

A white line-art illustration on a teal background depicts a woman and a child running joyfully. The woman is on the left, wearing a tank top and leggings, with her arms outstretched. The child is on the right, wearing a long-sleeved shirt and pants, also with arms outstretched. The lines are fluid and expressive, capturing a sense of movement and happiness.

FAMILY
FORWARD

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Living our values



During fiscal year 2021, 16,980 children in the St. Louis area were reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

Dear friends,

2021 was an exciting year for FamilyForward.

From refining our programming, to purchasing the land that will house our Developmental Trauma Campus, and raising over \$462,000 at our annual gala, we have a lot to celebrate! These celebrations are all possible because of your generous support, and unwavering belief that, together, we can continue to support children and families on their journey to hope and healing.

In 2021, we continued to lean on our values to guide everything we do. Our **rock solid** team of professionals worked tirelessly to

do whatever was necessary to better serve our clients and the community. We were **out front** in our use of innovative tools and methods to achieve better results, despite the pandemic. We worked **wholeheartedly** to carry out the mission and vision of FamilyForward. And overall, we became stronger and more responsive to the needs of the children and community we serve.

Our dedication to providing quality services to our clients and families remains the core of who we are. It drives us to work harder, to improve our programming, and to deepen our relationships within our community. As I look back on 2021, I am

proud of the giant leaps forward we have taken to help children and families heal – I hope you feel equally as proud. Together we will continue to strive towards our goal of ensuring children have the hope, care, and future they deserve.

Gratefully,

Karen

Karen Nolte
Chief Executive Officer



5,329 children, their families, and community members were served by FamilyForward in 2021



Vision

FamilyForward leads the community in providing innovative solutions for advancing safer, healthier relationships for children and families.

Mission

FamilyForward moves vulnerable children in the direction of hope by delivering comprehensive therapeutic and educational services to support biological, foster, and adoptive families.

Executive Team

Karen E. Nolte, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer
Robert Ahrens, Chief Financial Officer
Rachel Neukirch, LCSW, Chief Program Officer
Jessica L. Dederer, MHA, Chief Development Officer
Paula Pettibone, MEd, MSW, Chief Administrative Officer

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Ellen C. Smith
Steve Smith
Jackie Watson
Nancy Weaver, PhD
Lina A. Young

**Deceased

Values in action



Out Front

We are leaders in the use of innovative tools and methods to get better results for the children and families we serve. We prefer to set the pace, testing new ideas and collecting data; always striving to make the biggest impact we can.

Each FamilyForward team member completes at least 20 hours of continued education and training throughout the year.

Our Diversity Committee met monthly to ensure FamilyForward is taking active steps to promote diversity and inclusion in everything we do. Throughout 2021, we hosted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-focused training sessions for staff,



Rock Solid

We are responsible stewards of an organization with a long and proud history of service. Reliable, trustworthy, and hard-working, we do whatever it takes to get the job done, even when no one is watching.



Whole Hearted

We are tirelessly committed to the vision and mission of FamilyForward. We use our unique talents and expertise to serve our clients and community with compassion, acceptance, and respect.

Through our direct client assistance program, we provided 193 households with housing assistance, household items, utilities, and transportation, impacting 863 individuals in 2021.

“We could not be more excited to expand our reach across the St. Louis region and impact the lives of children and families in need of trauma support.”

- Karen Nolte, Chief Executive Officer



Extending our reach

Since 2017, thousands of children and families have come to FamilyForward seeking help, healing, and hope. But we know there is still an overwhelming need for our services. To help address that need, we purchased

9.5 acres of property in September 2021 to allow us to grow and serve more children and families. The expansive facility will enable us to serve twice as many children and families with complex trauma by 2025.

We are walking alongside children and families on their thousand-mile journey to hope and healing... and we are one step closer. Thank you to all those that have supported along the way.



“I finally feel like I have the tools to advocate for my child.”

- Maria

Better together

Maria, a single mother to two young children, came to FamilyForward when she found her child, Sam, was struggling in school.

Sam was unable to focus, was acting out, and falling behind in his courses. Maria knew she needed support in advocating for her child, so she turned to FamilyForward’s Developmental Trauma Center.

Our clinicians welcomed Sam and began assessments utilizing a comprehensive and individualized approach to understand the root of what was causing him to struggle in school.

We worked directly with Sam’s teachers, utilizing the assessments and recommendations to create an environment that worked with his needs. Our assessment team wrote Sam a story to help him understand why he was struggling in school. We walked alongside Maria and attended Sam’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, and worked collaboratively with his teachers to develop a plan to help him receive the specialized instruction and services he needs to be successful.

Our assessments generate a visual representation of the developmental strengths and vulnerabilities of a child. This allows our caring and dedicated staff to support children and provide caregivers with the tools needed to help give kids like Sam the future they deserve.

Supporting children and families

Numbers represent direct clients and participants served through programs in 2021.



“Our therapist was careful and deliberate in her assessment and evaluation and was not in a hurry to just slap on a diagnosis. She completely understood the need for my daughter’s supports. Great services, great staff!”

1,798

Developmental Trauma Center

Incorporating the Neurosequential Model, developed by Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD, our clinical team supports children and families on their path to healing by providing assessment, treatment, and parent education services. Our Therapeutic Preschool serves children three to five, offering individual assessments and therapy designed to address emotional behavior and relational difficulties caused by early trauma.

976

Community Services

We serve clients in the home, community, or office, providing mentoring, parent coaching and education, and therapy services for young and pregnant parents and families with children up to the age of 19. Our prevention and early intervention services promote resiliency in each family to cushion and avoid potential adverse impacts of early childhood trauma.

409

Foster Care

As a Children’s Permanency Partnership member, FamilyForward provides foster care and adoption case management, recruitment, training, and licensing services for foster and adoptive families.

376

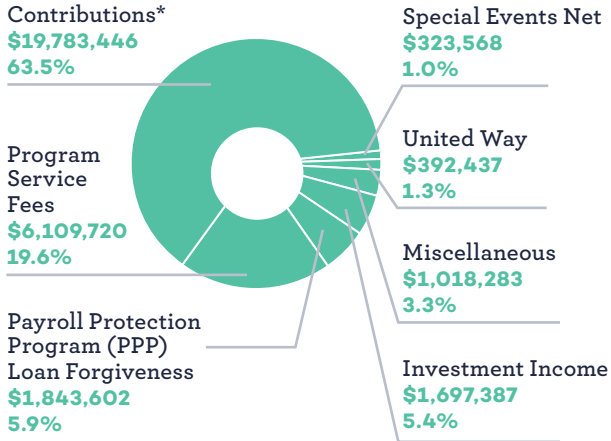
Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW)

Our caring staff empowers women impacted by domestic violence and economic hardship by providing financial services, advocacy, therapy, wraparound support, and hope for the future.

After much thought and consideration, FamilyForward ceased operations of our Redevelopment Opportunities for Women services in September 2022. The discontinuation of services allows us to focus on our commitment to preventing and treating child abuse and severe neglect.

The numbers

Revenue



*FamilyForward recognized the remaining balance of a large multi-year gift from a private donor in 2021, reflecting a significant portion of contributions.

Total Public Support and Revenue
\$31,168,443

Expense



Total Expenses
\$11,227,277

Net Assets



Net Assets, Ending Balance
\$38,850,533

Making a difference

While the 2021 Rocket Ball may have looked different live-streaming into your homes, this format allowed nearly 350 people from 20 states to participate. We raised more than \$462,000 for local children and families to travel their path to hope and healing with your support. Thank you!



Join us at our 2023 Rocket Ball on February 10.
familyforwardmo.org/rocket-ball



291 children's wishes were granted from our holiday projects.



\$115,626 was raised during our 2021 Drive the Change Golf Tournament



In partnership with the The Home Loan Expert and woom bikes, we worked to assemble and distribute 65 bikes to children between the ages of 2 and 10.

“I feel confident that through the services we offer families that we are giving the best opportunity out of a worst case scenario.”

Amanda Njoku, Foster Care Program Director



Get involved



Donate



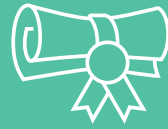
Major Gifts



Volunteer



Wish List



Planned Giving



Compass Giving Club

familyforwardmo.org/get-involved

Thank you!

Your support enabled FamilyForward to serve 5,329 children, their families, and community members in 2021.

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The Greg Echele
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recognizes individuals
like you, who make
significant and
ongoing financial
contributions to
FamilyForward. The
name honors Greg
Echele, former Chief
Executive Officer, who
devoted his career to
the prevention and
treatment of child
abuse and neglect.



safer, healthier relationships
for children and families

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FamilyForward is a proud affiliate of Healthy Families America® (HFA). This association helps us equip parents with the tools and resources needed to create strong, lifelong relationships with their children. Additionally, FamilyForward has been reaccredited by Council on Accreditation (COA) through 2024! These are significant achievements for our agency as we continue to strengthen our ability to improve the lives of the children and families we serve.



FamilyForward has achieved the highest standard of donor transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations.



FamilyForward was the first agency in the St. Louis region to become site certified in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) and holds the distinction of being phase two NMT trained by the Neurosequential Network.