

Prairie Family Center Annual Report **2021**



Prairie Family Center is a proud member of



Family Resource
Center Association

Prairie Family Center 2021 Annual Review

Prairie Family Center (PFC) served 1,416 individuals and 316 families. Of these families, 96% were below the poverty level, 66% female, 33% male, <1% transgender or unknown gender. The Mobile Pantry in partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies served an average of 250 families each month from the surrounding areas to include community members from Colorado counties of Kit Carson, Cheyenne, and Yuma. PFC has added new programs this past fiscal year to the programming, including Circle Talk which provides an overarching mental-health driven support that is evidence-based. CircleTalk™ trains professionals, caregivers, and others who are interested in working with older adults to disrupt the loneliness epidemic that contributes to their decline. Guided by a 13-module field-tested curriculum, these trained leaders (Kelly Mullis and Kathy Lee), facilitate groups in virtual and face-to-face environments of all kinds. Each week, a thought-provoking theme is introduced with carefully selected poems, short stories, symbol cards, and other props, to inspire a lively discussion of shared memories and important life stories. PFC continues to offer Community Based Child Abuse Prevention, Nurturing-Parenting, Cooking Matters, Exploring Foods, Literacy for Little Ones, Ages and Stages, All About a Teen, Positive Youth Development, Bilingual Parenting Class, and Nurturing Fathers, among other popular programs. 79 children participated in Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs. 58 families were helped with payment for past due utilities, 250 families received monthly food boxes from the PFC on-site food bank, Twice as Nice Thrift Store provided housewares and clothing for those in need along with many other human needs services.

With the onset of the pandemic and the ongoing concerns throughout the region, challenges have been experienced. For example, families being quarantined were at risk of

financial despair and the inability to provide the necessities such as food and rent. This is where PFC began a progressive and ongoing case management/rental assistance program to offer to our community to assist throughout the dreary uncharted waters of the global pandemic. This program was CHFA, otherwise known as Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

. CHFA launched in 2020 and continued throughout 2021, which is a rental assistance program that focuses on case management and assisting clients in meeting their personal goals towards creating a successful life. PFC included SNAP (food stamps) application assistance which includes first time appliers, recertifications and redeterminations, change reports and PEBT or Pandemic EBT throughout 2021. Other new programs for the 2021 fiscal year are Nurturing Father's, Respite care, Sensory/Preschool program, and collaboration through Communities that Care Board Life Skills program, FEM (family engagement meetings) and ISST (In school support meetings), through collaboration with Kit Carson County Communities that Care. These programs along with Nurturing Parenting program are community-based child abuse prevention strategies.

Also, Prairie Family Center has attended and sat on the board for the Communities that Care (CTC) strategic community planning commission and the Interoffice Operational Group (IOG) which is a collaboration of professionals throughout Kit Carson County to promote improvement in youth strategies. PFC bought the adjacent land near our main building we anticipate future development at this location. PFC now has extended parking and a newly paved and artistically painted parking lot. This parking lot has allowed room for events such as the sensory program for littles that occurred over the summer months. Twice as Nice thrift store has repeatedly had high sales and donation volume consistently throughout the fiscal year. Equally important, PFC obtained a grant through Nourishing Neighbors for food to assist those affected

by the pandemic and job losses that ensued thereof. PFC hopes in the upcoming year to create and implement a greenhouse gardening program and a sensory-like get-away.

A success story related to PFC's Nurturing Parenting Program is that a graduated participant of the program is now a successful, artistic, and knowledgeable employee of PFC. Another success related to services is that of ISST's that PFC participates in. Through the school ISST, a family advocate was able to link a parent and student to services to assist them through tumultuous teenage times. The year of 2021 has been the year that will go down in history as a turbulent one and a time for people to think critically on how to help each other. PFC has done just that. PFC has obtained various COVID grants, foundation grants, and are awaiting an award of a Family Support Services grant through the Colorado Department of Human Services. These funds have greatly assisted the affected population within Kit Carson County. These grants have provided for rental assistance, food, utilities, clothing, gas, mental health, and many other services. PFC also has offered a monthly senior commodity delivery and a free food giveaway drive through. Through it all PFC will persevere and strive to support and provide! Our mission is their success!

Prairie Family Center Grantor Recognition

- **Anschutz**
- **AV Hunter**
- **Buell**
- **Cares Act**
- **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention**
- **Delta Dental**
- **El Pomar**
- **BluePrint Rural**
- **Kit Carson County—Covid supplies**
- **Next 50**
- **State of Colorado (COVID)**
- **The Colorado Health Foundation (Health Equity)**
- **The Colorado Health Foundation Afterschool Programs**
- **Hunger Free**
- **Emergency Hunger Relief Fund**
- **Family Resource Center Association (SNAP)**
- **Energy Outreach Colorado**
- **Promoting Safe & Stable Families**

Prairie Family Board of Directors

2021

Everett Moreland—Chairman

Noel Winfrey—Vice-Chairman

Burry Besse—Secretary

Kindra Mulch—Treasurer

Thomas McCauley

Austin Buchanan

Lafe Murray

Barb Rush



PRAIRIE FAMILY CENTER

Mission Statement: Provide our community with the tools and resources to build, support, and educate healthy families.

Vision: Our mission, your success.

Volunteers: Prairie Family Center consistently has 50 plus volunteers each month during our monthly community food distribution and fundraising events, as well as in our thrift store on different occasions. PFC has volunteers that come to help load boxes of food into seniors' vehicles during our monthly Senior Commodity Food Program from Food Bank of the Rockies. The volunteers also help deliver food boxes to shut-ins. PFC is a family based and family-oriented establishment where often children are seen here lighting up the place with their joy. PFC has ladies from the community who volunteer at the Twice as Nice Thrift Store. They typically sort incoming donations and prepare them for sale.

Planning: Prairie Family Center's board conducts an annual Quality Standards Assessment which maintains our professional edge and meets our clients need where they are at. PFC has consistently stayed on track with the budget during the past fiscal years, with the current year ending June 30, 2021. Similarly, PFC expects to perform exceedingly well during the upcoming fiscal year. Deena Ziegler, PFC's Executive Director created and implemented formidable structures that support organizational growth, for example, increased outreach through social media, radio, pamphlets, and newspaper; fundraising projections; increased board involvement; increased training for staff through motivational interviewing and client record management classes; and enhanced and improved policies and procedures to improve financial and legal management systems. PFC expects to increase revenue through a highly diversified portfolio of

combination of government and foundational grants. This diversification is a platform that will sustain PFC's organizational well-being far into the future. PFC experienced a full year of donations. Prairie Family Center currently owns the building at 1040 Rose Avenue and the outlying buildings and the adjacent land. The expansion has served PFC well and has brought in substantial business. The current building houses PFC offices, thrift store, classrooms, on-site food pantry, board room, and storage unit. Sales increased throughout the year and increased to nearly 96,000.

Key Staff:

Deena Ziegler, Executive Director

Danielle Herres, Bookkeeper

Kathy Lee, Early Childhood Coordinator

Susan Sandoval, Grant Manager, Family Advocate

Kelly Mullis, Family Advocate, Data Entry Specialist

Aimee White, Family Advocate, Data Entry Specialist, Facilitator

Kobi Seymour, Family Advocate, Early Childhood Development Specialist

Rita Mandis, Family Advocate, Bilingual Advocate

Teresa Stuart, Thrift Store Manager

Debbie Hilton-Delinsky, Thrift Store Advocate

Bethany Wright, Thrift Store Advocate

PFC also employs several temporary, part-time employees to help facilitate various programs as necessitated.



PRAIRIE FAMILY CENTER PROGRAMS

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Pillar 1: Early Childhood Education & Youth Development: Within this area, PFC offers preschoolers and their families the program entitled Ages & Stages. It is a social & emotional developmental screening tool that determines appropriate stages of development. The CATCH ECE exercise program is fitness for preschool age children. Exploring Foods is an innovative program that introduces new food groups to preschoolers, pyramid training, and is also a vital social emotional tool.

Pillar 2: Access to Health Care and Adult Education: PFC helps the uninsured and underinsured gain access to adult and child health insurance, food assistance, and adult education programs including Nurturing Parenting which is a parenting class; and Circle Talk for seniors which reduces the isolation of this populace through a structured support group.

Pillar 3: Resource & Referral Services: PFC serves as a safety-net for all at-risk families by providing basic needs and direct services or referrals to our collaboratives and partnerships. PFC has a partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies, Kit Carson County Department of Human Services (KCCDHS), and Burlington Activities Department for the use of the Community Center for our monthly food distribution.

Pillar 4: Emergency Services: PFC offers direct services to families in short-term crisis situations. PFC has a monthly food pantry on site. PFC hosts a monthly food distribution sponsored by Food Bank of the Rockies. PFC provides clothing and house ware items through our Twice as Nice Thrift Store. A partnership with Energy Outreach Colorado provides payments for past-due utilities. Support for services in the areas of emergency trips to Denver and Colorado Springs such as gas cards, motel stays in Burlington, prescriptions, etc. A

partnership with the Salvation Army also provides funds for emergency services. The CHFA program allows PFC to provide rental assistance along with case management including budgeting, moral support, and vital life skills management.

Prairie Family Center continually strives to serve our community members and the underserved population to help them succeed in their lives. Let's continue to do great things PFC!