



FAMILY SUPPORT C E N T E R

Ger Segal earns United Way Senn Award for professional excellence!



Ger Segal, Executive Director of Family Support Center, is the recipient of the United Way Senn Award this year. This award honors an individual for their professional excellence & achievement in the non-profit sector.

Ger Segal has been the Executive Director of Family Support Center for

over 20 years. Under her leadership, Family Support Center programs have grown and flourished, including the development of two satellite offices in Eau Claire and new prevention initiatives in Chippewa County. Staff at Family Support Center thrive under Geri's empowering, compassionate leadership.

Ger Segal is on the board of directors for End Domestic Abuse Wiscon-

sin, as well as other statewide and local advisory committees.

Community leaders Kaye and Steve Senn initiated the award in 1998. The Senn award celebrates the body of work and accomplishments by professionals within the nonprofit sector. Geri will be honored with this award at the United Way Spirit Award Dinner on March 26 at Florian Gardens in Eau Claire.

A Discussion About Human Trafficking

Family Support Center is a longstanding Chippewa Valley agency serving individuals, families, and communities who have been affected by intimate partner and domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking. As Family Support Center advocates, we believe it is important to highlight the ways human trafficking intersects with other forms of violence.

Human trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting someone for labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion. Sometimes victims are trafficked into work that is sexually exploitative. But those trafficked to perform other types of labor, such as farm, construction, or domestic work, are also vulnerable to sexual and physical violence. In addition, the emotional and psychological harm of human trafficking is devastating.

We're probably all aware of the stereotypical way human trafficking has been depicted on TV and in movies. We've seen sensationalized stories that get audience's pulses racing as we cheer for the heroes to rescue the victims from the villains. We may have even read viral posts on social media about people in our own communities feeling scared by or uncomfortable about the behavior or appearance of a stranger in public. Often, the posts end with warnings to "Be aware!" and "Stay safe!"

All of these speak to a fundamental desire to protect ourselves and our loved ones. But they don't really give us a full picture of human trafficking, its causes, or how we can address victims/survivors' needs.

If we "look upstream" for the conditions that promote human trafficking, we will recognize the driving forces of poverty, structures of racial and gender inequity and other forms of oppression, and the health and opportunity disparities that stem from these. On an individual level, victims/survivors of human trafficking, like victims/survivors of different types of abuse, often find themselves trapped by traffickers' power and control tactics: isolation, intimidation, threats, humiliation. It can be even more complicated -- and can lead to conflicted feelings -- when victims/survivors are trafficked by partners, friends, and family members. In other words, the roots of human trafficking are deep and complex. And there are no easy solutions.

Fortunately, the urge to do something about this human rights issue is growing stronger. At Family Support Center, we are proud to offer our free and confidential direct services, including advocacy-based counseling, safety planning, and help identifying and accessing needed resources, to victims/survivors of human trafficking. However, we never require people to label their experiences using

certain words and definitions, and we don't force them to choose certain options. We believe, to quote Janina Pescinski of United Nations University, "all victims are entitled to equal access to aid mechanisms, protection, and justice, as well as the choice to access these services in the way that they choose." If you are interested in opportunities to respond to the needs of victims/survivors of violence in the Chippewa Valley as a Family Support Center volunteer advocate, please contact re-sourcedev@fscf.org.

Beyond volunteering, though, we *all* have everyday opportunities to confront and prevent violence. We can view media messages (including those viral posts!) with a critical eye, thinking and talking about what parts of the story might be missing. We can take cues from the populations most impacted by violence, walking alongside them instead of pulling them in a direction we choose. We can work toward solutions to root causes by ensuring everyone has stable housing, nourishing food, and comprehensive healthcare, as well as dismantling systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia. And, as much as fear may encourage suspicion and make us want to withdraw, we can work to build relationships and a sense of belonging with others in our community, so *everyone* feels supported, cared for, and less alone.

Family Support Center Staff

The Staff...

Executive Director

Geri

Assistant Administrator

Sue

Receptionist, Administrative Assistant

Glori

Resource Development Coordinator

Lori

Domestic Violence Program Director

Jeni

Domestic Violence Advocates

Cara
Erica

Domestic Violence Youth Advocate

Mattie

Sexual Assault Victim Services Coordinators

Blythe
Amanda S.

Prevention Project Coordinator

Grace

Prevention Educator

Kathryn

Parent Services Program Director

Becce

River Source Parent Services Provider

Amanda L.

Parent Educator

Yolanda

Family Support & Resource Coordinator

Shannon

Family Crisis Support Specialist

Kristin

ATODA Prevention Coordinators

Deb
Nancy

UWEC Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault (CASA)

Victim Services Coordinator
Amanda M.

Contact us...

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www.familysupportcentercf.com



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**April is
Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

April is fast approaching, and that means its time for Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2019! Family Support Center's Sexual Assault Programs in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties have planned some enjoyable events to raise both awareness and the voices of those who have been impacted by sexual violence in the Chippewa Valley.

Sexual assault and abuse continue to affect our community. Last year, 575 people were provided with Sexual Assault Victim Services in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties by Family Support Center Advocates. We are proud to stand in solidarity with survivors of violence and those who love them. We celebrate them and their resilience every April, and we're hoping you will join us.

On **April 23**, Family Support Center will take part in an open mic night at The Plus (208 S. Barstow St, Eau Claire) wherein survivors may share their stories. Also in April, we will be partnering

with the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at the University of WI Eau Claire for a free screening of the film *Boy Erased* at the Woodland Theatre, which deals with the intersection of sexual violence and anti-LGBTQ "conversion therapy" practices. We will also be incorporating a short, post-film discussion that evening.

Educational displays will be available throughout a variety of public spaces all month long, so be sure to stop and check those out if you see them!

Thank you for supporting Family Support Center as we support survivors of sexual violence!



**April is Child Abuse
Prevention Month**

*We all play a role
in the healthy
development of our
community's children*

Ladies Evening Extravaganza 2019

will be held on September 26th!

Mark your calendars!

Ladies Evening Extravaganza will be held on **Thursday, September 26th** at the Heyde Center for the Arts in Chippewa Falls. Tickets will go on sale in May. Ladies Evening Extravaganza is the largest annual fundraiser for Family Support Center. All proceeds raised help to fund services provided by Family Support Center, including support and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and child abuse and neglect, as well as our community-based violence prevention education. Family Support Center has a primary office in Chippewa Falls and two sexual assault outreach offices in Eau Claire.

Family Support Center is **seeking sponsors** for Ladies Evening Extravaganza 2019!

If you would like to become a **monetary sponsor** of the event or **donate a prize** for our popular raffle, please contact Lori at **715-723-1138** or **resourcedev@fscf.org**

Mom and Me

Domestic violence affects the whole family, and the process of healing from violence can include multiple family members, as well. This is what our “*Mom and Me*” support group aims to do-- bring together parents/caretakers and their children who have been affected by family violence. Support for both moms and kids, as well as parenting support, will be provided by Advocates co-facilitating the group. We will have art, activities, and discussions that involve all participants, as well as times where moms and kids can talk separately. *Mom and Me* will help

nurture connections between moms and youth affected by family violence, as well as foster creative coping skills. Snacks for group members will be provided, too! We are offering 2 six-week groups this year; one in the spring on **Wednesdays from 3:30-5 from March 20 through April 24**, and one in the summer on **Wednesdays from 10-11:30 from July 10-August 14**. Please sign up by 4pm the Monday before each group so we can have enough supplies for all participants. Feel free to contact Family Support Center for more information!

“Me too” and need to talk?

Advocates at Family Support Center are here to listen.

24 hours/day.

715-723-1138
800-400-7020

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Awareness months are special opportunities to spotlight singular issues, like Domestic Violence (October), Elder Abuse (June), Stalking (January) and Sexual Assault (April). February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. It’s a great time to become familiar with local efforts that bring awareness to this issue.

Statistics show us that 1 in 3 American adolescents have experienced abuse of some kind within their relationships. Only 1 in 3 of those youth affected ever tell an adult about what they are experiencing. In addition to direct services, students in and



CVHS students and display

around Chippewa Falls have been participating in *Talk About It* for the past year and a half. *Talk About It* is a primary prevention program with an intersectional approach that aims to empower students as critical thinkers and agents of change by merging knowledge and information, self-reflection, and activism. Topics incorporated into the *Talk About It* curriculum include: teen dating violence, healthy relationships, intersectionality and oppression, conflict resolution, bystander intervention, gender so-

cialization and stereotypes, media, and more. Briefly, the goals of the program are to teach students the knowledge and skills--and to encourage their attitudes and beliefs--so they have healthy, violence-free relationships based on gender equity and can take action in their daily lives to support gender equity and healthy relationships. It seems like a big job, but young people are making it easier than we anticipated! A *Talk About It* student recently shared with us her thoughts about the silence that surrounds important, yet seemingly taboo topics, like relationships, sex and sexuality. “It just seems like most adults are so afraid to talk to us about it because they think it will cause us to be in relationships too soon or it could make us do “bad” things, but really, talking about it can only help us.”

Many young people are thirsty for information they haven’t yet received about these topics (and others). They share openly that what little experience they *do* have with these conversations typically revolves around abstaining from ‘bad’ behaviors. At the same time, no details are given about what ‘bad’ is or is not. This leaves young people confused and/or turning to the wrong outlets for answers, including social media, other youth, or even pornography to answer

their questions. This protection or sheltering from tough subjects can seem like the right and healthy choice for our young people but could unintentionally be causing dating violence in our communities because as it turns out, knowledge really is power.



Students on WQOW

In order to bring an end to dating violence in our communities, we need all hands on deck! Family Support Center is proud to offer **free and confidential trainings** for area organizations, groups, teen-serving professionals, and folks who are simply interested in learning more. Finding and following *Talk About It* on Facebook and Instagram can guarantee a healthy dose of positive, healthy messaging about preventing teen dating violence and sexual violence in your newsfeed and will likely be a refreshing change to the typical (and sometimes problematic) examples of relationships we are used to seeing. Call us today to discuss your interests or needs in education and training or to speak with an Advocate.

~Grace
Prevention Project Coordinator





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The Family Support Center is an equal opportunity agency. The Family Support Center celebrates the diversity of all people and does not discriminate in any manner on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, ability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. The Family Support Center's programs are funded in part by United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.



Thank you to the businesses and organizations who:

- *have donated money and/or items for clients of Family Support Center this quarter;
- *have shopped online using AmazonSmile, choosing Family Support Center as your charity;
- *support employee-based fundraising opportunities;
- *go on shopping trips for our "wish list" items;
- *match funds;
- *donate a percentage of your proceeds to Family Support Center

We are in need of the following items for client use.

Please drop off items at **Family Support Center.**

With a little help you, too, can make a difference!

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Money for hotel vouchers | • 33 gal. garbage bags |
| • Goodwill gift cards | • Reusable Keurig cups |
| • Gas gift cards | • Plastic cups (like SOLO) |
| • Mini first aid kits | • Plastic (disposable) spoons |
| • Tampons | • Snack items: Goldfish crackers, graham crackers, raisins, peanut butter |
| • Lysol/Clorox wipes | • Elmers glue bottles |
| • Dryer sheets | • Craft jewels/sequins |
| • Fabric softener | • Children's magnifying glasses |
| • Can openers | • Fidget toys |
| • Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, etc.) | |

Want to make a difference in your community?

Family Support Center is seeking compassionate volunteers for their 24-hour crisis line.

On-Call Advocates-training Spring 2019

- Volunteers provide evening, weekend, and holiday coverage for our 24-hour hotline
- Thorough training and support provided
- On-Call Advocates operate out of their own homes using their personal phones

Interested?

Please call Lori at 715.723.1138 or e-mail resourcedev@fscf.org

Upcoming events:

Mom and Me support group: Wednesdays, March 20-April 24, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Denim Day: April 24

Child Abuse Prevention Month

June: Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Ladies Evening Extravaganza 2019: Thursday, September 26th