



# FAMILY SUPPORT C E N T E R

## June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June is upon us, which means that Family Support Center advocates are getting ready for Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Elder Abuse is a serious (but often silent) community problem. This year, Family Support Center is expanding outreach and education efforts to rural areas to break the silence!

In previous years, community members could find displays at the local courthouse, Salvation Army, Open Door Clinic, Senior Center, CVTC, Agnes' Table, Marshfield Clinic-Chippewa Falls center, VA clinic, YMCA, and the downtown Chippewa Falls library. Now, displays can also be seen at each of the Marshfield Clinic branches (including Cadott, Cornell, and Bloomer) as well as at each of the rural libraries in Bloomer, Cadott, and Stanley!

Additionally, our advocates are taking Elder Abuse 101 Presentations to the rural areas in places like Atrium, Dove Health, and Aggie's Country Living (all within Bloomer), as well as Country Terrace of Wisconsin in both Bloomer and Stanley. Our rural communities are equally important as those within Chippewa Falls, and we want to ensure that all people experiencing interpersonal violence receive the help and support that they deserve.

**If you would like to partner with Family Support Center to spread the word about elder abuse, please call Cara at 715.723.1138.**

~Cara  
Domestic Violence Advocate

PRIDE

June is also Pride Month, which means that cities across the world are hosting parades, festivals, and other events to recognize and celebrate those who are LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer).

The LGBTQ+ community is not impervious to interpersonal violence, nor is violence caused by being LGBTQ+ (as some people believe). Studies show that the rates of violence within this community are akin to their heterosexual counterparts. The types of violence and tactics utilized to maintain power and control over partners is similar as well, though the homophobic/transphobic/heterosexist society that we live in places violence in a slightly different context.

Since June is both Elder Abuse Awareness Month and Pride Month, one of our advocates created displays delving into the intersections of the LGBTQ+ community and elder abuse. It is estimated that there are 1.5-3 million LGBTQ+ older adults, which means that services cannot (and should not) be siloed into either/or; services need to be both/and. Having intersectional services ensures that one population is not overlooked and further discriminated against. Additionally, *all* of our identities (and the complexities of our identities) are important; we are not simply one identity and our services should not be one-size-fits-all.

~Cara  
Domestic Violence Advocate

## Elder Abuse in the LGBTQ Community

LGBTQ elders face the typical challenges of aging, including the possibility of elder abuse or domestic violence, in combination with the threat of discrimination and abuse due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Prejudice and hostility encountered by LGBTQ elder persons in institutional care facilities create difficult environments. Staff may deny an LGBTQ elder's visitors, refuse to allow same-sex couples to share rooms, refuse to place a transgender elder in a ward that matches their gender identity, or keep partners from participation in medical decision making. There is also the concern of being involuntarily "outed".

### Here are some tips to effectively serve LGBTQ+ Elders:

**Use inclusive and neutral language** in outreach materials and all paperwork. For example:

- \***Offer** the ability to fill in one's gender and/or sexual identity
- \***Create single stall** bathroom signs for any gender/sex
- \***Use terms** like partner, people, or clients rather than boy-/girlfriend, women/men, and spouse
- \***Ask yourself**, "what information do I need in order to relate to and serve this person? **Is this a true need or curiosity?**"
- \***Know why** you are asking a question and tell that person why you need to know the answer
- \***Reflect** the terms of the person describing themselves and their situation
- \***Hold yourself accountable** to use inclusive, neutral language to create a safe and welcoming environment

**The Staff...**

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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**  
Beccie

**River Source Parent Services Provider**  
Amanda L.

**Parent Educator**

**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...**

**(715) 723-1138**

**or 1-800-400-7020**

**Fax: (715) 723-8460**

**[www.familysupportcentercf.com](http://www.familysupportcentercf.com)**



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# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Every year, we celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, and this year was another great month of honoring survivors of sexual violence for their courage and bravery. We began the month with a free showing of *Boy Erased* at the UW Eau Claire Woodland Theatre, which highlighted the connections between LGBTQ conversion therapy and sexual assault. The movie was followed by a really informative panel of local professionals, who spoke of their experiences with survivors of sexual assault and the recent conversion therapy ban in Eau Claire County.

A few weeks later, we participated in an open mic night at the Plus in downtown

Eau Claire, and heard poetry and music from a variety of talented Chippewa Valley artists, which included survivors of sexual violence.

Family Support Center was able to partner again with the UW Eau Claire Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program! We had two senior students who helped us get our events off the ground, and did a lot of work spreading the word about consent and sexual assault at informational tables on campus.

All in all, it was another great April! Thanks to everyone who joined us!

~Blythe  
*Sexual Assault Victim Services Provider*

## What is Ladies Evening Extravaganza?

Ladies Evening Extravaganza is our largest annual fundraiser. Over the years, the event has changes in many ways. It began at White's Wildwood Retreat as an outdoor event, with hard-working Family Support Center staff and volunteers making, delivering, and serving all of the food! Since then, the event has moved indoors to the beautiful Heyde Center for the Arts, and is now catered by Chef Tony Chavez from LiveGreat Foods. Entertainment has varied over the years from hand massages, aromatouch, tarot card readings, ballroom dance, belly dancers, to the fashion show we now

offer. Although many things have changed, some things have stayed the same, such as the fabulous raffle prizes that are offered. Each and every prize is generously donated by individuals and businesses committed to making a difference in their community. All proceeds raised at the event support Family Support Center and the services we offer free of charge to our clients all year long.

**If you would like to donate a prize (big or small!) for Ladies Evening Extravaganza, please call Lori at 715-723-1138 or e-mail [resourcedev@fscfc.org](mailto:resourcedev@fscfc.org)**

## FSC Staff Earns Feminist Community Mentor Award

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality program at UWEC awarded their Feminist Community Mentor Award to **Jeni**, our Domestic Violence Program Director, **Blythe**, our Sexual Assault Victim Services Provider, and **Amanda S.**, our Eau Claire Sexual Assault Victim Service Coordinator. The award was given at a banquet held at the University in April, and was among other awards to students, faculty, and community members for their dedication and work within the program. Congratulations and thank you to the Women's Gender, and Sexuality program.

## Talent Show!

In March, Chippewa Falls High School held their 14th Annual Talent Show to benefit Family Support Center. As always, there was a variety of talent on-stage, treating the audience to solos "Hallelujah I Love Her So", "Only Hope" and "Titanium" as well as choreographed dance, group performances and several original songs written and performed by students.

*The event raised \$1,000 for Family Support Center!*

**Thank you, Chippewa Falls High School!**



## Here's what's happening at River Source Family Center

This summer our Tuesday morning playgroups are on the move! This summer we have more field trips than ever, with



Enjoying Play & Learn!

our **Traveling Tuesdays** including visits to Klinger's Farm Market, Irvine Park, Blaeser Farm, Connell's Family Orchard and more.

For the full schedule check out our Face-

book page or go to our website:

[www.RiverSourceFamilyCenter.com](http://www.RiverSourceFamilyCenter.com).

Two other interactive parent & child playgroups we have happening at River Source Family Center are **Movin' & Groovin'** on Mondays from 9:30-10:45, which promotes language & play through the use of music, song & dance and **Play & Learn** on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30, where you and your child will enjoy free play, songs, dancing, stories, crafts & snacks. We also take our fun and interac-

tive parent & child playgroups to rural communities. On select Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays we meet in Stanley, Cornell and Bloomer respectively.

We just finished up our spring **Be Strong Families Parent Café** series, and are bringing Family Café to Bloomer for the second year in a row! **Bloomer Family**

**Café** took place on Tuesday, **June 4<sup>th</sup>**, at the Bloomer Area Aquatic & Recreation Center. The City of Bloomer once again provided a police car, fire truck, and ambulance for little ones to explore.



**Baby & Me**, our new group for first time parents & their babies, is continuing into summer. Baby & Me meets every Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 at River Source Family Center.

We will also be offering a summer edition of our parenting class, **Your Journey Together**. This group will meet only eight weeks, on Wednesdays from June 19-August 7, from 4-6 p.m.

We also offer our **Bright Starts S.M.I.L.E.** program for anyone looking for in-home parenting support.



Bloomer Family Café

*Our programs are free to all families!*

As a program of Family Support Center, the mission of River Source Family Center is to embrace and strengthen families with young children by promoting growth through education, information, referral, and opportunities to share experiences.

For information about programs offered by River Source Family Center, please call us at **715-720-1841**.



### Talk About It

## WRAPPING UP A YEAR OF PREVENTION AND ACTIVISM

What a year it has been for Talk About It, one of Family Support Center's Prevention Education Programs! Earlier this year, we saw student activists from Chippewa Valley High School (CVHS) weaving "#MeToo" into the fence in front of their school to stir up important conversations about the "MeToo" movement, sexual violence, and consent. However, as we round out the academic year with new cohorts at both Chippewa Valley High School and Chippewa Falls High School (CHS), students are working on new Activism & Leadership Projects including surveying the student body, creating displays and recruiting for sexual violence and consent presentations in their schools!

Students and Staff at Chippewa Falls High School, Chippewa Valley High School, and Mikan Day Treatment Center have benefited from weekly (or twice weekly) classroom sessions on preventing dating and sexual violence. It's important

that we see our own responsibility in standing up against power based violence.

We've spent a few dozen hours discussing healthy/unhealthy relationships, consent, gender roles and stereotypes and how all of these things help or hinder healthy relationships from growing. Now it's time for the community to jump into these conversations regardless of age, gender, race, ability, or any other variable. These are conversations that can happen at home while watching tv, during morning or evening routines, or while washing dishes – they just have to be happening at home as well as in the classroom.

If you are wondering how to dig into some of these topics at your home over the summer, Family Support Center offers 4 quick suggestions:

1. Remember it's about having **many little conversations** and not a one-time event or "the talk".

2. Engage in conversations about relationships and consent **early** and **often** (before it has anything to do with dating or sex).

3. Like and Follow Family Support Center and Talk About It on Facebook and/or Instagram to mix up your newsfeed and get a steady flow of quality resources from local experts.

4. Register your teen for **Bystander Bootcamp** by calling us – happening at FSC on **Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-3pm**. We will be learning and practicing important bystander skills!

~Grace

*Prevention Project Coordinator*

**Students making a difference!**

Chi-Hi student council organized a hat day this spring and donated all of the funds they raised to Family Support Center! **Thank you, Chi-Hi Student Council, for making a difference in your community!**



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 715-723-1138 or 1-800-400-7020

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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.



### Gives Economic Empowerment Grant

Family Support Center once again is the recipient of Xcel Energy's Economic Empowerment Grant. The purpose of the Economic Empowerment Program is to assist survivors of violence in becoming more economically self-sufficient. Financial control is a major way that abusers keep control over their partners, and this program aids in bridging the gap for clients at Family Support Center. *Thank you, Xcel Energy, for your generosity and for supporting survivors of violence in our community.*

#### 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
- Grocery gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Goodwill gift cards
- Can openers
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Coffee
- Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, etc.)
- 33 gal. garbage bags
- Plastic cups (like SOLO)
- Snack items: graham crackers, raisins, fruit cups, cheese sticks, yogurt
- Craft jewels/sequins
- Children's magnifying glasses
- Fidget toys
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Children's soap/shampoo
- Non-perishable microwave meals



### 10th Annual Night Golf

for River Source Family Center

**Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

2 person 9 hole Scramble- \$50.00 per team

*Raffles & prizes*

**Call today** for information or to sign up for the event **715-723-8823**

**Wear Blue** in support for River Source Family Center and get your name entered into a drawing.

#### Upcoming events:

**June:** Elder Abuse Awareness Month

**Your Journey Together** parenting class: Wednesdays, June 19-August 7, 4-6 p.m.

**July: Mom and Me** support group: Wednesdays, July 10-August 14 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Bystander Bootcamp:** Wednesday, July 24, 1-3pm

**August:** Night Golf fundraiser at Ojibwa August 23

**Ladies Evening Extravaganza 2019:** Thursday, September 26th