singer. He also participated in the Center's counseling and day treatment services. For the first time in his life, Austin found order, rewards, consequences and life-changing hope.

"Something just clicked," says Austin. "I didn't want to get in trouble any more. It's easier to do the good thing than the bad thing. When I do good things, I get good things in return."

Austin has overcome a learning disability to earn honor roll grades, discovered numerous talents and demonstrated an admirable work ethic. He is currently working with Family & Children's Center's Healthy Transitions program to ease his transition from foster care to independence and already has housing and a clear career path in place.

Without Family & Children's Center, Austin says he would still be angry; he would still be in trouble. But because of the Center and especially the Singers, Austin instead is happy, disciplined and hopeful for even better tomorrows.



"When I do good things, I get good things in return."

~ Austin



Roaring Ride

Family & Children's Center in 2007 held its first-ever Roaring Ride motorcycle rally. The ride started at S&S Cycle in La Crosse, Wis., and wove its way to the Family & Children's Center facility in Viroqua for lunch, continued to the Center's Black River Falls office and concluded in La Crosse for a celebration.

With more than 100 participants, the Roaring Ride raised \$6,300 for Family & Children's Center's Healthy Families and Healthy Transitions programs.

Planning Committee

Dave Deters
Jason Hermann
Howard Kelly
John Lyche
Linda Lyche
Judy Swanson
Steve Swanson
John Tillman

Event Volunteers

Kate Dunnum
MacKenzie Hollowitsch
Sue Lynch
Colleen Roach
Morgan Roach
Mary Tronick
David Wolf
Nicole Wolf
Tiffany Wolf

Financial Highlights

2007 Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash & Investments	\$ 1,114,723
Accounts Receivable - Net	3,807,721
Property & Equipment - Net	2,564,191
Permanently Restricted Investments	323,302
Other Assets	22,363
Total Assets	\$ 7,832,300

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts Payable & Short-term Debt	\$ 359,663
Accrued Salaries & Benefits	387,796
Other Liabilities	398,337
Long-term Debt	836,112
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,981,908
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 4,719,466
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	807,624
Permanently Restricted Assets	323,302
Total Net Assets	\$ 5,850,392
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 7,832,300

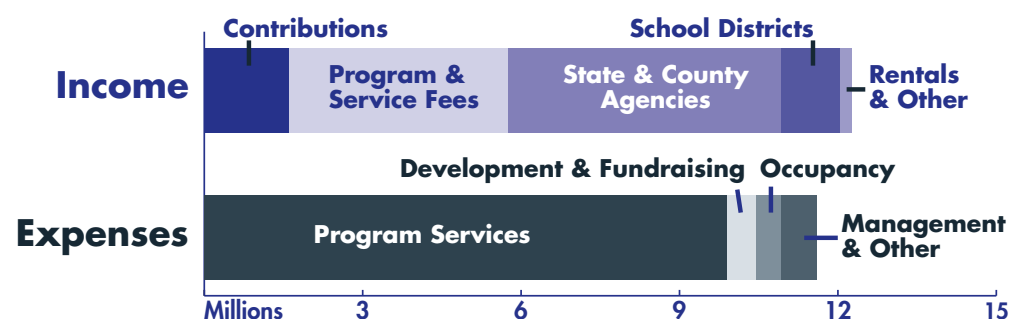
Statement of Activities

Sources of Support

Contributions [Public Support]	\$ 1,617,443
Program & Service Fees	4,213,613
State & County Agencies	5,157,431
School Districts	1,146,331
Rentals & Other	189,662
Total Support	\$ 12,324,480

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 9,952,943
Development & Fundraising	555,140
Occupancy	474,617
Management & Other	706,758
Total Expenses	\$ 11,689,458



Community Board Members

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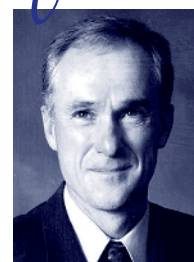
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Thank you for your generosity!

Leadership Society Gifts of \$50,000+

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Great Rivers United Way
Kwik Trip, Inc.
La Crosse Community Foundation
D.B. and Marjorie A. Reinhart Family Foundation
Rob and Diane Reinhart
Don and Roxanne Weber

President's Circle Gifts of \$25,000 to \$49,999

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Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
CenturyTel
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Russell L. and Vera M. Smith Foundation, Inc.

Founders League Gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

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Franciscan Skemp Foundation, Inc.
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Roberta and Dan Gelatt
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Xcel Energy



"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

~ Dale Carnegie

Guardians Gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499

Anchor Bank
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Kenneth and Shirley Cvikota
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Dirk L. and Rita Gasterland
Jack and Rosie Glendenning
Gerald and Mary Guentner
Kent and Karen Handel
Healthy Families Medical Consortium
Sanders and Ellie Hook
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Lila and Glenn Seager, MD

Patrick Shea
Brad and Lynn Sturm
Walter and Jean Susdorf
Daniel Schraith, MD and Trista Treglowne
James and Jo Ann Wickizer

Guardian Party

Once again, Family & Children's Center's own Guardian Angels gave hope for better tomorrows with another exceptionally successful Guardian Party.

Hosted by Dr. Eva Dahl and Barry Blomquist at their Hestedalen Farm, the Western-themed party featured a performance by Grammy-winning artist Michael Martin Murphey and drew a crowd of close to 250 people. By the end of the evening, the party had raised nearly \$24,000 for Family & Children's Center's Healthy Families child abuse/neglect prevention program.

Advocates Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Robert and Alice Adams
William Andersen
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Mike and Stacey Boehm
Sheri Bohland
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WKBT-TV8

Benefactors Gifts of \$200 to \$499

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Thank you for all your support!

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a road, but when many people walk on it, the road
comes into existence."*

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"Sweet Success" Planning Committee

The following volunteers planned the "Sweet Success" Event at the Pump House on March 23rd, celebrating the leadership phase of the **Campaign for Better Tomorrows**.

Tricia and Jerry Davis
Chuck and Dobby Englebert
Rebecca Brown
Don and Vicki Elwood
Mary Greener
Connie Helgersen
Nell Hull
Ashley Steenhard
Pamela Strauss
Barb Wenzel
Tonya Wright

In Recognition

The donors listed in this report contributed to the Family & Children's Center during the 2007 calendar year. Listing donors' names is one way we can show our appreciation for the many friends who support our programs.

Please call the Development Office at (608) 785-0001 ext. 257 if you have a question or correction.

Give Hope to others.

A gift to Family & Children's Center is an investment in better tomorrows — for an abused child who deserves a loving home and hope for the future, for an at-risk parent who wants a healthy future for her children, for a teen in foster care soon to be out of services and on his own. It's an investment offering unparalleled returns, not just for those who benefit directly but also for your own family and your community's quality of life.

Please consider supporting Family & Children's Center and the Campaign for Better Tomorrows with a financial gift. You are tomorrow's hope.



To learn more about giving to Family & Children's Center, including how to give memorials, stocks, real property and estate gifts, contact our development office at (608) 785-0001 ext. 257 or sbattison@fcconline.org.

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