

Northland Area Family Center



Annual Report: 2016

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: Tom Adams
Secretary: Kit Arnquist

Directors

Bev Gaines
Tim Mayclin
Cheryl Desoto

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



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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.

Home Visitor: Lee Anne Bettenberg

- 198 visits completed during 2016.
- The home visiting program served six families with seven children this; all families started the program prenatally.
- All families have a medical home
- All families, are current on immunizations
- Many families transition to the Parent Child Home Program, which is literacy based.
- Families surveyed felt the program supported and strengthened their parenting
- Guided by an Advisory Board
- 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.
- 386 visits with 12 children January – June of 2016, graduated 7 second year children in June.
- 407 visits with 23 children September – December 2016.
- Families are accessed each year through a telephone call by the Coordinator. Response to the value of the program was overwhelming.
- Observations by the Home Visitor and Parents substantiate the learning that is happening with their child!
- Children who live in the Pine River Backus School District were added in 2016.
- Leslie Bouchonville was trained as a Coordinator in 2016.
- Hired an additional Home Visitor.



Northland Family Fun Nights

Staff: Family Center Staff

- 2 Family Fun Nights at Remer Elementary with 183 combined total of adults and child attending
 - Average of 30 families attending each fun night
 - 36 Free books were given during April 2016 Family Fun Night
 - Average of 16 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: 1178 total connections:

- Resource and Referral
 - To outside sources (BiCAP, Food Shelf, HHVS (and other services): 295 clients
- 18 clients accessed Family Center computer for unemployment services, job searches and forms that we have available.
- 22 clients received assistance from Family Center staff to complete application forms for Bi-CAP & Cass County Health Human & Veterans Services.
- 78 clients received assistance regarding MNSure, for applications or had questions.
- 265 persons faxed paper
- 97 people were provided with other “in-house” assistance
- 159 people accessed copies
- 10 persons accessed postage
- 234 visits to the Baby Steps Boutique were recorded

Child and Teen Check Ups (C&TC) Outreach Early Childhood Screenings (ECS)/Census 2016



Staff: Linda Leverty

Outreach efforts

- Linda attended 2 Family Fun Nights
- 11 WIC Clinics were offered at the Family Center
- 2 ECS clinics - 25 children screened and an additional 12 were no shows or sick
- Outreached for 6 C&TC Clinics – 3 children screened

Successes and Highlights:

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

Toys For Kids

Staff: Volunteers

This is the second year the Family partnered with volunteers to help area children have a brighter holiday. The Family served as the fiscal host for donation. Volunteers coordinated the program and distributed the gifts to families before the Holidays.

Served 40 Families – 96 children

Camp Scholarship

Staff: Linda Leverty

Northland is the fiscal host and applicant of the Pohlard Grant which allows first time students who would normally not receive a camp experience to attend Camp on a Scholarship. Partners working to recruit first time campers include; Pillage Family Center, Pine River – Backus Family Center and Family Safety Network. Many of our students choose to attend Camp Olson in Longville, MN. The camp is close reducing the barriers for parent to transport. Northland sent 8 students to camp. In 2016 we hit our goal with partners contributing students of 39 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

The mission of the Family Center Preschool is to provide love and care to your child in a safe, clean, fun environment by trained, caring staff. The philosophy is to help each child succeed in life with a positive attitude and ensure each child has what they need to be ready to enter kindergarten.

Staff

Teacher- Deb Dillard
Assistant- Faye Zorman
Assistant- Randi Robeson



January 2016 - May 2016

2 day/wk : 2 Children

3 day/wk: 1 Child

4 day/wk: 13 Children

Successes

- Staffing 2 hour overlap allowing Teacher one-on-one time with children
- Using the TSA Gold tool measurement, the nine children entering Kindergarten were ready academically.
- Outdoor time is very important and the playscape provided sledding fun.

Challenges

- social/emotional needs
- by spring- 15 children all four days

Parent Volunteer Hours- 95

Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences- 100% attended

September 2016 – December 2016

Starting in September-

2 day/wk: 3 children

3 day/wk: 3 children

4 day/wk: 9 children

By December-

2 day/wk: 2 children

3 day/wk: 5 children

4 day/wk: 6 children

Successes

- Retained staff
- Many new families
- Enrolled two 4 year olds who are now having their first preschool experience

Challenges

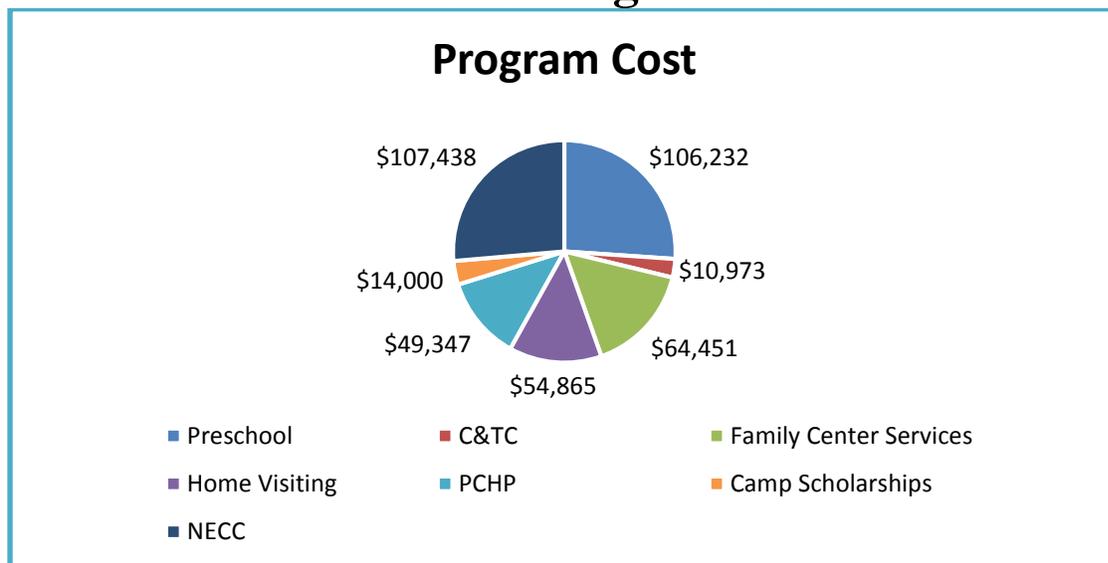
- Change in our Pathways group—most of our children now apply through Leech Lake(except Outing) somewhat confusing to parent who apply.
- NECC relationships and new leadership at Northland Community Schools

Parent Volunteer hours- 134

Fall Parent/Teacher conference participation- 92%



2016 Program Cost



We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have partnered with us on our work during 2016. Volunteers provided 414 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