

Northland Area Family Center



Annual Report: 2017

Mission: “We provide education, mentoring and support services that build strong individuals and families in the Northland Community Schools District.”

Vision: “As a result of our work, we are breaking the cycle of generational poverty one family at a time.”

Family Council

Officers

President: Barbara Anderson
Vice-President: Saundra Happe
Treasurer: Cheryl Desoto
Secretary: Kit Arnquist

Directors

Bev Gaines

Staff

Executive Director:

Leslie Bouchonville

Home Visiting:

Connie Iverson
Christine Desmond
Lee Anne Bettenberg

Preschool:

Deb Dillard
Randi Robison
Faye Zorman

Business Manager/Program Support Staff:

Linda Leverty

Housekeeping

Karen Parson



HEALTHY FAMILIES MINNESOTA
FAMILY CENTERS HOME VISITING
*Serving the Communities of:
Northland, Pillager, and Pine River-Backus Areas*

Program: Family Center's Home Visiting

Program Goals: Build and sustain community partnerships to systematically engage overburdened families in home visiting services prenatally or at birth, cultivate and strengthen nurturing parent-child relationships, promote healthy childhood development and growth, and enhance family functioning by reducing risk and building protective factors.

Family Support Specialist: Lee Anne Bettenberg

- The Northland site completed 174 visits during 2017.
- The Northland site served nine families with seven children, seven families started the program prenatally.
- All families have a medical home.
- Five of the nine families are current on immunizations.
- Two families referred to the Parent Child Home Program.
- Families surveyed felt the program supported and strengthened their parenting.
- The program is guided by an Advisory Board, which meets quarterly.
- Pine River-Backus, Pillager and Northland Family Center each have a home visitor and work as a team with two Family Center Directors to provide this program.
- Retention rates are very high for the families currently involved.





PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

50 YEARS OF PROVEN SUCCESS

Vision Statement

The Parent-Child Home Program envisions a world where every child enters school ready to succeed because every parent has the knowledge, skills, and resources to build school readiness where it starts: the home.

Program: Parent Child Home Program

Program Goals:

- To bridge the achievement gap and prepare children to enter school ready to be successful learners.
- Help parents be the best “first teacher” for their children.

Program Staff:

Connie Iverson – Home Visitor
Christine Desmond – Home Visitor



Successes:

- Partnership with Jewish Family and Children Services in Twin Cities serves as fiscal host and program support when needed.
- Families receive 2 ~ ½ hour visits each week.
- 685 visits January – June of 2017 (23 children). Graduated 3 second year children in June of 2017.
- 460 visits September – December of 2017 (24 children).

Northland Family Fun Nights

Staff: Family Center Staff

- 4 Family Fun Nights at Remer Elementary with 258 combined total of adults and children attending
 - Average of 22 families attending each fun night
 - 36 Free books were given during April 2017 Family Fun Night
 - Average of 19 workers/volunteers attending each fun night

Successes and Highlights:

- Collaborating with Northland Community Schools, Bi-Cap Head Start, Leech Lake Head Start and Cass County

- Getting little ones and their families together to share in some family fun in a safe environment
- Free books available to children during the April Fun Night.



Family Support

Staff: Linda Leverty

Who we served: 1195 total connections:

- Resource and Referral
 - To outside sources (BiCAP, Food Shelf, HHVS (and other services): 166 clients
- 14 clients accessed Family Center computer for unemployment services, job searches and forms that we have available.
- 36 clients received assistance from Family Center staff to complete application forms for Bi-CAP & Cass County Health Human & Veterans Services.
- 93 clients received assistance regarding MNSure, for applications or had questions.
- 246 persons faxed paper
- 28 clients accessed the phone
- 90 people were provided with other “in-house” assistance
- 269 people accessed copies
- 43 persons accessed postage
- 210 visits to the Baby Steps Boutique were recorded

Child and Teen Check Ups (C&TC) Outreach Early Childhood Screenings (ECS)/Census 2017



Staff: Linda Leverty

Outreach efforts

- Linda attended 4 Family Fun Nights
- 12 WIC Clinics were offered at the Family Center
- 2 ECS clinics - 23 children screened and an additional 5 were no shows or sick

Successes and Highlights:

- Success this past year at completing more ECS screens at age 3

Toys For Kids

Staff: Volunteers

This is the third year the Family Center collaborated with volunteers to help area children have a brighter holiday. The Family Center served as the fiscal host for donations. Volunteers coordinated the program and distributed the gifts to families before the Holidays. Served 49 Families – 128 children

Camp Scholarship

Staff: Linda Leverty

Northland is the fiscal host and applicant of the Pohlads Camp Grant, which allows first time students who would normally not receive a camp experience to attend camp on a scholarship. YMCA Camp Olson has continued to provide us with an additional discount to help us send more students to camp. In 2017, the funding provided by Pohlads was cut by 50%, compared to last year. Partners working to recruit first time campers include; Northland Family Center, Pine River – Backus Family Center and Family Safety Network. Our students choose to attend Camp Olson in Longville, MN. The camp location is nearby thus reducing the barriers for parents to transport. Northland sent 6 students to camp. In 2017, we hit our goal with partners contributing students of 19 Cass County students attending camp. Student and parent feedback on their experience showed that families were highly satisfied with their camp choice and experience.

Family Center Preschool



Program Goals:

1. To help district preschoolers become better prepared for Kindergarten
2. To build a positive family/school relationship
3. To collaborate with other early childhood programs

Staff

Teacher- Deb Dillard

Assistant- Faye Zorman

Assistant- Randi Robison

January 2017 - May 2017

Statistics

2 day/wk children: 2

3 day/wk children: 5

4 day/wk children: 6



Spring 2017

Kindergarten Remer- 2
Kindergarten elsewhere-3
Return to PreK- 7

Parent Volunteer Hours- 91
Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences- 100%



September 2017 – December 2017

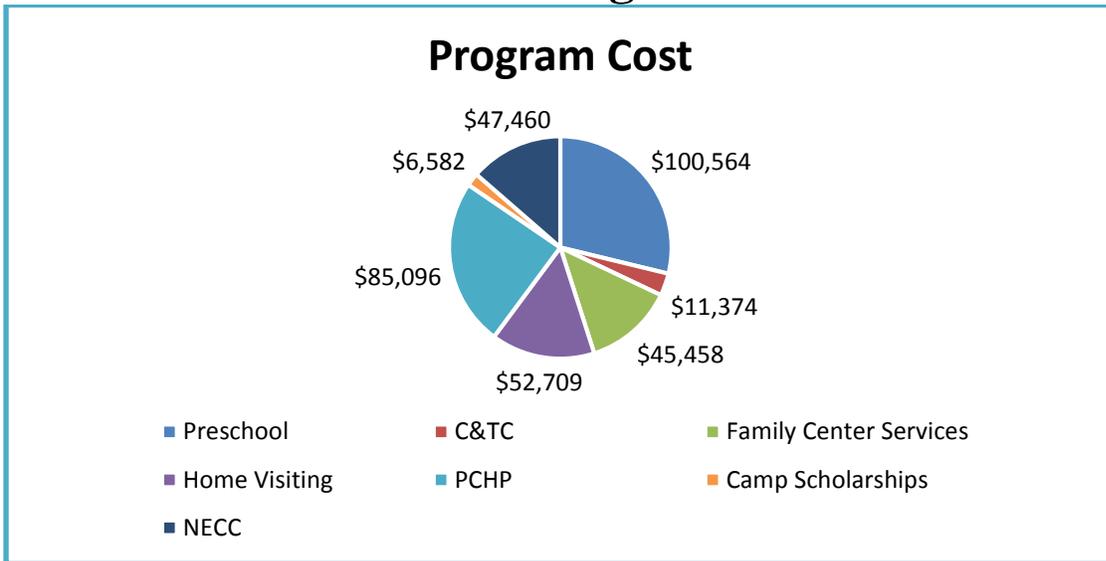
Statistics

3 day/wk children: 5
4 day/wk children: 6

Parent Volunteer hours- 71
Fall Parent/Teacher conference participation- 100%



2017 Program Cost



We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have partnered with us on our work during 2017. Volunteers provided 348 hours of their time furthering our mission. The list would be too long to include here. We appreciate the gifts of money and talent in helping us provide education, mentoring and support services that build strong individuals and families in the Northland Community.

If you would like to learn more check out our website www.northlandfamilycenter.org