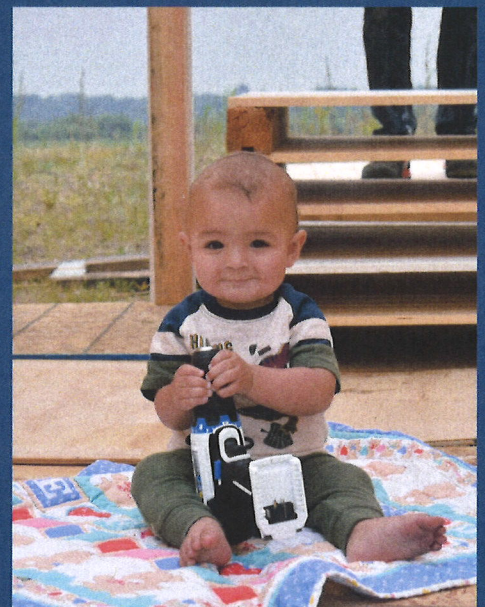


# Pine River-Backus Family Center 2021 Annual Report



[prbfamilycenter.org](http://prbfamilycenter.org)

# About Us

**The Pine River-Backus Family Center has been providing needed services and quality programs directly to local families for 25 years. Our desire to strengthen our community brings new life and hope into the homes of our neighbors. Together we work to ensure all families have what they need to reach their full potential and make positive contributions to their community.**



**Leslie Bouchonville**  
Executive Director



**LuAnn Gravelle**  
Office Manager  
Family Services Staff



**Alex Raiden Ritter**  
Web Designer, Editor,  
Social Media  
Manager



**Amy Gordon**  
Family Support  
Specialist



**Andie Streng**  
Parent Child+ Program  
Home Visitor



**Nicki Linsten-Lodge**  
RPC Coordinator



**Jodi Perry**  
Food Shelf  
Coordinator

# FAMILY CENTERS HOME VISITING PINE RIVER SITE

"Hand in hand for early success"

Working together to build a secure foundation for newborn babies and their parents Family Support Specialists work with families to determine what they want for their children and their families; then support them in planning how to reach those goals. A family in our program will receive research based information on what to expect at certain stages in their child's life. They'll learn how they can support their child to become the happy healthy person every parent wants their child to be. Healthy Families Minnesota Family Centers Home Visiting has been serving our community for 15 years! In 2021, Family Support Specialists completed 326 visits with 12 Cass County families. Family Centers Home Visiting is a free program through the Pine River-Backus, Northland and Pillager Family Centers.



Healthy Families  
America

HEALTHY FAMILIES MINNESOTA  
FAMILY CENTERS HOME VISITING  
Serving the Communities of:

Northland, Pillager, and Pine River-Backus Areas

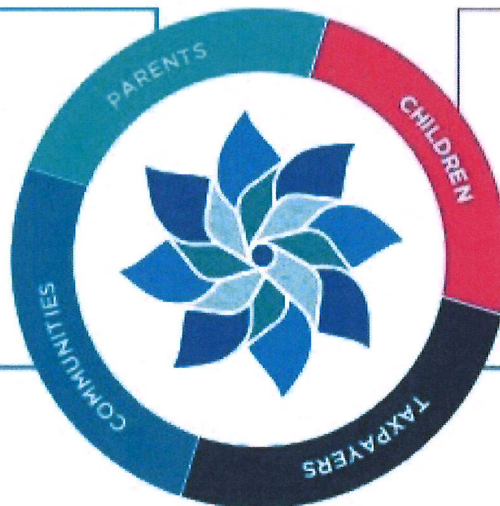
## Both Taxpayers and Families Benefit from Healthy Families America. Here's How:

The main participants in HFA home visiting are the parents themselves, who experience benefits such as:

**41% REDUCTION** in alcohol use, and increased education, which can lead to better jobs and earnings

Decreased maternal depression, with rates dropping nearly twice as much in two years compared to a control group

These benefits mean that, for every \$1 invested in Healthy Families America, communities get a return of \$1.46, and even greater benefits (\$3.16) for families involved with Child Welfare<sup>1</sup>



Children in HFA benefit in multiple ways including:

**Fewer** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as physical abuse and neglect

**Greater** school success, and 50% less likely to be retained in 1st grade

HFA benefits taxpayers too, through cost-savings such as:

**Reduced** need for special education

**Reduced** use of public assistance/food stamps for some families

**Reduced** health costs of low birth weight infants

<sup>1</sup>DuMont, K., Kirkland, K., Mitchell-Herzfeld, S., Ehrhard-Dietzel, S., Rodriguez, M. L., Lee, E., Layne, C., & Greene, R. (2010). A randomized trial of Healthy Families New York (HFNY): Does home visiting prevent child maltreatment? Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

# ParentChild+

**Parent Child+ is a program of Northland Area Family Service Center and Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis. This shared program covers the Northland and Pine River/Backus school districts and Cass County.**

**ParentChild+ is a free home-visiting program that works to strengthen families and empower parents by providing them with the skills and resources they need to prepare their children for school success. The program is built around an intensive two-year home-visiting model that builds school readiness, child development and parenting skills. ParentChild+ helps the whole family address challenges and prepare for the future.**

- Participating families receive free educational books and toys
- Families begin the program when their child is 18 months to 2.5 years old
- Trained early learning specialists work with families in their homes two times a week for two years.

**Our specialists model engaging and educational activities for parents and children together. They support parents as they take on the role of their children's first teachers. Children who participated in the ParentChild+ are 50% more likely to be ready for kindergarten and graduated high school at a rate of 30% higher than their socio-economic peers.**

**Some challenges occurred with COVID. On a biweekly schedule, visits continued during the pandemic virtually via Zoom, YouTube, Facetime, phone and in person. We did comply with CDC guidelines. For all types of visits, educational materials were provided to families.**

**In 2021, 613 visits were completed with 4 children graduating from the 2nd year program. The program runs September to the end of May. This is a 2-year program.**



## ParentChild+ 2021 graduating students



# Pine River Area Food Shelf

Serving 18 townships and 2 cities in the Pine River area, since 1982, the Pine River Area Food Shelf is a service of the Family Center. The Food Shelf is open Tuesdays and Fridays, 10am - 1pm, and the second Tuesday of the month, 3:30pm - 6:00pm. Our Food Shelf is funded with public contributions, local service organization donations, fundraising and grants. The Food Shelf received "Super Shelf" certification in 2021. Neighbors shopped at the Food Shelf 2,416 times, accessing 68,654 pounds of food. Additionally, 263 new neighbors were served. We received 22,512 pounds of food donations from community partners and individuals. Our volunteers donated 2,098 hours of their time working in the Food Shelf, unloading trucks and serving on the Food Shelf Advisory Board.



Thank you to all of  
our Volunteers



# Family Support

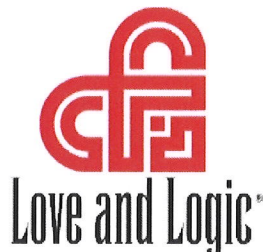
**The Family Center works to meet the changing needs of families and children. We believe these supports help to strengthen our community. In 2021, the Family Center Family Support Staff served a total of 1301 neighbors. Those services included Salvation Army vouchers, MNSure Navigator assistance, faxing, printing and referrals to other outside resources such as needed.**

**Love and Logic mini-sessions of parenting classes were held in Spring of 2021 with six families completing the class.**

**443 NAPS boxes (13,290 lbs of food) were distributed to our low-income seniors.**

**In 2021, the Family Center partnered with the Reach Justice MN project. We have two Legal Kiosks at the Family Center for community use. Appointments can be scheduled online by telephone or in-person. Minnesota Courts have begun to refer individuals to their nearest Legal Kiosk as an option to attend court hearings via Zoom. Neighbors can also access the Legal Kiosk for other valuable information. The Family Center did not have anyone schedule a Kiosk in 2021. We look forward to continuing to find ways to help our communities with easy access to support services.**

**For more than two decades, Christmas for Kids has helped area children ages birth to eighteen have a brighter Christmas. Christmas for Kids is a gift giving program made possible by the generous donations of local businesses and community members. This program was started by the Smith family and the Pine River-Backus Family Center is honored to carry on this long-standing tradition of supporting our local children and their families. To participate in this program the child(ren) must live in the Pine River-Backus School District or attend the Pine River-Backus Schools, qualify for free or reduced lunch and live full-time in the home. Business and community members were so generous in 2021. We raised \$8,051.12 in cash and gift card donations and over \$3,000.00 in various games, books, pajamas, hats, mittens and other clothing. With these donations we were able to support 67 families and 166 children.**



# Collaborative Services

**The Family Center holds a contract with the State of Minnesota to serve as an employer and home base for the Region 3 Prevention Coordinator. The Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) for the West Central Region is engaged with 12 formal coalitions to address youth substance use and/or mental health. Offering support in a wide variety of avenues including Vaping curriculums, trainings for prevention professionals, Responsible Beverage Server Training and creating Positive Community Norms messaging. Goals for Region 3 work include: networking and connecting with those who do direct service with youth, providing needed support to all communities interested in addressing youth substance use prevention and breaking down barriers that make it difficult for communities to work on youth mental health and youth substance abuse simultaneously.**

## **CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS**

**Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) are provided through Cass County Public Health monthly at the Family Center. This is a great opportunity for you to receive a Well-Child Checkup for your child between the ages of 6 months and 12 years old. C&TC Clinics are on hold until further notice from Cass County Public Health. However, we have continued to do outreach via mail and telephone calls with families who are eligible for C&TC.**

## **Women Infant Children (WIC)**

**During the pandemic Cass County has provided WIC via telephone.**

**Family Planning Clinics were offered during 2021.**



# Collaborative Services

## CommUnity Meals

**CommUnity Meals began in 2019 as a way to rescue food and in turn provide free meals to our community. Over 40 volunteers help to serve meals to our neighbors.**

**This collaborative effort continues today serving two meals weekly, Pine River (Riverview Church) on Monday and Backus (Pine Mountaineer Senior Center) on Thursday. Curbside pickup and delivery by volunteers is available. In 2021, over 12,000 meals were served between these locations. This program is funded by public rescued/donated food along with donations from individuals and businesses.**



# Board of Directors

**Gina Dabill**

**Carol Lovro**

**Ardis Anderberg**

**Kathleen Stephan**

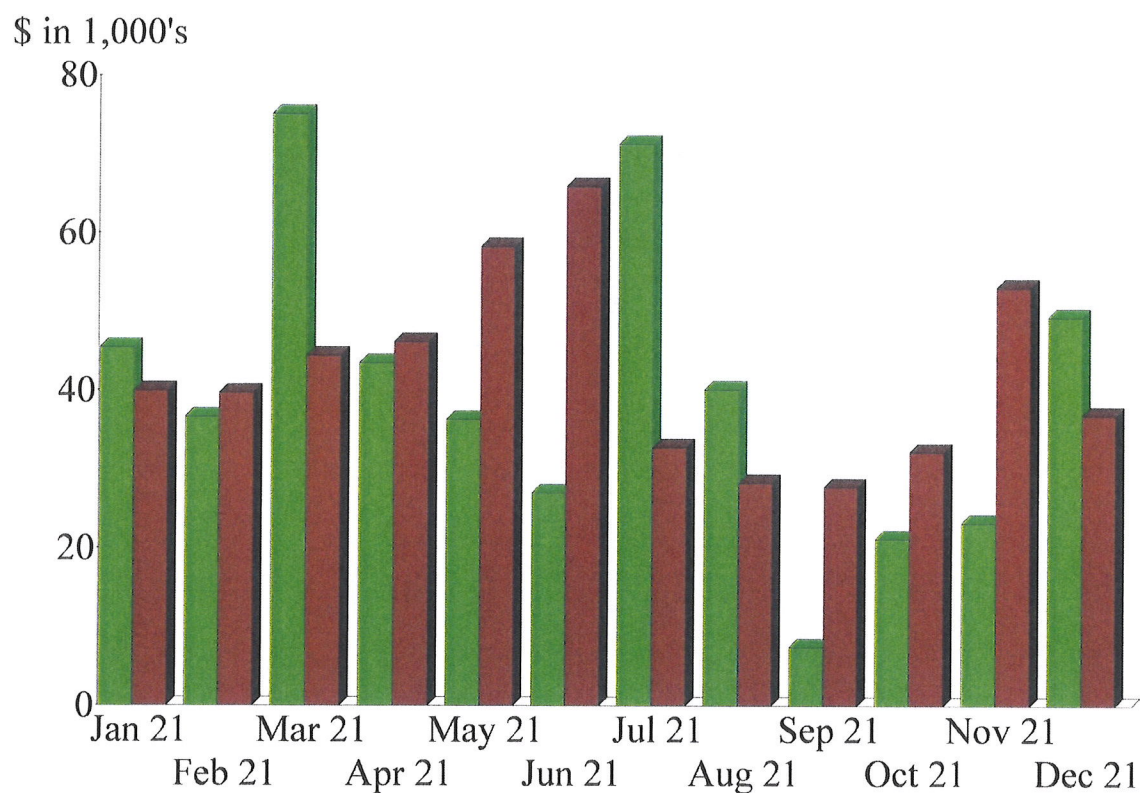
**Mari Shackelford**

**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 support our work, please have them call the PR-B Family Center at 218-587-4292. You may also find links to donate on our website.**

**[www.prbfamilycenter.org](http://www.prbfamilycenter.org)**

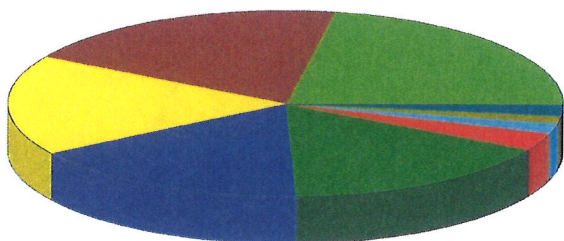


# Income and Expense by Month January through December 2021



## Income Summary January through December 2021

192 - SPF-RX	22.43%
150 - Family Services	19.57
105 -Pine River Area Food Shelf	17.48
279 - Home Visiting	16.61
148 - Region 3 Prevention	16.53
400 - C&TC Outreach	3.17
106 - Community Meals	1.87
151 - Christmas for Kids	1.39
104 - PRB School Pantry	0.96
Total	\$476,659.17

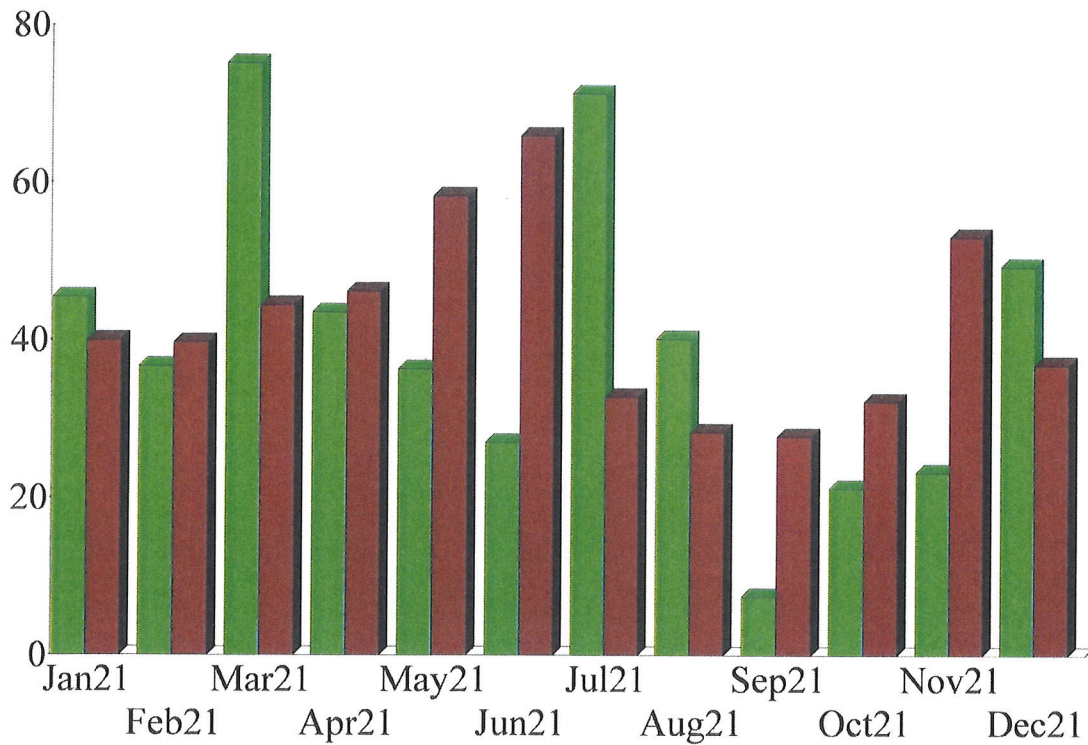


By Class

# Income and Expense by Month January through December 2021

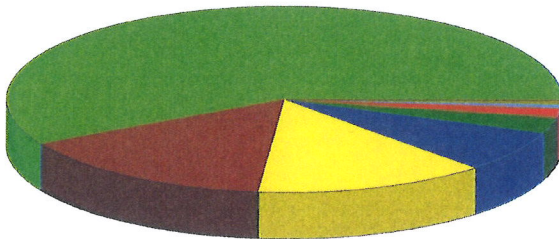
Income  
Expense

\$ in 1,000's



## Expense Summary January through December 2021

66000 · Payroll Expenses	58.12%
65000 · Operations	15.49
62100 · Contract Services	13.57
62800 · Facilities and Equipment	7.25
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	3.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings	1.69
80200 · Payments to Affiliates	0.67
60300 · Awards and Grants	0.20
Total	\$505,381.98



By Account