



[www.statelinefamilyservices.org](http://www.statelinefamilyservices.org)

# CONNECTIONS

*The mission of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois is to restore and enhance lives in our community through advocacy, education, counseling and case management.*

## OUR PROGRAMS»

### BELOIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR CENTER

(608) 364-1083  
(608) 365-1119 24-hour help  
[khoad@familyservices1.org](mailto:khoad@familyservices1.org)

### CASA OF ROCK COUNTY

(608) 305-0187  
[casarc@familyservices1.org](mailto:casarc@familyservices1.org)  
[www.casarockcounty.org](http://www.casarockcounty.org)

### FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

(608) 365-1244  
[jfruin@familyservices1.org](mailto:jfruin@familyservices1.org)

### HOME COMPANION REGISTRY

(608) 856-0153  
[sguetschow@familyservices1.org](mailto:sguetschow@familyservices1.org)

### LIFE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

(608) 365-1244  
[cccs@familyservices1.org](mailto:cccs@familyservices1.org)

### SEXUAL ASSAULT RECOVERY PROGRAM (SARP)

(866) 666-4576  
[asunza@sarpwi.com](mailto:asunza@sarpwi.com)  
[www.sarpwi.com](http://www.sarpwi.com)

### YOUTH2YOUTH 4 CHANGE

(608) 313-9220  
[debtfk@gmail.com](mailto:debtfk@gmail.com)  
[www.rcy2y.com](http://www.rcy2y.com)

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## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON BUILDING BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH STRONG COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS »

Family Services is delighted to have Susan Dreyfus, president and CEO of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, as its Annual Luncheon keynote speaker on October 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ms. Dreyfus advocates for access and opportunity and believes that a strong social sector is critical to the health and well-being of all individuals, families, and communities.

She will speak about the newly released report, A National Imperative: Joining Forces to Strengthen Human Services in America which finds that “community-based organizations, working in partnership with government and the philanthropic sector, provide the building blocks” of health and well being in our communities. This groundbreaking report focuses on the impact the social sector has on the overall health of a community and stresses the need to bolster and preserve their role in human services.

Ms. Dreyfus was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson in 1996 to lead the Division of Children and Family Services and then went on to serve as the secretary for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services in 2009. She is the chair of Leadership 18, a coalition of CEOs from the largest and most respected nonprofit organizations in America. She serves on the governing boards of the American Public Human Services Association, Generations United, the National Human Services Assembly, and the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers. From 2013-2015 she served on the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, having been appointed through the Speaker of the House of Representatives’ office.

Family Service’s Luncheon will be held at the Eclipse Center on Wednesday, October 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be no charge for the lunch, however, donations to Family Services are greatly encouraged and appreciated. Reservations are required. For more information and to make a reservation on line go to [www.statelinefamilyservices.org/events](http://www.statelinefamilyservices.org/events) or call 608-365-1244.



## STARRY NIGHT WAS A DAZZLING SUCCESS THANKS TO ALL THE NIGHT'S SHINING STARS! »

Family Services held its annual Starry Night Dinner on April 14 at the Eclipse Center where the dueling pianos of Piano Fondue were once again our brilliant entertainment. This year, we chose to limit the number of auction items and instead challenged our guests to donate additional support to the agency, giving them the opportunity to further impact someone's life in our community. **The altruistic stars were aligned, people came forward and we were able to raise over \$30,000 from this year's event!** We are grateful for the support and would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors: **Regal, Kerry, First National Bank, Blackhawk Community Credit Union, Beloit Box Board, Stillman Bank, Finley Buick GMC, Rockford Bank & Trust, North American Tool, Wisconsin Distributors, Angus Young and Edward Jones, Lonnie Klecker, Financial Advisor.**



## THE NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT: SERVICES, RESOURCES, AND “SYSTEMS” NAVIGATION TO ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES IN THE MERRILL AND HACKETT NEIGHBORHOODS »

Family Services is working to connect individuals and families that have urgent and immediate needs to resources both within and outside of the agency. Chris Popoola, Systems Navigator, is helping people who live in Census Tracts 16 and 18 of Beloit to address problems that are just too big to solve alone.

This initiative also includes a cooperative agreement with Rock County Child Protective Services to accept referrals from caseworkers who have identified resource needs in the families of those they serve within the designated census tracts. Financial counseling will also be provided.

For more information contact Chris Popoola at (608) 365-1244 Ext. 13 or cpopoola@familyservices1.org.

### BOARD PROFILE » BETSY SCHMEICHEN »

Where are you from and how long have you been in the area?

**I was born and grew up in beautiful Beloit, Wisconsin. As an adult I lived in Vermont, Washington and Madison, WI before moving back to my hometown to start a family and career.**

What do you do for employment?

**The Villager Gallery and Frame Shop has kept me busy for the last 14 years. It's great being a small business owner in the heart of such a thriving downtown. The renaissance over that period of time has been amazing. We now have parking issues. It's a good problem to have!**

What attracted you to become involved in Family Services?

**Family Services is a great organization, that does great stuff to elevate the quality of life in our great community. I'm glad they think I have something useful to contribute, but really, it's an opportunity for me to be around some really talented people.**

What have you found most rewarding/challenging during your board service?

**Continuously diminishing resources make the business of non-profit service more challenging than ever. Add the current state of social discord and frankly; times are pretty tough. Ironically or maybe it is to be expected, these are the times when we need Family Services the most. Many of our peer organizations are struggling to stay afloat. Some have closed their doors. Family Services remains both nimble and resilient and poised to meet the changing needs of our community.**

What do you value most about the agency?

**It's all about the people. (Hey, that should be our tagline.)**



In what other civic organizations do you participate?

**Most recently, I've been helping the Downtown Beloit Association, design committee work on streetscapes. You know, flowers and stuff...**

When not at work or volunteering, where can you be found?

**Hanging with my sweetie. Every now and then we get to travel, we enjoy the company of our sweet, whacky friends, music, art and biking too. Good food, libation and all the usual pleasures in life.**

The book you read recently that you would recommend to others is:

**Perfect timing...Right now I'm reading; Evicted by Mathew Desmond, a sociologist writing about the living conditions of eight low income families in Milwaukee. It's a social/cultural study that reads like a hardboiled detective novel. Good combo for a non-academic like me. Carol Wickersham, one of our board members, will be leading a discussion group on it. I hope I can keep up.**

Usually I just read schlocky novels.

Any other personal information you'd like to include like partners, kids, grandkids etc.

**Truth is that I am married to the most wonderful man in all the land. Tim is kind, smart, funny and thoughtful with a talent in the kitchen that far exceeds my own.**

**We've populated the world with two children; Erin and Will, both "Thirty somethings" (hard to believe, right?) We love and enjoy them very much. We love and enjoy our empty nest too.**

Is that wrong?

## NEWS IN BRIEF »

### CASA'S PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION RAISES AWARENESS »

On April 3rd 3000 blue pinwheels were planted at the Rock County Courthouse to raise awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The number of pinwheels represents the more than 3800 reports of child abuse and or neglect in Rock County this past year. CASA is grateful for all those who helped make this year's placement possible, with a special thanks to Juvenile Judge Alan Bates for kicking off the event with his opening remarks.

The pinwheels are a symbol of whimsy, playfulness, and childlike ideals, and stands for a childhood that we believe all children should have. The child welfare system is overloaded and currently there are 190 kids on our waiting list who need a CASA advocate.



To become an advocate or for more information contact CASA at (608) 305-0187 or go to [www.statelinefamilyservices.org/casa-of-rock-county](http://www.statelinefamilyservices.org/casa-of-rock-county).



### BELOIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR CENTER ART EXHIBIT »

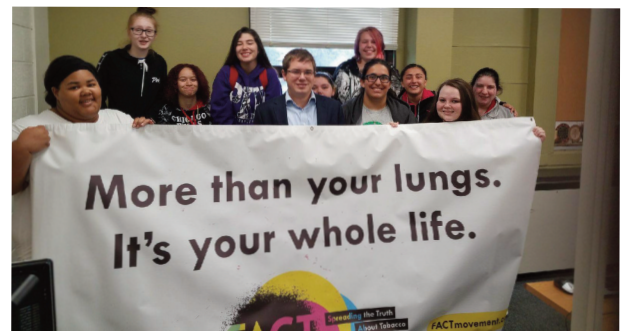
The Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center is partnering with the Beloit Fine Arts Center to host an art exhibit at the end of October to celebrate Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The theme this year - BUTTERFLIES!! Please donate your butterfly-themed artwork in any medium to BDVSC. Pieces will be displayed in local businesses during the month of October for auction/ sale the last weekend. For more questions, please contact Kelsey at [khodd@familyservices1.org](mailto:khodd@familyservices1.org) and to register a piece online go to [www.statelinefamilyservices.org/bdvsc](http://www.statelinefamilyservices.org/bdvsc)



### YOUTH2YOUTH 4 CHANGE GOES TO MADISON! »

Student members of Youth2Youth 4 Change met with State Representative Mark Spreitzer at the Capitol on May 14 to talk about reducing substance abuse among youth and adults through positive social change.

To get involved email Debbie at [debtfk@gmail.com](mailto:debtfk@gmail.com)



### SEXUAL ASSAULT RECOVERY PROGRAM (SARP) WORKS WITH JANESVILLE PD TO HELP HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS »

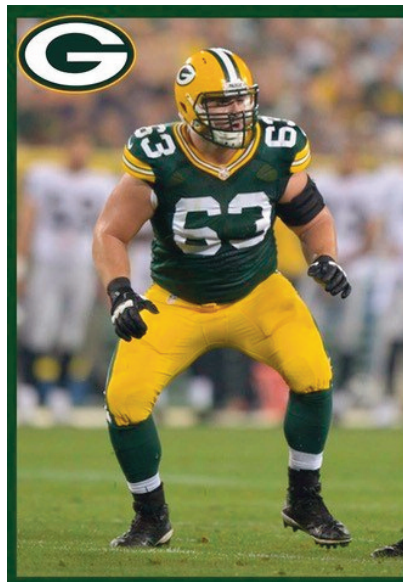
The Janesville Police Department has referred at least eight victims of human trafficking in recent months to the Sexual Assault Recovery Program (SARP) for services. Officers contact the advocates of SARP so they can be present for interviews and provide resources and support to the victims. "By working together and collaborating, we can better address the needs of these victims and hopefully remove them from this dangerous situation," said Amanda Isunza, program director. Donations of clothing and personal care items for victims are appreciated. For more information about SARP call (608) 365-1244 or go to [www.sarpwi.com](http://www.sarpwi.com).

## COMMUNITY PACKERS FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT CASA

TWO EVENTS SCHEDULED WITH GREEN BAY PACKER COREY LINSLEY ON JUNE 9 »

CASA of Rock County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is inviting the public to meet Green Bay Packer starting center Corey Linsley at a fun event to raise money for the program. During the free event attendees can get autographs and pictures taken with Corey for \$20 and bid on Packers gear in the silent auction. There will be food and drinks available as well as fun activities for kids, including a bounce house, face painting, and yard games.

**The open to the public event is June 9 from 2 – 4 p.m. at Sidelines Sports Pub & Grill, 731 S. Wuthering Hills Dr., Janesville. For more information go to [www.casarockcounty.org](http://www.casarockcounty.org).**



Some superheroes wear green and gold during the day... and transform into a CASA volunteers at night.



*Both Corey and Anna are CASA volunteer advocates and all proceeds from the event will directly support advocacy for abused and neglected children in Rock County. Last year, our volunteers advocated for the needs of 80 children in foster care, but sadly, we still have over 190 children on our wait list who desperately need an advocate by their side. This fundraising event will assist in the recruitment, training, and supervision of new volunteer advocates, which costs over \$1,500 per advocate each year.*

Meet and mingle with Green Bay Packers, Corey Linsley, and his wife, Anna, at our community FUNdraising event and exclusive dinner. This private event includes a keynote and Q&A session with Corey, a steak dinner provided by Sidelines Sports Pub & Grill, a continuation of the silent auction, and more fun! Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost is \$100 per person.

**Details: June 9, Cocktails 6-6:30; Program and dinner 6:30 to 8:30. \$100 per ticket. Go to [www.casarockcounty.org](http://www.casarockcounty.org) to register or call (608) 305-0187.**

## ALL BECAUSE YOU READ WITH ME »

Leadership Development Academy Team encourages reading to young children

Team Mosaic of the Leadership Development Academy partnered with Family Services to develop and distribute a children's book to the community. Group members wrote the book and had Janesville students illustrate it, creating a colorful and inspirational book for parents to read to their children, and makes clear that reading is the best avenue to achieving your dreams. Contact Alyssa at [awhitney@familyservices1.org](mailto:awhitney@familyservices1.org) for more information.



Heather Dobson, Bryan C. Whitehead, Colleen Curtis Trappe, and Sara Helgeson  
Not shown: William Chatman and Roderick Brunton IV

## WHAT ABOUT MOM AND DAD: FAMILY SERVICES UNVEILS NEW INITIATIVE FOR AGING PARENTS

### STRATEGIC ADVICE FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF PARENTS APPROACHING THE "SUNSET YEARS" »

When it comes to aging parents, many of us say, "Well, they took care of me, so I will take care of them." But few consider that along with that love and promise, come unexpected cares and needs. Family Services' What About Mom and Dad Program assists adult children in assessing and responding to the unfolding challenges in their parents' independence and quality of life.

Family members often wonder when it's the right time to become involved in an aging parent's daily life and care. It's not uncommon for siblings to disagree on care or for parents to reject the fact that their independence may be in jeopardy. Building a solid system of support can help.

Our program brings family members together to explore, discuss, and plan for concerns related to the "sunset years." We use a team approach based in the knowledge of transitional support and care needs, and helps caregivers complete financial assessments and planning before there is an event that demands immediate decisions. We also assist in navigating the complex family emotions that often come with caring for aging parents.

Being a caregiver can become overwhelming quickly. Starting with What About Mom and Dad can help you tackle related issues before they become too stressful. The program will help you:

- DEVELOP A PLAN OF CARE
- CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS
- UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL PICTURE
- NETWORK WITH OTHERS AND ACCESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- IDENTIFY AND ANTICIPATE THE EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES AHEAD

At Family Services, we understand family dynamics and know the resources to point you toward so that you can give your parents the best support and assistance available.

Call Stephanie at (608) 365-1244 to make an appointment or to find out more visit our webpage at [www.statelinefamilyservices.org/mom-and-dad](http://www.statelinefamilyservices.org/mom-and-dad)

## FAMILY SERVICES WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS »

Family Services is pleased to welcome two new board members to its current roster. Tammy McCaslin Krebs and Sharon Cox recently joined the board that oversees the mission to restore and enhance lives in the community.

Tammy McCaslin Krebs is the Director of Membership Development at Blackhawk Community Credit Union and Sharon Cox is the Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer for Beloit Health System.



"Both Tammy and Sharon bring unique skills, insights, and community relationships to the Board," said Bill Flanagan, President of the Board of Directors of Family Services. "We are fortunate to have board members with such passion for the community and experiences that will help us facilitate outcomes that matter for those we serve and for the community as a whole."



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### JOHN PFLEIDERER »



We've been thinking a lot recently about reading, well, actually about books. It started in 2016 when we thought it would be a good idea to promote access to children's books by facilitating "Little, Little Free Libraries." This resulted in some great collaborative efforts as we worked to place the book boxes in as many of the neighborhood parks as we could. The project also led to discussions about the best children's books, the varied geology of Beloit as indicated by post hole diggings, and how the little, little libraries can connect readers to the "big, big library." Recently, the Beloit Cares group has volunteered to take over the proper care and feeding of these resources (and we are very appreciative of that).

And we're still thinking about books. We are pleased to be a part of and supportive of Beloit's Literacy for Life Initiative. Certainly, the neuroscience is compelling – reading to and with young children is so very important to ensuring that children are cognitively well-prepared.

I was privileged to grow up in a home where books – and the thoughts they contained – mattered. Reading has for me, made the world more interesting and has challenged me to think about how I think about my own perceptions and beliefs about what it means to live a good life in this time and place. And, to be sure, it has provided an easy escape to other times and places of my own choosing. So, with that in mind, some of us have decided to share our summer reading recommendations – let us know what's on your list.

## FAMILY SERVICES' SUMMER READING LIST

Amanda Isunza, Director of SARP - [Enrique's Journey](#), Sonia Nazario

Lonnie Klecker, board member – [Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think](#) by Hans Rosling

Alyssa Whitney, Development Director – Janesville: [An American Story](#), Amy Goldstein

Margery Wakefield, board member – [Lilac Girls](#) by Martha Hall Reilly

John Pfleiderer, Executive Director – Behave: [The Biology of Humans at our Best and Worst](#); by Robert M. Sapolsky

Willie the Woodchuck, Agency Mascot - [Flavor variants among select tulip bulbs](#); Holland Department of Agriculture

Bill Flanagan, board member – [The Soul of America](#) by John Meacham

Betsy Schmiechen, board member – [Come to the Lake: Reflections on a Cottage Life](#), by Anne Goodwin (local author!)

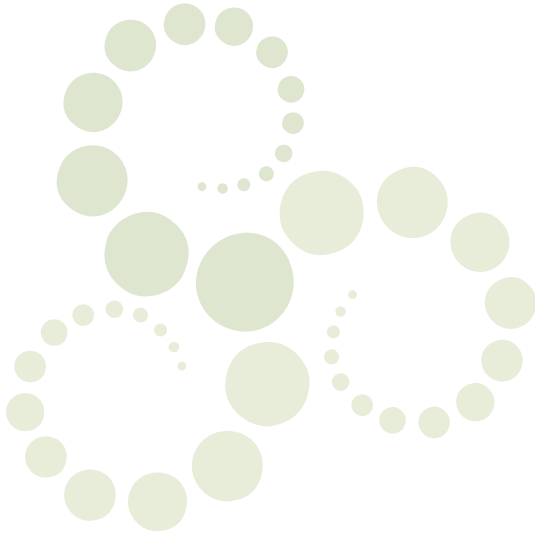
## JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION

### Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

Everyone in the community is invited to join a three-part discussion on Matthew Desmond's 2016, non-fiction, Pulitzer prize winning book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in an American City*. Sociologist Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. He couples his observations with brilliant analysis to tell a tale that is unsettling, compelling and which illuminates dynamics and dysfunction in American cities--including our own.

Carol Wickersham, Beloit College Sociology Instructor and Director of Community-Based Learning and Family Services' board member will moderate the discussion. We suggest that participants obtain and read the book before the first gathering. We hope that everyone can join in all three meetings, but knowing it is summer, please come for as many as you can.

**Bushel & Peck at 4:00 on June 28, July 12 and July 26.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS»

### **JUNE 9 – Community Packers FUNdraiser for CASA**

2 - 4 p.m. at Sidelines Sports Pub & Grill  
Exclusive Dinner with Green Bay Packer Corey Linsley  
6 p.m. at Sidelines Sports Pub & Grill

### **JUNE 28, JULY 12 and JULY 26 – Community Book Club: Discussing Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City**

4 p.m. at Bushel & Peck

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receive our newsletter via email or contact us...  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS»

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