



“Strengthening Families and Building a Strong Community”

***Pine River-Backus Family Center
2014 Annual Report***

The Pine River-Backus Family Center has been providing needed services and quality programs directly to local families for over 18 years. We desire to strengthen our community by bringing new life and a hope that thrives into the homes right next door. We work to ensure all families have what they need to reach their potential and contribute to their community.



Family Center Home Visiting Program “Hand in hand for early success”

Working together to build a secure foundation for newborn babies and their first time parents

The Family Center Home Visiting program is a strength based Home Visiting program targeted to first time overburdened prenatal moms/families. The goals of the program are to: 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. The Family Center is an affiliate of Healthy Families America and with the goal of Healthy Families America (HFA) certification in 2015. Pine River – Backus, Northland and Pillager are jointly are working toward HFA certification.

In 2014 the Pine River-Backus site served 13 families, with a total of 172 visits. The Home Visiting Program is jointly funded by; The Better Way Foundation, Initiative Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, United Way, Cass County, March of Dimes and private donations. An advisory board helps guide the work of the Home Visiting Program.

Cost: \$63,144

Check out our photos and join us on face book www.prbfamilycenter.org



Pine River Area Food Shelf

We are an emergency food shelf to feed those in need in our service area to keep them from going hungry.

Serving 18 Pine River area townships since 1982, the Pine River Area Food Shelf is an emergency food pantry to keep those in need from going hungry. Open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am – 2pm, and the second Tuesday of each month from 3:30 – 7pm. The Food Shelf is now located at the Family Center. In July the Food Shelf secured a Community IMPACT grant from Crow Wing Power Community Trust Board to purchase a commercial freezer and refrigerator. With the expansion of space and opportunity to store a larger amount of fresh and frozen food we will be able to serve more families. The food shelf provided 78,778 pounds of food to an average of 500 persons per month. Over one third of our clients are children. 4499 visits were made to access EMERGENCY FOOD during 2014. The Food Shelf is funded with public contributions, local service organizations, fundraising, and grants. Cost: \$62,061



Parent Education Classes

The Parent's Toolkit – is a parent education class that offers parents a variety of ways to provide guidance, nurturing and discipline techniques for pre-school and elementary age children. In order to accommodate busy families, a light supper and child care are provided. 19 parents attended the parent tool kit class (24 children came with their parents and received a light supper and child care). Two classes were provided one in the spring and one in the fall. Each class is 1.5 hours and is held for 5 weeks. The Parent's Toolkit is funded jointly by Pine River-Backus School District and Radiothon to End Child Abuse proceeds and class fees collected. Cost: \$ 3,514

Family Services

- **Family Support**

The overall goal of this program/service is to meet the changing needs of families and children as they arise, as well as to build upon the existing strengths in the community. We served a total of 78 families that were comprised of 118 children and 133 adults. The Family Center provided 33 gas vouchers, 13 vouchers for clothing and household goods. We also provided help in purchasing diapers, formula, groceries, and prescriptions. We utilized 15 Salvation Army vouchers for hotel stays, gas vouchers and help with electric bills. One family had a disconnect notice with a tremendous balance due. Family Center staff was able to coordinate funds from the Salvation Army, BiCap and the Family Center to keep the electricity on for the family. The family support program is funded by local contributions, Central Minnesota Community Foundation Rural Poverty Grant and family support loans which are paid back to the fund.

Cost: \$26,130

- **MNsure Navigators**

119 MNsure appointments were done, each appoint took at the least one hour.

- **Nutrition Assistance for Senior Citizens** program provides a box of food for seniors who are 65 years old and income eligible. Staff coordinates this program with the Second Harvest Food Bank, 100 seniors were provided with this monthly food supplement.

Youth Programs

Life Skills Class facilitated with Pine River-Backus Alternative Learning Students ~

8 Students participated in the nine week Life Skills class facilitated by Family Center staff over a 9 week period. Classes were held at the PR-B School Alternative Learning Center. The ALC contributed \$500 to cover some of the facilitator time. Students feedback indicated that they felt time spent in the class was very beneficial. Cost: \$1000

Summer Program- A Collaborative with the Warehouse, Family Center, PR-B Community Education

The Family Center partnered to provide a six week (4 day per week 5hour a day program to students 6th – 10th grade students. The Family Center hosted a Summer Associate Americorps VISTA to coordinate and lead the program. We served an average of 20 – 30 students each week with over 800 meals served. Included in the number of meals where students who attended the Northern Pines Summer Program. Both programs came together for meals which were served at the Warehouse with funding from a Berinick Foundation Grant. Many volunteers assisted with the program both instructing youth and serving meals.

Cost: \$1000

Camp Opportunities for 1st time campers ~

In collaboration with YMCA Camp Olson, Pine River-Backus Youth and Family Service worker and the Pohlad Foundation we sent 10 elementary students to day camp. All funds were spent on camper tuition. Cost: \$2,225

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays is a summer program for children 3 – 5 year olds, who have not yet entered Kindergarten. Children receive 2 hours of pre-school classroom activities once per week June – August, 9 weeks. The program is offered at a nominal fee and staff work to coordinate transportation. This year a parent came in to the Family Center to sign her youngest child up for Wonderful Wednesdays. Most of her older children had attended when they were young. She said her son hadn't been to any preschool before and she wanted him to go to Wonderful Wednesdays because she felt it was a safe and comfortable place to let him be on his own. 12 children participated in Wonderful Wednesdays for a total of 166 hours of programming.

Cost: \$850

Child and Teen Check-up Outreach

Cass County Public Health contracts with the Family Center to provide Child and Teen Check-up outreach and scheduling of well child check-ups and immunizations. Fourteen Clinics were held with 82 appointments scheduled. Our local clinics are an opportunity for parents to receive a check-up with out traveling out of the community. The nurse is able to spend time answering any growth and development questions the parent may have.

Cost: \$13,305



workingtogethercoalition.org

Working Together Coalition

The Family Center serves as the Grantee/Fiscal Sponsor for the Working Together Coalition. The Working Together Coalition coordinates a community wide effort to reduce youth substance use through community and school-based programs, special events, marketing and extensive collaboration among community members and organizations. The Coalition serves the school districts of Pine River-Backus, Northland Community and Walker-Hackensack- Akeley and is funded by the Drug Free Community Grant, Cass County Contract with Sheriff's Department, Community Donations, Fundraisers and Foundations.

Cost: \$144,535

Collaborative Events/Programs

- **Week of the Young Child** event, annual event to celebrate early childhood programs, children and families, 77 children and 51 adults participated.
- **Christmas for Kids** ~ Family Center staff coordinated distribution of Christmas toys for children in need, fundraised approximately \$3400 to purchase children's gifts and clothing, created a data base for volunteers to use in shopping and distribution of gifts to children, distributed Christmas gifts to 62 families and 195 children.
- Family Center staff schedule appointments February through April for persons who wish to have volunteers assist them with their income tax filing, 96 individuals accessed this service.
- The 2014 **Radiothon to End Child Abuse** earned over \$1700 in auction items. A local restaurant the Salty Dog raised \$900 which is used to help support families and children in our community.



Building Use

The Family Center provides community groups and individuals use of meeting room space and office on a daily basis. Note that the Family Center does not coordinate the services listed below however it does provide a hub for service delivery which benefit all persons in our community. Some of the programs that utilize the family center for this purpose are:

- Cass County Public Health; Women Infant and Children program (WIC)(2 days monthly), Child & Teen Check-up Clinics (1 day monthly) site for the Family Planning Clinics offered (1 – day monthly).
- County Social Services, a place to meet locally with clients
- Family Safety Network, a place to meet locally with clients
- Minnesota Workforce Center (CEP) staff office space two days per week, orientations and interviews.
- Birch Lake Counseling – a place to meet locally with clients
- Senior Linkage – a place for volunteers to meet with clients for MedicareD enrollment.


Volunteers

A total of 118 Volunteers provided 3201 hours of service to Family Center Programs. Some of the areas which volunteers assisted included: Board of Directors, Hidden Jewels, Food Shelf, Special Events, Summer Programs and in the office. The National Value of Volunteers hourly rate is \$22.55 per hour. The monetary value of their time = \$72,183

Pine River-Backus Family Center 2014 Board of Directors

Ardis Anderberg
Tristan Borland
Bruce Winder
Doris Knot
Carol Lovro
Jake Mongan
Linda Rasinski
Kathleen Stephan

As we move into 2015 we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for investing in the important work we do in Cass County Communities. Your donations are used to improve and often change lives of children and adults in our community. If you or someone you know wishes to continue to invest in our work please have them call the Family Center at 218-587-4292 you may also find links on our website.

Our website is www.prbfamilycenter.org You may also find us at  **giveMN.org**
Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

Organizational Recognitions:

2007 - "Outstanding Nonprofit Organization" Initiative Foundation

2008 - Touchstone Energy Community Commitment Award

2009 - Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives "Best Practices"

2013 - Awarded the Charities Review Council Seal of Standards

