

Prairie Family Center Annual Report **2019-2020**



Prairie Family Center is a proud member of



Family Resource
Center Association

Prairie Family Center 2019/2020 Annual Review

Prairie Family Center (PFC) served 641 individuals and 350 families. Of these families 52% were below poverty level, 54% female, 43% male, 3% unknown gender. 298 families were from Kit Carson County Colorado area. The Mobile Pantry in partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies served an average of 641 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 CHFA 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 has introduced SNAP (food stamps) application assistance which includes first time appliers, recertifications and redeterminations, change reports and P EBT or Pandemic EBT. Other new programs for the 2019-2020 fiscal year are Victor's (domestic violence survivors support group), Mom Tribe (mother's support group), ISST and FEM which are collaborated with Kit Carson County Department of Human Services (family engagement and in school support meetings). 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 strategic community planning commission. PFC bought and renovated a new building to where we moved February 28, 2020. This new location is pivotal being on a main road in Burlington, Colorado. PFC now has extended parking and a newly paved and artistically painted parking lot. This parking lot has allowed room for events and even PFC's new parking lot workout. 22 children participated in Early Childhood Education (ECE). 178 families were helped with payment for past due utilities, blank families received monthly food boxed from the PFC on-site food bank. Twice as Nice Thrift Store provided housewares and clothing and a multitude

of other miscellaneous items for those in need along with many other human necessity services. Twice as Nice thrift store has repeatedly had high sales and donation volume consistently throughout the fiscal year. Prairie Family Center implemented the Health Equity series in May and launched the Totes for Hope program in the Burlington Elementary School. Totes for Hope provided weekend non-perishable food for qualified children. The goal of this program was to prevent childhood hunger. 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 program encompassing case management for probationers.

A success story related to PFC's Early Childhood Education Program: the ECE Coordinator helped a 2-year-old play group participant who did not speak by referring him to BOCES. After a few sessions, the child was talking progressively. Another success related to services is that of a woman who came in with no employment and was homeless. She was also very depressed. Through weekly case management she was able to obtain gainful employment, a home, and her depression drastically improved. The year of 2020. It has been the year that will go down in history as a tumultuous 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 that 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!

Prairie Family Center Grantor Recognition

- **AJL**
- **AV Hunter**
- **Buell**
- **Next 50**
- **Next 50 (COVID)**
- **State of Colorado (COVID)**
- **State of Colorado (PSSF)**
- **State of Colorado (CBCAP)**
- **SYDP**
- **Caring for Colorado**
- **The Colorado Health Foundation (Health Equity)**
- **Hunger Free**
- **Summer Food Service Program**
- **Emergency Hunger Relief Fund**
- **WFCO**
- **Family Resource Center Association (SNAP)**
- **Energy Outreach Colorado**

Prairie Family Board of Directors

2020

Everett Moreland—President

Noel Winfrey—Vice-President

Burry Besse—Secretary

Kendra Mulch—Treasurer

James Lightle—Board Member

Thomas McCauley—Board Member

Suzy Waugh—Board Member



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, 2020. 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; 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 peaking around the advent of CoVid and the following lockdowns. Fundraising in December at Old Town was added. Prairie Family Center currently owns the building at 1040 Rose Avenue and the outlying buildings. 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. PFC was able to obtain 4 pallets of fresh produce on 3 different occasions through Fresh Produce Distributions out of Kansas (C and C produce) to provide fresh nourishment to community members. Sales increased throughout the year and increased to nearly 95,000.

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

Ashley Louthan, Family Development Specialist and Coordinator

Rita Mandis, Family Advocate, Bilingual Advocate

Teresa Stuart, Thrift Store Manager

Michelle Wright, Thrift Store Advocate

Debbie Hilton-Delinsky, 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; senior and adult exercise classes (Tai Chi which is slow and incremental movements that increase inner strength and balance). “Victor’s”- a support group for domestic violence survivors where support is provided for all survivors. Walking exercise for all ages is also a motivational healthy program for families.

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.